

AFRICAN UNION

DECLARATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS



BOOK TWO

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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TWENTY-SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
30 to 31 January 2016**

Assembly/AU/Dec.588 (XXVI)

**Decision on the Domestication of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063
(Doc. EX.CL/931 (XXVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on the Domestication of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP) of Agenda 2063 and reiterates that it is a common continental framework for socio-economic development;
2. *Commends* the Member States that have integrated Agenda 2063 in their national development frameworks;
3. *Welcomes* the continued collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Capacity-Building Foundation (ACBF) in the operationalization of Agenda 2063, and the development of:
 - (i) Indicators for the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP), and their convergence with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
 - (ii) A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework;
 - (iii) A Capacity Assessment Study and its Plan;
4. *Calls upon* the United Nations Secretary-General to expeditiously establish a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data through an intergovernmental process as captured in the latter's Synthesis Report – the Road to Dignity;
5. *Requests* the Commission to:
 - (i) Facilitate, in collaboration with UNECA and AfDB, statistical reforms in countries, including legislative reforms, human resources development and financial resources, in the context of implementation of Agenda 2063 FTYIP and the SDGs;
 - (ii) Finalize the draft Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Agenda 2063 and expedite its institutionalization, and report at the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council, in July 2016;
 - (iii) Develop detailed proposals of the Flagship Projects, their implementation arrangements and their financial implications;
 - (iv) Ensure continuous popularization and awareness raising of Agenda 2063 through all available platforms;
6. *Also requests* as follows:
 - (i) All African Union (AU) organs to internalize and align their respective programmes with the FTYIP of Agenda 2063;
 - (ii) The Pan-African Parliament (PAP) to work with national and regional parliaments and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) to mobilize its constituency to ensure the alignment of their agendas with Agenda 2063;

7. *Urges* Member States, the RECs, the Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), in partnership with UNECA, AfDB, and ACBF, to validate and integrate the recommendations of the:

- (i) Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy into the national financing mechanisms/frameworks;
- (ii) Capacity Assessment Study into the curricula (education systems) at different levels to make the education system responsive to the national, regional and continental needs;

8. *Requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this decision regularly to the Assembly, through the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.589 (XXVI)

Decision on the Specialized Technical Committees

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Reports of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) and the recommendations of the Executive Council thereto;

A. On the First Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice And Legal Affairs (Doc. EX.CL/935 (XXVIII))

2. *Adopts* the following legal instruments:

- (i) Road Safety Charter;
- (ii) Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons;
- (iii) Model Law on Medicine Regulation;
- (iv) Statute of the Africa Sports Council;
- (v) Statute of the African Minerals Development Centre;
- (vi) Statute on the Establishment of the Legal Aid Fund for the African Union Human Rights organs;
- (vii) Statute of the African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (African CDC) and its Framework of Operation;
- (viii) Statute of the African Science Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC);
- (ix) Statute of the African Observatory in Science, Technology and Innovation (AOSTI);
- (x) Statute of the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO);
- (xi) Rules of Procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Health Population and Drug Control;
- (xii) Rules of Procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization;
- (xiii) Rules of Procedure of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC);

- (xiv) Rules of Procedure of the African Governance Platform;
 - (xv) Rules of Procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment;
 - (xvi) Rules of Procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Youth Culture and Sport;
 - (xvii) Rules of Procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology;
 - (xviii) Rules of Procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT);
 - (xix) Rules of Procedure of the African Union Commission on the International Law;
 - (xx) Amended Statute of the Pan-African University;
3. *Calls on* Member States to sign and ratify the said legal instruments, where applicable, to enable them to enter into force;
4. *Decides* that the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs will meet annually in ordinary session and that an appropriate budget be allocated in this regard;
- B. On the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST 1) (Doc. EX.CL/934 (XXVIII))
5. *Adopts* the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 2016-2025) as the framework for transformative education and training system;
6. *Calls upon* Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), partners, the private sector and the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) to:
- (i) Popularize and raise awareness on CESA 2016-2025 and develop implementation plans as well as mobilize domestic resources for its implementation;
 - (ii) Collaborate with the Commission towards the implementation of the CESA;
7. *Adopts* the validated Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF);
8. *Urges* Member States to ratify the Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States (the 2014 Addis Ababa Convention), and expedite the establishment of the informal working group for its implementation and designate focal points for follow-up;
9. *Requests*:
- (i) The Commission in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to coordinate educational partnership and support for the implementation of the process of harmonization of education in Africa;
 - (ii) Member States and partners to promote alignment of TVET Skills Portability initiatives with ongoing work on harmonization and quality assurance in higher education;

TWENTY-SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION (2016)

10. *Adopts* the Africa Space Policy and the Africa Space Strategy to formalize an African Outer Space Programme, as articulated in Agenda 2063;
11. *Urges* Member States, RECs, partners and the Commission to popularize space science and technology in socio-economic development, mobilize domestic resources and implement the African Space Policy and Strategy;
12. *Requests* the African Union (AU) Space Working Group to develop the following:
 - (i) The framework for the implementation of the African Space Policy and Strategy;
 - (ii) The Governance Framework that covers the relevant legal requirements and protocols for an operational African Outer Space Programme;
13. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.565 (XXIV) 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 Bahir Dar Retreat adopted by the Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2015, and the offer by Egypt to host the proposed African Space Agency as well as to allocate \$US 10 million to implement the project, and requests the Commission and the Arab Republic of Egypt to carry out consultations with a view to evaluating the legal, structural and financial implications and report to the Assembly through the relevant structures;
14. *Recognizes* the immense value of Home Grown School Feeding programmes to enhancing retention and performance of children in schools, and in boosting income generation and entrepreneurship in local communities;
15. *Requests* the Commission to:
 - (i) Establish a multidisciplinary technical committee of African experts under the chairmanship of the Commission and the support of institutions, such as the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Centre of Excellence against Hunger, to undertake a general study on the relevance and impact of school feeding in the Member States;
 - (ii) Implement the Assembly decision to institute the African Day of School Feeding on 1 March of every year beginning in 2016;
 - (iii) Elaborate modalities for the celebration of the African Day of School Feeding, in consultation with Member States and relevant partners;
16. *Encourages* Member States which have school feeding programs, to continue their efforts; and invites other Member States to learn and adapt lessons from those running school feeding programmes to enhance access and retention of children in school;
17. *Requests* the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this decision to the Assembly, through the Executive Council;
- C. On the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (Doc. EX.CL/944 (XXVI))
 18. *Welcomes* the conduct of the African Standby Force AMANI AFRICA-II Field Training Exercise (AA-II FTX) held in November 2015 in two locations, namely, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the South African Army Combat Training Centre, Lohatla, South Africa, and commends the Ministers of Defence for ensuring that the Exercise was successful;
 19. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States, the Commission and Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) in conducting the AA-II FTX. In this regard, commends the progress made by the East

African Standby Force (EASF), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in operationalizing their respective standby forces; and acknowledges the efforts of the North Africa Regional Capability (NARC) towards operationalizing its standby force;

20. *Takes note* of the Declaration of the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 15 January 2016;

21. *Commends* the following:

(i) The progress made to date in the operationalization of an African Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL);

(ii) The efforts undertaken by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in setting up the headquarters of AFRIPOL;

22. *Requests* the Commission to take all necessary measures to expeditiously fully operationalize AFRIPOL;

23. *Decides* that the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC), will continue its mandate pending the AMANI AFRICA II Field Training Exercise After Action Review scheduled for Maputo, Mozambique, in March 2016, and the Evaluation Mission to be undertaken by the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms to the Regional Economic Communities to verify the state of readiness of Regional Standby Forces;

24. *Requests* the Commission to report, through the Executive Council, on progress made in the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2016.

Assembly/AU/Dec.590 (XXVI)

**Decision on the International Criminal Court
(Doc. EX.CL/952 (XXVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the implementation of the decisions on the International Criminal Court (ICC);

2. *Reiterates* the following:

(i) The commitment of the African Union and its Member States to the fight against impunity in accordance with the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

(ii) Its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.547 (XXIV) on the progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Previous Decisions on the International Criminal Court (ICC) adopted by the Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2015, and, in particular, 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 Statutes of the ICC are considered; and

(iii) Paragraph 17 (e) that requested the suspension of proceedings against President Omar Al Bashir of Sudan and urges the United Nations Security Council to withdraw the referral case in Sudan;

(iv) Its requests to the Peace and Security Council (PSC) to examine the draft ICC Action Plan on Arrest Strategies that is currently under consideration by the ICC and make appropriate recommendations thereon to the next ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council, in July 2016 to enable the adoption of a Common African Position on the same;

3. *Commends* the Republic of South Africa for complying with the decisions of the Assembly on non-cooperation with the arrest and surrender of President Omar Al Bashir of Sudan and decides that by receiving President Bashir, the Republic of South Africa was implementing various AU Assembly decisions on the warrants of arrest issued by the ICC against President Bashir and that South Africa was consistent with its obligations under international law;

4. *Reiterates* its decision on the need for all Member States to comply with the Assembly decisions on the warrants of arrest issued by the ICC against President Al Bashir of Sudan pursuant to Article 23, paragraph 2, of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and Article 98 of the Rome Statute of the ICC;

5. *Expresses its deep concern* regarding the wisdom of the continued prosecution of the case of Deputy President William Ruto of the Republic of Kenya and calls on the ICC to terminate the case without further delay as any continued prosecution is without foundation given the unambiguous absence of any incriminatory evidence capable of belief;

6. *Commends* the Members of the Open-Ended Committee of Foreign Ministers (“Open-Ended Ministerial Committee”) under the chairpersonship of H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, for the work done and reiterates its previous decision that the Open-Ended Ministerial Committee should meet with the United Nations Security Council to engage on all issues that have been consistently raised by the African Union;

7. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the Fourteenth Assembly of the States Parties of the ICC (ASP) in which the ASP reaffirmed its understanding on the non-retroactive application of Rule 68 to situations commenced before November 2013 (with regard to the Kenyan agenda) and expressed its “willingness to consider, within the framework of the appropriate subsidiary body of the Assembly, proposals to develop procedures for the implementation of Articles 97, 27 and 98” with regard to the issues raised by South Africa in its statements during the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, respectively, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2016 and expresses its appreciation to the President of the ASP, H.E. Sidiki Kaba from Senegal, for ensuring that in spite of perceived resistance by some State parties, the issues and concerns of the AU and its Member States were allowed to be articulated at the Fourteenth ASP;

8. *Expresses its deep grief* at the failure of the Security Council to respond to the requests of the AU for deferral of the Sudan and Kenya cases for the past five years;

9. *Takes note with concern of:*

(i) The obstinacy of the ICC by the so-called “Principals of the Court” comprising the Prosecutor, the Registrar and the President of the ICC, which continues to privilege the views of civil society over clearly held positions of African Member States parties to the Rome Statute;

(ii) The disturbing public dismissive disregard of the decisions of the Fourteenth ASP by the Prosecution in relation to the pending Rule 68 Appeal against Kenya’s Deputy President;

10. *Decides* as follows:

(i) The Bureau of the Open-Ended Ministerial Committee be expanded to ensure equitable regional representation and requests the Overall Dean and the Regional Deans in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to urgently undertake consultations with a view to submitting their respective representatives to serve on the Bureau;

- (ii) The Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) be mandated to approve and provide the adequate resources to the Commission, through the Office of the Legal Counsel, to support the work of the Open-Ended Ministerial Committee in pursuing all political, legal, and strategic avenues in addressing the AU's concerns before the United Nations, the ICC and the International Court of Justice (ICJ);
- (iii) The Open-Ended Ministerial Committee will review the ICC's interpretation of its power pursuant to Article 93 of the Rome Statute that allows the latter to oblige State parties to forcibly compel unwilling witnesses to testify before the ICC, with a view to rejecting witness compulsion in toto and inform the ICC and the next ASP accordingly;
- (iv) The Open-Ended Ministerial Committee's mandate will include the urgent development of a comprehensive strategy, including collective withdrawal from the ICC, to inform the next action of AU Member States that are also parties to the Rome Statute, and to submit such strategy to an extraordinary session of the Executive Council which is mandated to take such decision;
- (v) The Commission will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders within the ICC on issues raised in the various decisions of the AU policy organs on the ICC;
- (vi) The Commission, through the AU Mission in Brussels, Belgium, will serve as the secretariat to the Open-Ended Ministerial Committee and provide institutional support to the African Group in The Hague, Netherlands, to ensure effective coordination of its activities;

11. *Reiterates:*

- (i) The imperative need for all African States parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC to continue to ensure that they adhere to and articulate the common agreed positions in line with their obligations under the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
- (ii) Its call on all AU Member States to sign and ratify, as soon as possible, the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol of the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights;

12. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with all stakeholders, to follow up on this matter to ensure that the African proposals and concerns are addressed and to report to the ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council, scheduled for January 2017.

Assembly/AU/Dec.591 (XXVI)

Decision on the Items Proposed by Member States

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the items proposed by Member States and endorses the recommendations contained therein as follows;
 - A. On an African Architecture for Disaster Risk Reduction
2. *Agrees* in principle to support the idea and emphasizes the relevance and opportunity for the African Union (AU) to have an architecture for risk reduction in Africa at the national, regional and continental levels;
3. *Requests* the Commission to:

- (i) Submit, in collaboration with Cameroon, a road map for the creation of the Centre of Excellence for Disaster Risk Research, Prevention and Management;
 - (ii) Work with partners with respect to providing resources to Member States to mitigate disaster;
- B. On the Proposed 2017 Theme of the African Union on “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth
4. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.363 (XVII) on the Theme “Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development” and Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XVII) on the Declaration on Creating Employment for Accelerating Youth Development and Empowerment adopted in Malabo in July 2011 to accelerate youth development and empowerment and the pleas made by young people through the AU Intergenerational Dialogues with Heads of State and Government for the prioritization of the demographic dividend agenda at the highest levels of decision-making in Africa;
5. *Stresses* that:
- (i) The youth are Africa’s greatest asset which, if properly harnessed, will play a vital role in determining the continent’s development trajectory for the next 50 years and drive Agenda 2063;
 - (ii) Harnessing the demographic dividend is not guaranteed but can be achieved through economic reforms that create jobs, investments in human capital and efficient governance;
 - (iii) In order to derive maximum benefits from the demographic explosion of youth* at the national level there is need for a coordinated approach and response at the continental level;
6. *Adopts* the theme of “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth” for the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly scheduled for January and June/July 2017, respectively;
7. *Requests* the Commission in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Coordination and Planning Agency as well as other partners such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other United Nations and development agencies to:
- (i) Expedite the implementation of a continental initiative on the Demographic Dividend for Africa;
 - (ii) Develop a road map with key deliverables and milestones to be submitted to the next ordinary session of the Assembly scheduled for July 2016 through the Executive Council, to guide Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on concrete actions to be undertaken in 2017 and beyond;
- C. On the Bid to Host the Secretariat of ECOSOCC
8. *Welcomes and fully supports* the offer by Zambia to host ECOSOCC;
9. *Urges* Zambia working with the Commission to expedite the processes regarding the legal, structural and financial implications;
10. *Requests* the Commission to undertake the appropriate evaluation mission and submit a detailed report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council, scheduled for July 2016;

* Editor’s note: The phrase “youth bulge” has been replaced by “demographic explosion of youth” to align with the French text.

D. On the 2015 African Ministerial Conference on Intellectual Property (IP) for Emerging Africa

11. *Underlines* the following:

(i) The importance of intellectual property (IP) in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the need to have a continental architecture dealing with the matter; and requests the Commission to ensure that the existing structures dealing with IP on the continent do not overlap;

(ii) That the legal instrument establishing the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO) will have to be ratified by Member States as recommended by the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs;

12. *Calls upon* the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to strengthen its partnership with the African Union and its Member States and the Regional Economic Communities to address the challenges of IP for African development and, in particular, to enhance its technical assistance; and in this regard welcomes the decision taken by WIPO at its Fifty-fifth Session, held in October 2015, to open two external offices in Africa, and with the context of enhancing the cooperation between the African Union and WIPO, invites the African Group in Geneva to expedite the process of identifying the two Member States of the AU to host the above-mentioned WIPO external offices;

13. *Requests* the Commission to work out the legal, financial and structural implications of establishing an expert working group to develop a programme of action for the implementation of the Dakar Declaration on Intellectual Property for Africa, in collaboration with WIPO;

E. On the Convening of Another World Conference against Racism

14. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the Republic of Gambia and partners, to work on the practical modalities for convening this Conference;

15. *Requests* the Commission and the African Group in New York to:

(i) Reflect on the practical modalities of convening such a world conference and to work collaboratively to pursue the tabling of the proposal “Convening of Another World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance” at the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, and to provide a feedback on the outcome of their efforts at the next ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council, in July 2016;

(ii) Pursue the tabling of a United Nations General Assembly resolution on slavery, colonialism, occupation, reparations and restitution including the convening of an international conference to discuss these specific issues as well as measures and strategies to address their lasting negative impact on the continent.

Assembly/AU/Dec.592 (XXVI)

**Decision on Governance, Constitutionalism and Elections in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Commission on Governance, Constitutionalism and Elections in Africa and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recalls* the previous decisions of the Assembly adopting the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Agenda 2063 both of which commit Member States to creating democratic

developmental States anchored on participatory democratic governance, sustainable peace, and political stability on the continent;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to:

- (i) Accelerate the signing, ratification and domestication as well as implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) in order to entrench a culture of democracy, constitutionalism and peace in the respective countries;
- (ii) Also accelerate the signing, ratification, domestication and implementation of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development adopted in 2014;
- (iii) Prioritize the continued operationalization of the AU High Council of Local Authorities (AU-HCLA);
- (iv) In collaboration with the Commission, the development and adoption of the Common African Position on Habitat III. The AU-STC No. 8, its subcommittees, and other related bodies, such as the High Council of Local Authorities and the Habitat III Bureau, will be important institutions for future action in areas of effective local and urban governance and should be fully operationalized and empowered to work within their respective domains;
- (v) Make deliberate efforts to ensure professionalization and depoliticization of the security establishment by building constructive civil-military relations. This should entail ensuring accountability of the security establishment through the relevant portfolio committee of parliament;
- (vi) Address the growing trend of the formation and use of youth/militia arms of political parties by taking measures to discourage this trend as it undermines democratization and peacebuilding as well as immediate steps to discourage political parties from establishing such groups and disband them where they already exist;
- (vii) In line with the ACDEG, to maintain zero-tolerance on military coups and other methods of unconstitutional changes of government (UCG) by strengthening tough measures against perpetrators of UCG, including asset freezes and travel bans;
- (viii) Ensure that constitutional amendments are done in accordance with the provisions of the ACDEG, as a baseline, and the active participation of their citizens;
- (ix) Establish permanent, impartial and independent national constitutional review commissions;
- (x) Continue to provide technical support to election management boards (EMBs) and other stakeholders, especially political parties, the media, judicial institutions and law enforcement bodies as well as the civil society, to boost their institutional and human resource capacities to enhance effective and efficient management of electoral and democratic processes;
- (xi) Ensure that they fulfil their financial and other obligations to the AU, especially by contributing to the Democracy and Electoral Assistance Fund;
- (xii) Integrate women and youth in national and regional politics, in recognition of the need to be gender sensitive and the important role that women and youth play in political processes;
- (xiii) Pay particular attention to the timing of elections for those emerging from protracted violent conflicts and in the process of transition to democracy and peace;

4. *Requests* the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this decision to the Assembly, through the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.593 (XXVI)

Decision on the Extraordinary African Union Summit on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.583 (XXV) on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa adopted in Johannesburg, and, in particular, paragraph 22 relating to the Extraordinary African Union Summit on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa to be held in Lomé, Togo, adopted at its Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2015;
2. *Takes note* of the postponement of the Extraordinary Summit scheduled for Lomé, Togo, to ensure adequate preparations;
3. *Decides* to hold the said Summit on 15 October 2016 in Lomé, Togo, to be preceded by the preparatory session of the Permanent Representatives Committee and of the Executive Council;
4. *Requests* the Commission to expedite the preparations, in collaboration with government experts and relevant Specialized Technical Committees (STCs), including the review of relevant documents with a view to ensuring the development, adoption and signing of an African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development at the said Summit;
5. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the offer by the Government of Togo to host a preparatory meeting of one of the relevant Specialized Technical Committees;
6. *Requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council, in July 2017.

Assembly/AU/Dec.594 (XXVI)

**Decision on the Election of the Fifteen Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/954 (XXVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of the 15 members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (PSC) by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following five members of the PSC for a three-year term as of 1 April 2016:
 - (1) Congo (Rep.) Central Region;
 - (2) Kenya Eastern Region;
 - (3) Egypt Northern Region;
 - (4) Zambia Southern Region;
 - (5) Nigeria Western Region;
3. *Also appoints* the following 10 members of the PSC for a two-year term as of 1 April 2016:

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| (1) | Burundi | Central Region; |
| (2) | Chad | Central Region; |
| (3) | Rwanda | Eastern Region; |
| (4) | Uganda | Eastern Region; |
| (5) | Algeria | Northern Region; |
| (6) | Botswana | Southern Region; |
| (7) | South Africa | Southern Region; |
| (8) | Niger | Western Region; |
| (9) | Sierra Leone | Western Region; |
| (10) | Togo | Western Region. |

Assembly/AU/Dec.595 (XXVI)

**Decision on the Election of One Member of the African Committee of Experts
on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
(Doc. EX.CL/955 (XXVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of one member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following Member of the ACERWC for a five-year term:

Name	Country
Mr. Mohamed Ould Ahmedou dit H'Meyada	Mauritania.

Assembly/AU/Dec.596 (XXVI)

**Decision on the Dates and Venue of the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of
the Assembly of the African Union in July 2016**

The Assembly,

1. *Reiterates* its appreciation to the Republic of Rwanda for its offer to host the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in July 2015;
2. *Decides* that the dates of the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Kigali, Rwanda, shall be the following:
 - (i) Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC): from 10 to 12 July 2016;

- (ii) Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: from 13 to 15 July 2016;
 - (iii) Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 17 and 18 July 2016;
3. *Requests* the Commission, in close consultation with the Republic of Rwanda, to make all the necessary arrangements for the successful holding of the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly and the preparatory meetings.

Assembly/AU/Dec.597 (XXVI)

Decision on Streamlining the African Union Summits and the Working Methods of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note of:*

- (i) The Report of the Commission on the Comparative Study on the Working Methods of the African Union (AU) and the Streamlining of the AU Summits and requests Member States and the Commission to implement the recommendations agreed to by the Assembly; as well as
- (ii) The outcomes of the Retreat of the Executive Council held in Mekelle, Ethiopia, on 24 and 25 January 2016 on the implementation of Agenda 2063;

2. *Decides to:*

- (i) Revise and review the Constitutive Act of the African Union for it to be an effective legal instrument to accelerate, facilitate and deepen the efficiency and the integration process on the continent;
- (ii) Call on all Member States to expedite signature and ratification of the Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union relating to the Pan-African Parliament and the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights, to further deepen integration on the continent;
- (iii) Subject the items proposed by Member States to due process of prior analysis of the policy, legal, financial and structural implications by the Commission before being submitted to the policy organs and they should only relate to the Theme of the Year. The Commission should continue to exercise its responsibility to initiate the agenda of the policy organs, in particular, taking into consideration the related legal, structural and financial implications;
- (iv) Dissolve the Ministerial Drafting Committee as currently constituted in view of the fact that the AU has since improved its decision-making process with the Commission proposing draft decisions which are considered by the PRC, before submission to the Assembly, through the Executive Council;
- (v) Expedite the work of the PRC Subcommittee on Rules, Standards and Credentials to incorporate into the revised Rules of Procedure the decisions of the Assembly on the Streamlining of Summits and Working Methods of the African Union;
- (vi) Request the Commission to elaborate a road map on the implementation of the decisions of AU Summits, including using the scorecard approach on the implementation of decisions to be presented to the Assembly through the Executive Council;
- (vii) Empower individuals, through these reforms, to directly petition the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) on the implementation or otherwise of the decisions taken by the policy organs as long as the individual comes from a Member State, party to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, and has accepted the jurisdiction of the AfCHPR to receive such cases in conformity with Article 36 of the Protocol;

3. *Requests* the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Decision to the Assembly through the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.598 (XXVI)

**Decision on the Activities of the Peace and Security Council and
the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (XXVI))**

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. *Notes with concern* that, despite the tireless efforts that Africa continues to make for the promotion of peace, security and stability, violent conflicts, terrorism and other destabilizing factors, including disease outbreaks and climate change, continue to pose a serious threat to the socio-economic and political equilibrium of our continent;

3. *Stresses once again* the need for a more resolute preventive action to better protect African civilians against the destructive humanitarian consequences from violence of all kinds, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the Constitutive Act of the AU;

4. *Welcomes* the new advances recorded in Côte d'Ivoire with the successful holding of presidential elections on 25 October 2015, and encourages the Ivorian authorities to continue their efforts to deepen the reconciliation process, in order to sustainably consolidate peace in the country. The Assembly welcomes the successful holding of elections in Guinea, as well as the declared readiness of President Alpha Conde to work with all political actors, in a spirit of national cohesion. The Assembly welcomes the declaration of the end of the Ebola epidemic in Guinea, after Liberia and Sierra Leone, which thus marks a crucial stage in combating this scourge. The Assembly pays tribute to all those who contributed to this important victory against the Ebola epidemic, especially to the Chairperson of the Commission, for her personal commitment in this fight. The Assembly calls upon the international community to increase its support to countries affected in their efforts towards socio-economic recovery;

5. *Congratulates* the people, the political actors and the civil society of Burkina Faso on the exemplary nature of the Transition in their country, despite the many challenges encountered throughout the process. The Assembly welcomes the new authorities, especially the new President of Burkina Faso, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré. The Assembly pays a deserved tribute to the President of the Transition, Michel Kafando, and Prime Minister Yacouba Isaac Zida, for the many sacrifices made and the resilience they have shown. The Assembly urgently appeals to Member States and the international community to mobilize adequate emergency assistance for Burkina Faso and its long-term stability, thus contributing to the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law. The Assembly requests the Commission, in consultation with ECOWAS and the United Nations, to consider, within the framework of the International Follow-up and Support Group for the Transition in Burkina Faso (GISAT-BF), the modalities for increased support from the international community to Burkina Faso and to agree on the most appropriate mechanism for this purpose;

6. *Welcomes* the positive developments in the political situation in Madagascar, and urges the Malagasy political actors to continue to work for the consolidation of the gains and enhancement of the ongoing efforts in the socio-economic and governance fields. The Assembly appeals to the international community to actively

participate in the round table scheduled in June 2016 and to continue to support the efforts of the Malagasy Government to strengthen political stability and revive the development of the country. The Assembly urges all the Comorian actors to work for the smooth organization of the elections scheduled for 2016, in compliance with the Constitution, in order to consolidate the significant gains made by the Union of the Comoros on the path to reconciliation and stability, and reiterates the commitment of the AU, on the basis of its relevant instruments, particularly the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, to contribute to the success of the electoral process. The Assembly appeals to the international community to help mobilize the necessary resources for this purpose, and for the long-term development of Comoros;

7. *Also welcomes* the progress made in Somalia towards the realization of Vision 2016, and underlines the imperative for all Somali political stakeholders to demonstrate the required political will and unity of purpose, in order to consolidate the progress made and successfully conclude the ongoing process that will culminate in the holding of elections. The Assembly pays tribute to all the AMISOM uniformed and civilian personnel, as well as to the T/PCCs for their continued commitment and the sacrifices made thus far, and appeals for the mobilization of adequate support for the Mission to enable it to fully discharge its mandate. The Assembly reiterates the imperative of enhanced command and control for AMISOM, in line with the relevant provisions of the revised harmonized CONOPS, as a critical factor in ensuring the effectiveness of the Mission. The Assembly expresses its gratitude to the international community and urges its members to continue to provide the necessary support to the Federal Government of Somalia and its institutions. The Assembly reiterates its deep concern at the prevailing humanitarian situation, and calls for a scaled-up humanitarian response;

8. *Reiterates* its concern at the continued impasse in the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and encourages the Commission to take the required initiatives to assist the parties to overcome the challenges at hand. The Assembly calls for continued efforts to facilitate the normalization of the relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea, in line with the relevant provisions of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.583 (XXV);

9. *Reiterates* its support to the efforts of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on Sudan and South Sudan (AUHIP) aimed at facilitating an inclusive national dialogue, as well as at achieving cessation of hostilities in Darfur and the two states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile. The Assembly notes with satisfaction the readiness expressed by the parties to overcome their differences and urges them to continue to fully cooperate with the AUHIP and demonstrate the required political will. The Assembly calls for renewed efforts towards addressing the challenges at hand in the Darfur region and reiterates its support to the United Nations/African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in discharging its mandate;

10. *Commends* the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and the other leaders of the region, as well as the Team of IGAD Special Envoys, for their sustained efforts in facilitating the signing of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan. The Assembly commends the AU High Representative for South Sudan, the members of the AU High-Level Ad Hoc Committee on South Sudan and international partners that are members of the IGAD-Plus Mechanism, for their contribution to the finalization and signing of the Agreement. The Assembly further commends the Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) for his efforts in support of the South Sudanese stakeholders towards the full implementation of the Agreement. The Assembly reiterates the AU's full support to the Agreement, and the President of JEMEC and calls on all the South Sudanese parties to abide scrupulously by its terms. The Assembly congratulates the members of the AUCISS for the commitment shown in discharging their mandate, and expresses its full support for the implementation of the communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.1 (DXXVII) adopted by the PSC at its meeting of 26 September 2015. The Assembly appeals for enhanced humanitarian support to alleviate the suffering of the affected populations;

11. *Welcomes* the positive rapprochement between Sudan and South Sudan. The Assembly encourages the two countries to make renewed efforts towards the effective implementation of the Cooperation Agreement, in particular with respect to border and security issues, and to fully take advantage of the facilitation role of the AUHIP. The Assembly underlines the need for the parties to live up to their commitments under the June 2011 Agreement on Abyei, as well as to give a new impetus to efforts aimed at addressing the final status of the Area.

The Assembly reiterates its appeal to the international community to provide the required support to the Joint Approach, in order to help Sudan and South Sudan achieve their shared vision of two viable States living side-by-side in peace and working together on issues of common concern, The Assembly further encourages the AUHIP to continue its exemplary efforts in support of both countries to achieve their shared vision for a peaceful and secure region;

12. *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 AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) to expedite its efforts in this respect;

13. *Expresses its deep concern* about the continuing political impasse in Burundi, and the level of insecurity and violence which resulted in an acute humanitarian and economic crisis, including internal displacement of people and refugee flows into the neighbouring countries. The Assembly stresses that there is a deep rooted problem in Burundi and the Government of Burundi should not deny this reality, as such a denial will neither help this country nor the region. The Assembly also stresses the imperative need for an inclusive Inter-Burundian Dialogue and urges the Government and all Burundian stakeholders to respond without delay, to the call of the Mediator for the continuation of the Dialogue in Arusha, Tanzania. The Assembly takes note of the request expressed to the AU Commission by the Government of Burundi on the security challenges that Burundi is facing on its borders, as well as its concern about illegal circulation and trafficking of arms, the militias and armed groups in the country that should be disarmed and disbanded, as part of the efforts to restore security in the country; and, in this regard, the Assembly decides to dispatch a high-level delegation of Heads of State and Government of the Assembly to Burundi to consult with the Government as well as other Burundian actors on the inclusive dialogue and the contribution of the AU to the stabilization and resolution of the crisis in Burundi. The Assembly requests the Commission to take the necessary measures to facilitate the visit of the high-level delegation;

14. *Reiterates* the importance of the effective implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for DRC and the region and welcomes the progress made, including through the revitalization of its governance structures, especially as the region continues to face serious challenges to peace and security. The Assembly also welcomes the approval by the sixth meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the recommendations made to this effect by the Ministerial Retreat in Nairobi. The Assembly reiterates the urgent need, with the support of MONUSCO, to neutralize the negative forces in Eastern DRC, including the FDLR and the terrorist group ADF. The Assembly urges all the parties concerned to accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration, particularly in view of the delays in the granting of amnesty to the former combatants of M23 and their repatriation to the DRC, bearing in mind that many of them have been already amnestied. The Assembly expresses its support to the Conference on Investment by the private sector in the Great Lakes Region scheduled in Kinshasa in February 2016, as a crucial element for the sustainable promotion of peace and security in this region;

15. *Welcomes* the successful holding of the constitutional referendum and the presidential election held in December 2015, in the Central African Republic. The Assembly urges the Central African actors to endeavour resolutely for the successful conclusion of the Transition on 31 March 2016, as agreed during the ECCAS Summit held on 25 November 2015 in Libreville. The Assembly expresses its appreciation to the countries of the region and international partners for their continued commitment and multifaceted assistance to the RCA, and appeals for the mobilization of the resources necessary to enable the newly elected government to take up the challenges related to the humanitarian situation and the functioning of the State, particularly in the provision of basic services. The Assembly congratulates the AU Special Representative, Head of MISAC, on the initiatives and activities carried out in support to the efforts of the authorities of the Transition for the restoration of the constitutional order and the stabilization of the CAR;

16. *Also welcomes* the progress made to date in the fight against the Lord Resistance Army (LRA), thanks to the efforts deployed within the framework of the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the LRA (RCI-LRA), and notes that the LRA continues to pose a serious threat to civilian populations. The Assembly commends the troop contributing countries (TCCs) to the Regional Task Force (RTF) for their efforts and urges them to sustain their efforts, and fulfill their pledges in terms of strengthening the troops to be deployed. The

Assembly welcomes the consultations undertaken with international stakeholders to enhance coordination in the counter-LRA operations and call on all partners to pursue and enhance their support to the AU-led efforts aimed at eliminating the threat posed by this group;

17. *Further welcomes* the progress made in the operationalization of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), as well as in the fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group. The Assembly encourages the countries of the region to persevere in their efforts and to enhance their cooperation within the framework of the MNJTF. The Assembly commends the Commission for the steps taken, in support of the operationalization of the MNJTF, including the upcoming donors' conference, scheduled for 1 February 2016. The Assembly expresses its gratitude to African States and the international partners for the support provided to the MNJTF, and appeals for intensified international mobilization to degrade and defeat the Boko Haram terrorist group and to assist the populations affected by the attacks by this group and the countries hosting refugees fleeing the atrocities committed by this terrorist group. The Assembly stresses, once again, the need to complement the military and security operations against the Boko Haram terrorist group by sustained national and regional efforts, to improve livelihoods, promote education and job creation, as well as ensure the protection of human rights, particularly those of women and girls;

18. *Urges* the Head of State and the Guinea-Bissau politicians to find a definitive solution to the institutional crisis, to enable the country to embark on the priority area of socio-economic recovery and peacebuilding through the implementation of the necessary reforms concerning the fight against impunity and national reconciliation, particularly the reform of the defence and security sectors. The Assembly stresses the importance of respecting the Constitution and, expresses its support for a revision of the Constitution, as that would make it possible to clarify the articles that were the sources of divergent interpretations. The Assembly supports the development of a stability pact and the process of organizing a conference on national reconciliation;

19. *Welcomes* the dynamics emerging from the signing and early implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, while underscoring the need for a lasting peace for the entire Sahel region. The Assembly encourages the Malian parties to pursue, with determination and in good faith, their efforts for the implementation of the Agreement within the framework of the Agreement Monitoring Committee, which, during its High-Level Meeting held in Algiers on 17 and 18 January 2016, welcomed the progress made. The Assembly urges the international community to continue and intensify its support, including financial, to the ongoing efforts. The Assembly reiterates its firm condemnation of the terrorist attacks against Mali, welcoming the Assessment Mission planned in relation to the proposed establishment of an Intervention Force in northern Mali, as decided by the Meeting of Ministers of Defence of the countries participating to the Nouakchott Process held in Bamako, from 2 to 4 September 2015. The Assembly reiterates its support to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and to its troop contributing countries. The Assembly underscores the imperative to further pool the regional efforts in order to face the global threat of terrorism by accelerating the implementation and coordination of initiatives underway within the context of the Nouakchott Process and the G5 Sahel, particularly the establishment of a rapid intervention force to enhance the fight against terrorism in North Mali and the Sahel in general. The Assembly requests the Commission to fully support the G5 Sahel within the framework of the realization of its objectives. The Assembly urgently appeals to the international partners to further increase their support to the countries of the Sahel which continue to face serious threats to peace and security and the socio-economic consequences of the degradation of the environment. In this regard, the Assembly requests the Commission to conduct the necessary consultations with a view to the holding of an International Conference on Peace and Development in the Sahel, to be held under the joint auspices of the AU, the United Nations and ECOWAS;

20. *Reiterates* the AU's call for the early resolution of the four-decade long conflict in Western Sahara, in full respect of the international legality. The Assembly appeals to the United Nations Security Council to fully assume its responsibility in this respect, with the view to achieving a fair, 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 United Nations principles and purposes. The Assembly reiterates its call to the United Nations General Assembly regarding the determination of a date for the holding of the self-determination referendum for

the people of Western Sahara and protection of the integrity of the Western Sahara as a non-self-governing territory from any act, which may undermine it, including protection of its natural resources, as well as addressing the situation of human rights in the occupied territories and the camps. The Assembly condemns the delaying of the visit of the United Nations Secretary-General to the territory and calls for early accomplishment of the visit of Ban Ki-Moon in the region to expedite a peaceful solution to the conflict. The Assembly reiterates the Declaration adopted at its Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, from 30 to 31 January 2015, regarding the convening by the Crans Montana Forum, a Switzerland-based organization, of a meeting in the occupied city of Dakhla, in Western Sahara. In view of the intention of this entity to convene a similar event in the territory, in 2016, the Assembly calls on Crans Montana to desist from this activity and appeals to all Member States, African civil society organizations and other relevant actors to boycott any such event¹;

21. *Welcomes* the signing of the Libyan Political Agreement and calls on the international community to provide the necessary technical, security, and counter-terrorism assistance to the new Government of National Accord. The Assembly also calls upon all Libyan stakeholders, who have yet to endorse the Agreement, to do so expeditiously. The Assembly stresses its deep concern at the prevailing humanitarian and security situation in the country, strongly condemns all acts of violence and reiterates that there is no military solution to the current crisis. The Assembly commends the ICG-L and the neighbouring countries for their sustained efforts and positive contribution to the signing of the Libyan Political Agreement. The Assembly decides to establish the High-Level Committee of Heads of State and Government, as agreed in the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of 23 September 2014, to enable the AU to support more effectively the efforts of peace and reconstruction in Libya and consolidate the outcome of the initiatives of the neighbouring countries aimed at ending the hostilities and bringing about national reconciliation. The Committee is composed as follows, and includes the High Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Libya as a member of the Committee: the President of the Republic of South Africa, the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the President of the Republic of Gabon, the President of the Republic of Niger and the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The Assembly requests the Commission to provide all the necessary support to the High-Level Committee to enable it to fulfil its mandate and to report on the implementation of this Decision through the PSC at the next ordinary session of the Assembly scheduled for July 2016;

22. *Also welcomes* the Report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) and the subsequent report of the United Nations Secretary-General, and expresses full support for the communiqué adopted by the PSC at its 547th meeting, held in New York. The Assembly further welcomes the consultations undertaken by the Commission with the United Nations Secretariat and members of the United Nations Security Council, and underlines the urgency of finalizing the AU-United Nations framework for an enhanced partnership in the area of peace and security. The Assembly reiterates the AU's commitment to implement the decision made at the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly that AU Member States should contribute 25 per cent of the cost of AU efforts on peace and security, including AU-led peace operations. Furthermore, the Assembly requests the Chairperson of the Commission to formally write to the United Nations Secretary-General to outline the parameters of the types of support the AU would seek from the United Nations, including the types of operations the AU plans to seek financing for from the United Nations, as well as other relevant issues, including interaction, both at the strategic and operation levels, between the AU and the United Nations, in the context of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, building both on the PSC communiqué of 26 September 2015 and the consultations held with the United Nations and members of the United Nations Security Council. The Assembly welcomes the appointment, by the Chairperson of the Commission, of Dr. Donald Kaberuka as her High Representative for the AU Peace Fund, and looks forward to its interaction with Member States, the United Nations and other relevant partners. The Assembly reiterates its call to all Member States to support this initiative within the relevant United Nations organs, and urges AU partners to do the same, as part of the overall efforts to advance collective security;

23. *Commends* the efforts undertaken by the Commission, Member States, RECs and the international partners to advance the implementation of the regional and international regimes against illicit SALW and WMD. The Assembly stresses upon Member States the need to renew efforts and commit the required human and

¹ Reservations entered by Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal.

financial resources to ensure sustainable action. The Assembly encourages the PSC to pay particular attention to the threat posed by illicit SALW within the wider context of conflict prevention and management, and stresses the need for a development-oriented approach to the implementation of the regional and international WMD regimes, including through the convening of an open session of the PSC to generate the required momentum and start a dialogue towards this end;

24. *Recalls* Article 7, paragraph 3, of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC, which affirms that “Member States agree to accept and implement the decisions of the Peace and Security Council, in accordance with the Constitutive Act”. In this regard, the Assembly reiterates that the African Members of the United Nations Security Council have special responsibility to ensure that the decisions of the PSC are well reflected in the decision-making process of the Security Council on peace and security issues of concern to Africa. In light of the above, the Assembly requests the African members of the United Nations Security Council (A3), working with the Commission, including the AU Permanent Mission to the United Nations, to present reports through the PSC to the Assembly, on their efforts within the Security Council and the extent to which they managed to promote African positions as articulated by the PSC. The Assembly further requests the PSC to provide timely guidance to the African members of the Security Council to facilitate consistency in the promotion and defense of African positions on issues of concern to the continent. In this regard, the Assembly approves the conclusions of the third edition of the High-level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa, held in Oran, Algeria, from 20 to 22 December 2015, and congratulates the Government of Algeria, in collaboration with the AU Commission, for its continued efforts to facilitate the holding of this annual Oran Forum, as a framework aiming at contributing to the objective of promoting and defending the African Union decisions and positions within the United Nations decision-making process.

Assembly/AU/Dec.599 (XXVI)

**Decision on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Seventeenth Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
2. *Recalls* its previous Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.564 (XXIV), Assembly/AU/Dec.573 (XXIII), Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (IV), Assembly/AU/Dec.430 (XIX), Assembly/AU/Dec.485 (XXI) and Assembly/AU/Dec.574 (XXV) on the reform of the United Nations Security Council;
3. *Takes note* of the Committee of Ten Heads of State Consultative Summit held in Windhoek, Republic of Namibia, on 15 January 2016, and the ongoing high-level outreach consultations with other interest groups;
4. *Also takes note* of the progress made at both the intergovernmental negotiations and the outreach with Member States of the United Nations in garnering support for the Common African Position as articulated in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 2005 Sirte Declaration;
5. *Welcomes* the support that the Common African Position continues to garner on Security Council reform;
6. *Further welcomes* United Nations General Assembly decision 69/560 adopted by consensus to immediately continue with the intergovernmental negotiations in informal plenary during the seventieth session building on the gains made as well as the informal meetings held during the sixty-ninth session;
7. *Reaffirms:*

- (i) That the Common African Position, as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 2005 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;
- (ii) Its unanimous and unequivocal adhesion to the Common African Position contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 2005 Sirte Declaration consisting of the claim of two additional non-permanent seats and two seats in the permanent category 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, canvass and promote the African Union Common Position at the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the reform of the Security Council;
10. *Urges* all Member States as follows:
- (i) Continue to speak with one voice on all aspects of "the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the United Nations Security Council and related matters";
- (ii) The need not to adhere to other negotiating groups or special interests, as it is not in keeping with the spirit of the Common African Position;
- (iii) Those that have not done so to include the issue of the Security Council reform among their foreign policy priorities in their engagements with non-African partners; in particular, the need to correct without further delay, the historical injustice that the African continent continues to suffer;
11. *Decides* to include the following:
- (i) An allocation in the Commission's budget for the purpose of funding the activities of the Committee of Ten and requests the Commission, in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), to make adequate proposals in this regard to the Assembly, through the Executive Council, starting from the 2017 budget;
- (ii) On the agenda of its closed session, on the margins of the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled for July 2016, an item on Security Council reform;
12. *Reiterates* that the Committee of Ten remains seized of its mandate until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of Security Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.600 (XXVI)

**Decision on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the final report of H.E Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia and Chairperson of the High-Level Committee (HLC), on the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.475 (XXI) adopted by the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly in May 2013 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 inter-continental alliances on the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda;

3. *Commends* the leadership role of H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the other members of the HLC as well as their respective Sherpas for the level of enthusiasm, responsiveness and commitment to the Post-2015 Development process;

4. *Also commends* the coordinating role of the Commission, and the technical support of the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the entire process of the Post-2015 Development Agenda;

5. *Welcomes* the adoption of the new development agenda, titled: “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and that of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), which significantly captures Africa’s priority areas and are compatible with Agenda 2063;

6. *Also welcomes* the compatibility of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the Agenda 2063 First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP) and the synergies that will emanate from their implementation;

7. *Commends* African statisticians for their active participation in the quantification and costing of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs indicators to enable a credible monitoring and evaluation process;

8. *Endorses* the ongoing formulation of the accountability framework by the Commission, in collaboration with the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), UNECA and AfDB, in consultation with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), which will cater for both Agenda 2063 and the SDGs concurrently;

9. *Also endorses* the required capacity-building and technical support for Member States during the domestication and implementation process of Agenda 2063, which incorporates the global Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

Assembly/AU/Dec.601 (XXVI)

Decision on the 2017 Theme of Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal by the Republic of Malawi to declare 2017 the year of “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth”;

2. *Requests* the Commission to take the necessary measures to launch in January 2017 the theme of the year.

Assembly/AU/Dec.602 (XXVI)

Decision on the Scale of Assessment and Implementation of Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Council on the scale of assessment and implementation of the alternative sources of financing the African Union and the recommendations thereto;

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2. *Requests* the Executive Council, through its Committee on Contributions and Scale of Assessment, to continue to develop modalities for the implementation of the alternative sources of financing the African Union and report on progress to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2016;

3. *Welcomes:*

- (i) The initiative of Angola to be assessed at 8 per cent;
- (ii) The decision of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to increase its assessed contribution to 3 per cent;
- (iii) The decision of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to increase its assessed contribution to 4 per cent;
- (iv) The decision of Republic of Kenya to increase its assessed contribution to 4.1 per cent;
- (v) The decision of the Republic of Chad to increase its assessed contribution to US\$ 1.6 million;

4. *Decides that:*

- (i) All the other Member States will be assessed as per Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.578 (XXV) adopted by the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2015; and
- (ii) The attached table on the revised scale of assessment will form an integral part of this decision;

5. *Expresses its gratitude* to Member States that have volunteered to share the 4 per cent gap of the scale of assessment in a spirit of African solidarity and encourages Member States to pay their contributions to the Union budget in a timely manner;

6. *Requests* the Commission to organize a Retreat of Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Finance to examine the financing of the Union before the July 2016 Summit to be held in N'Djamena, Chad;

7. *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 July 2016.

SCALE OF ASSESSMENT			
Member State	2016 - 2018		Assessed Contribution 2016
	Scale of Assessment %	Scale of Assessment as agreed by Heads of States 31-01-2016 (2016-2018)	
Nigeria	12.000	12.000	20,391,922.68
South Africa	12.000	12.000	20,391,922.68
Egypt	12.000	12.000	20,391,922.68
Algeria	12.000	12.000	20,391,922.68
Total 1st Tier	48.0000	48.000	81,567,690.72
Angola	8.0000	8.000	13,594,615.12

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Kenya	2.8186	4.100	6,967,240.25
Ethiopia	2.3706	4.000	6,797,307.56
Sudan	3.4036	3.322	5,645,163.93
Libya	3.3416	3.260	5,539,805.66
Côte d'Ivoire	1.6776	3.000	5,097,980.67
Ghana	2.4616	2.380	4,044,398.00
Tunisia	2.4206	2.339	3,974,725.60
U.R. of Tanzania	1.7376	1.656	2,814,085.33
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	1.5696	1.488	2,528,598.41
Cameroon	1.5386	1.457	2,475,919.28
Zambia	1.4166	1.335	2,268,601.40
Uganda	1.2226	1.141	1,938,931.98
Total 2nd Tier	33.9796	37.478	63,687,373.18
Gabon	1.1766	1.095	1,860,762.94
Chad	0.8446	0.942	1,600,000.00
Equatorial Guinea	0.9686	0.887	1,507,302.95
Mozambique	0.9526	0.871	1,480,113.72
Botswana	0.9236	0.842	1,430,833.24
Senegal	0.9226	0.841	1,429,133.91
South Sudan	0.8796	0.798	1,356,062.86
Congo	0.8476	0.766	1,301,684.40
Zimbabwe	0.8326	0.751	1,276,194.49
Namibia	0.7786	0.697	1,184,430.84
Burkina Faso	0.7666	0.685	1,164,038.92
Mauritius	0.7606	0.679	1,153,842.96
Mali	0.7006	0.619	1,051,883.34
Madagascar	0.6866	0.605	1,028,092.77
Benin	0.5546	0.473	803,781.62
Rwanda	0.5136	0.432	734,109.22
Niger	0.5036	0.422	717,115.95
Guinea	0.4356	0.354	601,561.72
Sierra Leone	0.3606	0.279	474,112.20
Togo	0.3286	0.247	419,733.74
Mauritania	0.3196	0.238	404,439.80
Malawi	0.2986	0.217	368,753.94
Swaziland	0.2976	0.216	367,054.61
Eritrea	0.2776	0.196	333,068.07
Burundi	0.2366	0.155	263,395.67
Lesotho	0.2106	0.129	219,213.17

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Liberia	0.1926	0.111	188,625.28
Cape Verde	0.1876	0.106	180,128.65
Central African Republic	0.1686	0.087	147,841.44
Djibouti	0.1646	0.083	141,044.13
Seychelles	0.1606	0.079	134,246.82
Somalia	0.1576	0.076	129,148.84
Guinea-Bissau	0.1366	0.055	93,462.98
Gambia	0.1296	0.048	81,567.69
Saharawi Arab D.R.	0.1256	0.044	74,770.38
Comoros	0.1186	0.037	62,875.09
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.0986	0.017	28,888.56
Total 3rd Tier	18.0204	15.179	25,793,316.93
Total Assessed against budget	100.000	100.657	171,048,380.84

Assembly/AU/Dec.603 (XXVI)

**Decision on Africa's Engagement in the Global Climate Negotiations
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XXVI))**

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 Africa's engagement in the global climate negotiations; and endorses the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Congratulates* France on hosting a successful Twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and for facilitating the adoption of the Paris Agreement that is binding on all parties;
3. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Paris Agreement by the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC at its Twenty-first session and urges all Member States to participate in the high-level signature ceremony for the Agreement to be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 22 April 2016 in New York, United States of America;
4. *Calls on* all Member States to ratify the Paris Agreement; and acknowledges the UNFCCC Decision to host the Twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22) on the African continent, in Marrakesh, the Kingdom of Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016;
5. *Expresses appreciation* to the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) as well as the Commission, and 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 UNFCCC process; urges AMCEN, the Commission and AGN to maintain the unity of the group and to continue to represent African interests in the UNFCCC process; and calls on the AGN, in collaboration with the Commission, to continue to provide the necessary technical support and advice to CAHOSCC through AMCEN;

6. *Commends* the Commission, the African Development Bank, and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), as well as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa for the establishment and effectiveness of the Africa Pavilion at COP 21; appreciates the space provided by the Pavilion for African countries and institutions to showcase Africa's response to climate change; acknowledges the support provided by France and partners: ClimDev-Africa, Benin, GIZ, SOS Sahel, Norway, the World Bank and Islamic Development Bank; and calls on Member States to support the continued mounting of an Africa Pavilion at future COPs;
7. *Requests* the Commission to finalize the ClimDev-Africa proposal developed regarding strengthening the three-tier negotiation structure and a strategy on how to maximize the benefits of the Paris Agreement for Africa, and an assessment of the needs of African countries for the implementation of their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) to the Paris Agreement, including in relation to means of implementation, and to present recommendations in advance of the Twenty-second Conference of the Parties on ways and means for mobilizing adequate resources to support the implementation of the intended nationally determined contributions by African States;
8. *Reaffirms* the endorsement by the CAHOSCC at its meeting held on 25 September 2015 in New York, United States of America, of the African Adaptation Initiative (AAI) and the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), building on the continental initiatives of the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) and the High-Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCA) as work in progress; and welcomes the launching of the two initiatives by the Coordinator of the CAHOSCC during COP 21 in Paris, France; In this regard, welcomes the coordinating role played by H.E Professor Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea, in the area of renewable energy at the level of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and decides to extend the latter's role at the continental level on Africa's commitments in the area of renewable energy;
9. *Acknowledges* the Governance Framework proposed in the document "The Summary of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative Framework Document and Action Plan"; and affirms the appointment of the African Development Bank (AfDB) as the trustee for the AREI and the host of its Independent Delivery Unit as provided in the AREI Framework Document;
10. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.580 (XXV) adopted by the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2015 which established a technical working group chaired by the President of AMCEN to develop the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), and which encouraged AMCEN to develop with the AGN a proposal for an African Adaptation Initiative; and commends the work by AMCEN, the AGN and the technical working group comprising the Commission, NPCA, AGN, AfDB, UNEP and IRENA in this regard;
11. *Requests* AMCEN to establish a technical working group in collaboration with the Commission, NPCA, AGN, AfDB, UNECA, UNEP, UNDP, to carry on the work with regard to the African Adaptation Initiative, with the aim of increasing its visibility and ensuring mobilization of adequate resources needed for its operationalization and implementation;
12. *Encourages* developed countries to support the implementation of the African Adaptation Initiative, taking into consideration the reaffirmation of the Paris Agreement that adaptation is a global challenge, and of the importance of support for and international cooperation on adaptation efforts, taking into account the needs of developing countries; and stresses the importance of coordination and synergy between the technical working group and the African Risk Capacity (ARC), ClimDev-Africa as well as other relevant initiatives and efforts;
13. *Expresses appreciation* for the support by the G7 and G20 for the AREI, as well as for the Joint Statement on Advancing the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative by Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Sweden, United States of America, United Kingdom and EU reiterating expressions of support for the initiative from G7 leaders in June 2015 and G20 energy ministers in October 2015, and jointly committing to mobilize at least \$US 10 billion cumulatively from 2015 to 2020; also expresses appreciation for the support provided by the United Nations Secretary-General to the Africa Adaptation Initiative;

14. *Calls on* AMCEN, the Commission and AfDB to take appropriate measures, under the guidance of CAHOSCC, to ensure finalization of the African Adaptation Initiative (AAI) and the operationalization and implementation of the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI);
15. *Requests* AfDB to take appropriate measures, in consultation with AMCEN and the Commission, to complete its work on the instrument establishing the AREI governance framework and related establishment documentation, which shall be adopted by the AREI Governing Board at its initial meeting convened by CAHOSCC;
16. *Commends* the African leaders and host of COP 21 for the special session held on the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative, the Lake Chad Basin, and other African initiatives presented during COP 21 in Paris, France, and requests the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, other United Nations agencies and development partners to recognize the importance of Africa's special needs, in addition to the least developed countries (LDCs), in the implementation of the historic Paris Agreement as this remains key to the realization of Africa's green growth path;
17. *Calls on* partners to continue to support Member States and the Commission in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change on the socio-economic development on the continent;
18. *Requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the ordinary session of the Assembly scheduled for January 2017.

Assembly/AU/Dec.604 (XXVI)

Decision on the Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the First Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons and the outcomes of regional consultations on a political process for the development of a Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness on the theme "One Africa, One Voice, One Message" to be presented at the first ever World Humanitarian Summit scheduled for Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016 and approves the recommendations therein;
2. *Takes note* of the outcome of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)-led Global Consultations for the World Humanitarian Summit, and the proposed five action areas, namely, dignity, safety, resilience, partnerships and finance, and the need to transform the global humanitarian architecture to make it more global, inclusive and effective;
3. *Reaffirms* the need for Africa to speak with one voice in international fora in accordance with Article 3, subparagraph (d), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union which provides for the need "... to promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples..." and the 2013 Fiftieth Anniversary Declaration, paragraph 5,* which reiterated the collective "...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...";
4. *Notes with concern* the rapidly changing humanitarian landscape and the growing complexity of humanitarian crises on the continent;

* Editor's note: This language appears under Part H of the Solemn Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the OAU/AU adopted in 2013, Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XXI).

5. *Expresses deep concern* over the dire humanitarian situation of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea trying to cross over to Europe;
6. *Welcomes* a Declaration on Humanitarian Effectiveness on the continent and the need for a ten-year action plan in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063;
7. *Welcomes and endorses* the recommendation for the establishment of an African Humanitarian Agency (AHA), to streamline humanitarian action on the continent;
8. *Recalls* the various decisions of 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 African Union; and reiterates the imperative need for predictable, reliable and sustainable resources to enable the AU to fulfil its mandate;
9. *Decides to:*
 - (i) Adopt the Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness to be submitted at the World Humanitarian Summit;
 - (ii) Establish an African Humanitarian Agency which should be anchored on regional and national mechanisms and funded with Africa's own resources; and to request the Commission to embark on the process for the establishment of such an architecture anchored on principles of Pan-Africanism and African shared values;
10. *Requests* the Commission to report to the ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council, in January 2017.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXVI)

**Declaration on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East
(Doc. EX.CL/930 (XXVIII))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2016,

Taking note of the Report on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine, and recalling all resolutions and decisions of the Organization of African Unity/African Union on the situation in Palestine towards achieving lasting peace and security in the Middle East,

Reaffirms our full support to the Palestinian people in their quest for the restoration of their legitimate rights to establish an independent State coexisting peacefully with the State of Israel,

Reiterating our wish for the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions; and expressing support for the two-State solution,

Renewing our call for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides in order to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East,

Commending the AU Member States as well as the United Nations agencies that raised the Palestinian flag in political support of the State of Palestine,

Condemning the continued occupation of Palestinian lands and the Judaization campaign aimed at changing all Islamic and Christian features of the Holy City and reducing the Palestinian population to the fullest extent through

the confiscation of their lands and the destruction of their homes, a sectarian concept which undermines the foundation of the peace process,

Denouncing the Israeli practices against the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, which are contrary to international law and international humanitarian law, and calling on the Israeli Government to release all Palestinian and Arab political prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails,

Equally demanding that Israel refrains from using acts of terrorism against the Palestinian's civilian populations as well as 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,

Further condemning Israel for withholding Palestinian funds and tax revenues, which constitute a cornerstone of the Palestinian economy, and calling on 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 support the efforts of the Palestinians for membership in international agencies and to join international conventions and protocols;
2. *Reject* the land and sea blockage imposed on the Gaza Strip, which led to the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation, and demands an immediate lifting of all restrictions on the Gaza Strip;
3. *Urge* 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 a 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. *Request* Member States to boycott goods and products that are produced and exported from the settlements in the Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem;
5. *Request* the United Nations and the Quartet to move immediately to shoulder their responsibilities and pressure Israel to commit to the process of serious peace process negotiations;
6. *Further request* Member States to continue to support the Palestinian people in their struggle to establish a sovereign State over its national territory with Quds El-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital;
7. *Reaffirm* the right of the Palestinian people to establish their own Palestinian independent State with East Jerusalem as its capital on its borders of June 1967, and supports the Palestinian approach to obtain full membership of the State of Palestine at the United Nations;
8. *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.2 (XXVI)

**Declaration on the Lifting of the Long-Standing United States of America's
Unilateral Sanctions Imposed on Sudan
(Doc. EX.CL/945 (XXVIII) Add.5)**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

Guided by the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted in 2000 at the Lomé Summit in Togo which provides that one of the objectives of the African Union shall be to achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the peoples of Africa,

Considering the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant human rights instruments,

Affirming the United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution No. A/HRC/27/L.2 on Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures adopted on 18 September 2014 which created special procedures to assess the impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights,

Urging the Commission to develop modalities for the follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the decision of the Assembly to call on the United States of America to lift the long-standing unilateral sanctions on Sudan,

Bearing in mind the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Republic of Sudan by the United States of America since 1997, which has, inter alia, crippled the economy of the country, increased the inflation rates, restricted the imports and exports, hindered the country's strategy to achieve socio-economic development, interrupted the ongoing plans to cope with Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and affected the country's obligation towards its commitments to the African Union Agenda 2063,

Recognizing that the unilateral coercive measures resulted in freezing and confiscation of private and governmental transfers and assets, respectively, deprived the people of Sudan of the use of open sources in the internet, economically discouraged foreign direct investments, lowered the per capita income and increased the percentage of population poverty,

Concerned by the harmful effect of the bank transfer embargo, which has forced the people dealing with Sudan to carry money in cash outside the banking system making it difficult for the authorities to fight money laundering thus encouraging cross boarder crimes. This has affected all socio-economic aspects, especially in the health sector, resulting in the increase in maternal and infant mortality due to the restrictions created on importing medical serums and equipment normally,

Stressing that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are discouraged under international law, international humanitarian law, the United Nations Charter, the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the norms and principles governing peaceful resolutions among States,

Expressing its deep concern at the designation of the Republic of Sudan as a State sponsoring terrorism by the Department of State of the United States of America, since 1993, which has restrained Sudan from playing an active role in combating terrorism, smuggling and trafficking in persons, transnational crimes and illegal immigration,

Further recognizing Sudan's tireless effort in peacemaking through the multifaceted negotiations in Chad, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya, Eritrea, Egypt, Libya, Qatar and many other countries, including the signing and implementation of several agreements mainly the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that led to the establishment of the sisterly Republic of South Sudan, as well as the initiation of the ongoing inclusive process of national dialogue to accommodate all the people of Sudan within national issues,

Taking note of Sudan's initiative in the establishment of the Committee on Intelligence and Security Service in Africa (CISSA) in order to combat terrorism regionally and internationally,

Reaffirming that no State may use or encourage the use of any type of measures including but not limited to economic or political measures, to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind,

Underlining that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their basic means of survival,

Alarmed by the disproportionate and indiscriminate human cost of the United States of America's unilateral sanctions and their negative effects on civilian population, in particular women and children of Sudan,

1. *Declare* our full support of the Republic of Sudan until the comprehensive lifting of all unjust United States of America's unilateral sanctions;
2. *Call upon* the United States of America to lift all its unilateral coercive measures, restrictions and sanctions imposed on the Republic of Sudan as soon as possible to allow it to continue the peacebuilding process;
3. *Regret* the extraterritorial nature of the measures which, inter alia, impacts the payment of the financial contribution of Sudan to the African Union, in addition to threatening the sovereignty of the country;
4. *Call upon* all States of the world not to recognize these measures or apply them, and to take effective administrative or legislative measures, as appropriate, to counter the extraterritorial application or effects of unilateral coercive measures;
5. *Requests* the Commission to report on the mechanism for the implementation of the decision of the Assembly to call on the United States of America to lift the long-standing unilateral sanctions on Sudan to the ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council, scheduled for January 2017.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXVI)

Resolution on Recent Developments in the Cuba-United States of America Relations

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the Governments of the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America and the reopening of embassies in the respective capital cities and other initiatives launched to make progress in bilateral ties;
2. *Calls for* the lifting of the long-standing and unjust economic, commercial and financial blockade on Cuba;
3. *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.

TWENTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Kigali, Rwanda
17 to 18 July 2016**

Assembly/AU/Dec.605 (XXVII)

Decision on the Outcome of the Retreat of Heads of State and Government, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Ministers of Finance on the Financing of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* its determination to ensure that the African Union (AU) is financed in a predictable, sustainable, equitable and accountable manner with the full ownership by its Member States;
2. *Further reaffirms* its earlier Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.578 (XXV) on the Scale of Assessment and Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union adopted in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2015 and the Decision of the 547th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council at the level of Heads of State and Government on 26 September 2015 requesting the Chairperson of the Commission to appoint a High Representative on the Peace Fund;
3. *Takes note* of the Report on Financing the African Union and the African Union Peace Fund of the AU High Representative of the Peace Fund, Dr. Donald Kaberuka, and expresses its appreciation for the excellent work undertaken;
4. *Also takes note* of the contributions made by Dr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and Dr. Acha Leke of McKinsey and Company;
5. *Decides* as follows:
 - (a) On the Financing of the Union:
 - (i) To institute and implement a 0.2 per cent levy on all eligible imported goods into the continent to finance the African Union operational programme and peace support operations budgets starting from the year 2017;
 - (ii) That the amounts collected from the levy shall be automatically paid by the national administration, into an account opened for the African Union with the Central Banks of each Member State for transmission to the African Union in accordance with each Member State's assessed contribution;
 - (iii) That the Commission shall put in place strong oversight and accountability mechanisms for ensuring the effective and prudent use of the resources;
 - (iv) That the Commission should complete the ongoing institutional reform of the African Union to ensure a more effective attainment of the objective of the Union and prudent use of all resources;
 - (v) To establish a Committee of Ministers of Finance comprising ten Member States, representing the five regions (two per region) to participate in the preparation of the annual budget;
 - (b) On the Peace Fund:
 - (i) The Peace Fund shall be endowed from the 0.2 per cent levy, referred to in paragraph 6 (a)(i) above, with an amount of \$US 325 million in 2017, rising to \$US 400 million in 2020. This total amount shall be raised from equal contributions from each of the five AU regions, as defined in the relevant instruments;
 - (ii) To adopt the recommendations contained in the report of Dr. Donald Kaberuka, the High Representative on the Peace Fund, to have three thematic windows, namely Mediation and Preventive Diplomacy; Institutional Capacity; and Peace Support Operations, as well as clear governance structures and an independent fund management body;

- (iii) To request the Chairperson of the Commission to implement all aspects related to the operationalization of the AU Peace Fund, in particular, the legal, operational and financial rules and regulations;
- (iv) To mandate the Commission to finalize the processes relating to decision-making for mobilizing assessed contributions for the African Union peace support operations, and Human Rights and Code of Conduct Compliance Framework for Peace Support Operations;
- (v) To request the Chairperson of the Commission to undertake consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Security Council and other relevant partners, on the envisaged funding arrangements for the provision of the United Nations assessed contributions for AU-led peace operations, bearing in mind the funding arrangements for the Peace Fund as outlined above;
6. *Requests* the Commission to undertake a study on the management of African mineral resources, with particular focus on optimizing revenue through harmonization of royalties and fiscal regimes. In this regard, also build on the study in order to develop a model law that will provide guidance to Member States in reviewing their royalties and fiscal regimes;
7. *Requests* the Commission to undertake a study on the management of natural resources in Africa, including value addition to raw minerals;
8. *Further requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to report to the Assembly in January 2017 on progress made in the implementation of this Decision.¹

Assembly/AU/Dec.606 (XXVII)

Decision on the Institutional Reform of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the outcomes of the Retreat of Heads of State and Government, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Finance held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 16 July 2016, on the need to conduct a study on the institutional reform of the African Union (AU);
2. *Decides* to entrust the preparation of the study to H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, with a view to submitting a report on the proposed reforms and thus put in place a system of governance capable of addressing the challenges facing the Union. To this end, President Kagame may, in collaboration with the Commission, make use of any expertise of his choice to effectively carry out his mission.

Assembly/AU/Dec.607 (XXVII)

Decision on the Free Movement of Persons and the African Passport

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the progress made towards ensuring free movement of persons as well as goods and services in Africa as a crucial element for deepening continental integration and unity in the spirit of Pan-Africanism, African renaissance and realization of Agenda 2063;
2. *Recalls* Decision EX.CL/Dec.908 (XXVIII) adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2016 which mandated the Commission to develop the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in Africa, as envisioned in the

¹ Reservation entered by the Republic of Mauritius.

1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the 1991 Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty), and to move ahead with the launching of the African passport;

3. *Welcomes* the launch of the African passport during this Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Commission to carry out this important initiative and reiterates its support to the efforts of the Commission to issue the African passport;

5. *Calls on* other countries and regions of the world to recognize the African passport issued by the Commission and the AU Member States as a valid travel document;

6. *Urges:*

(i) All Member States to adopt the African passport and to work closely with the AU Commission to facilitate the processes towards its issuance at the national level based on international, continental and national policy provisions, and continental design and specifications;

7. *Requests* the Commission to:

(a) Provide technical support to Member States to enable them to produce and issue the African passport to their citizens;

(b) Put in place an implementation road map for the development of a Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in Africa by January 2018, which should come into effect immediately in Member States upon its adoption.

Assembly/AU/Dec.608 (XXVII)

Decision on the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the presentation made on the progress achieved on the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) in Africa;

2. *Reaffirms* its decision of fast-tracking the establishment of the CFTA for Africa's economic freedom and meaningful participation in the global trading system;

3. *Decides* to establish a High-Level Panel of five eminent persons (one from each region) to champion the fast-tracking of the CFTA;

4. *Requests* the Commission to:

(i) Formulate, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), recommendations and submit thereon to the next ordinary session of the Assembly scheduled for January 2017;

(ii) Prepare and circulate to Member States draft negotiating texts on trade in goods and in services to be used for national consultations with a view to soliciting inputs from governments and to guide the work of the CFTA Negotiating Forum in order to fast-track the negotiations of the CFTA;

(iii) Present feasible options on how to eliminate non-trade barriers among African countries to foster intra-African trade;

5. *Calls on* Member States to speak with one voice on all issues related to trade negotiations with third parties;
6. *Requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision at the next ordinary session of the Assembly scheduled for January 2017.

Assembly/AU/Dec.609 (XXVII)

Decision on the Governance Structure of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI)

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.603 (XXVI) calling for the establishment and the operationalization of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and the report presented by H.E. Alpha Conde, President of the Republic of Guinea, in his capacity as Coordinator and the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Decides* that:
 - (a) The governance structure of AREI shall be comprised of the following:
 - (i) A Board of Directors which shall be composed of at least nine members (seven African and two non-regional);
 - (ii) A Technical Committee (TC) composed of high-level experts with proven experience in the energy sector, in investment and development issues on the continent or in developing countries;
 - (iii) A Trustee, namely the African Development Bank, to manage the initiative's resources;
 - (iv) An Independent Delivery Unit (IDU) to coordinate the annual work programme, conduct daily support activities, manage applications in consultation with the TC and communicate with stakeholders on behalf of AREI;
 - (b) The AfDB will host the Independent Delivery Unit which shall be accountable to the AREI Board;
3. *Mandates* the Commission, in collaboration with African Development Bank, as co-leaders of the Initiative and H.E. Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea, and Coordinator of Renewable Energies in Africa pursuant to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.603 (XXVI) adopted by the Assembly in January 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to ensure the operationalization of AREI within the framework of the development and industrialization of Africa and to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2017.

Assembly/AU/Dec.610 (XXVII)

Decision on the Election of Members of the Commission

The Assembly,

After taking note that none of the candidates for the post of Chairperson of the Commission obtained the required two-thirds majority,

1. *Decides* to:
 - (i) Suspend the election of the members of the Commission, in conformity with Rule 42, paragraph 5, of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly;

- (ii) Extend the term of office of the current members of the Commission until new elections are held thereby suspending the application of Rule 42, paragraph 7, of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly;
 - (iii) Re-open the nomination process for the election of Members of the Commission which nomination process may include the former candidates;
 - (iv) Hold the elections for the members of the Commission during the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2017;
2. *Requests* the Commission to take all necessary measures towards the implementation of this decision and approves a supplementary budget of \$US 120,000 for the work of the Ministerial Panel and related activities.

Assembly/AU/Dec.611 (XXVII)

**Decision on the Appointment of Four Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/990 (XXIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of four judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following persons as judges of AfCHPR for a six-year term:

No.	Name	Gender	Country
(1)	Marie-Theresa Mukamulisa	Female	Rwanda;
(2)	Ntyam Ondo Mengue	Female	Cameroon;
3. *Decides* that the elections for the remaining two judges shall be carried out in January 2017 only from among female candidates from the Northern and Southern Regions, respectively, in accordance with the Modalities on Implementation of Criteria for Equitable Geographical and Gender Representation in the African Union Organs adopted by the Executive Council under Decision EX.CL/907 (XXVIII) adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2016.

Assembly/AU/Dec.612 (XXVII)

**Decision on the State of Peace and Security in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (XXVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses deep concern* over the continued targeted killings and other acts of violence in Burundi and condemns the recent assassinations. The Assembly reaffirms the determination of the African Union (AU) to spare no effort to help Burundi restore and rebuild peace, security and stability. In this regard, the Assembly reiterates the imperative need for a truly inclusive dialogue, involving all the Burundian stakeholders, led by the East African Community (EAC) Mediator, H. E President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, with the support of the Facilitator, former President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania. The Assembly calls on all Burundian stakeholders to remain engaged in the inclusive Inter-Burundian Dialogue and to extend the necessary cooperation to the Mediator and Facilitator. The Assembly urges the Burundian Government to fully honour the commitment made to the AU High-Level Delegation and accordingly facilitate the speedy deployment, including issuance of visa and other requirements, of the AU 200 human rights observers and military experts. The Assembly congratulates the members of the AU High-

Level Delegation on their invaluable efforts to find an African solution to the crisis obtaining in Burundi. The Assembly expresses its appreciation to the AU partners for their support to the efforts of the region and the continent and requests them to continue to support the initiatives of Africa in Burundi;

2. *Reiterates* the commitment of the AU to assist the Libyan parties in finding a lasting solution to the crisis in Libya. The Assembly commends the Chairperson of the AU, and President Deby Itno of Chad, for his initiatives and support towards reconciliation in Libya. The Assembly reiterates its support to the Libyan stakeholders and encourages the efforts of the AU High Representative for Libya, former President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania. The Assembly reaffirms that only political dialogue can bring a durable solution to the crisis in Libya and that any military intervention can further escalate and complicate the situation. The Assembly calls on AU Member States to provide the necessary political and moral support to the Government of National Accord of Libya;

3. *Reiterates* its deep concern over the spread of the scourge of terrorism in Africa and expresses its heartfelt condolences for all the victims of terrorist attacks. The Assembly commends the efforts made by the countries of the Commission of the Lake Chad Basin (LCBC) and Benin for vigorous action taken, through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against the Boko Haram terrorist group and calls for sustained efforts towards eliminating that terrorist group. The Assembly also calls on the international community for additional financial and logistic support to the LCBC to ensure sustainability of the efforts against Boko Haram. The Assembly underlines the need to help train, equip and deploy a robust unit of the Central Africa Republic (CAR) Army (FACA) into the Regional Task Force against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), in order to avoid a security vacuum that would otherwise be created in Eastern CAR, if the Ugandan troops are to withdraw in 2016 from the Regional Task Force (RTF), as already announced by the Government of Uganda. The Assembly urges Member States and partners to provide the necessary support to the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) in order to enable it to effectively discharge its mandate.

Assembly/AU/Dec.613 (XXVII)

**Decision on the Situation in South Sudan
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (XXVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson on the State of Peace and Security in Africa and the briefing provided by the African Union (AU) Commission on the situation in South Sudan;

2. *Recalls* the Peace and Security Council (PSC) communiqués PSC/PR/COMM(DCIX) and PSC/PR/1 (DCXII) of the 609th and 611th meetings of the PSC held on 30 June 2016 and 11 July 2016, respectively, on the situation in South Sudan;

3. *Strongly condemns* the outbreak of fighting that took place on 7 July 2016 in Juba, resulting in loss of lives and other tragic impacts on civilians, as well as the cowardly attacks against diplomatic missions, civilians sites, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) peacekeepers and the United Nations assets and facilities, as well as the looting of humanitarian stores;

4. *Expresses deep concern* at the slow pace and recurring setbacks on the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ACRSS) signed in August 2015. In this respect, the Assembly reiterates its heartfelt disappointment at the lack of implementation of the Peace Agreement by the South Sudanese leaders;

5. *Urges* the parties to immediately respect a strict ceasefire and revert to the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) and live up to their commitments, as outlined in the Agreement, including through cooperating with the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), in order to achieve durable peace in the country;

6. *Commends* the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for its leadership and untiring engagement in the quest for lasting peace in South Sudan, and pays tribute to the AU High Representative for South Sudan, former President Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali, and the Chairperson of JMEC, former President Festus Mogae of Botswana, for their sustained efforts. The Assembly urges the South Sudanese stakeholders, in particular President Salva Kiir and First Vice-President Riek Machar, to show true leadership and commitment, by sustaining the current cessation of hostilities and committing themselves to the full and speedy implementation of the Agreement;
7. *Welcomes* the meeting of Heads of State and Government of the IGAD-Plus on the situation in South Sudan held in Kigali, Rwanda, on the margins of the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly and the IGAD ministerial meeting on the situation in South Sudan held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 16 July 2016 and 11 July 2016, respectively;
8. *Endorses* the communiqué of the Summit meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the IGAD-Plus on the situation in South Sudan, in particular with respect to the reinforcement of UNMISS as proposed by the United Nations Secretary-General and the call to the United Nations Security Council to extend the mission of UNMISS with a revised mandate, including the deployment of a regional protection force to separate the warring parties, protect major installations and civilian population and demilitarize Juba;
9. *Expresses deep concern* over the prevailing humanitarian plight in South Sudan and calls on the international community to continue providing sustained support and assistance to the affected population. The Assembly appeals to the international community to provide assistance to the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU), in order for it to begin to fully function and meet the needs of the people, who must benefit from the peace dividends;
10. *Awaits* the outcome of the planned PSC visit to South Sudan, and stresses the critical importance of the convening of a pledging conference in support of South Sudan as called for by the PSC.

Assembly/AU/Dec.614 (XXVII)

**Decision on the Establishment of an African Union Special Fund on
Prevention and Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the briefing provided by the African Union (AU) Commission on African efforts on preventing and combating terrorism and violent extremism in Africa;
2. *Recalls* the OAU/AU pertinent decisions and resolutions on the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa and, in this context, the Assembly reaffirms the importance of the AU and international instruments in the fight against terrorism;
3. *Expresses its deep concern* over the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism which continues to spread with serious consequences on the continent and reiterates its strong condemnation of all acts of terrorism committed on the continent by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. In this context, the Assembly expresses its heartfelt condolences to all the victims of terrorist attacks in Africa and in other parts of the world;
4. *Decides* to establish an AU Special Fund for Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism, to be funded through voluntary contributions. In this respect, the Assembly requests the AU Commission to work out the necessary modalities to this effect, as well as its mechanism of functioning;

5. *Further requests* the AU Commission to report, through the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) and the Executive Council, to the next ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union on the progress made in implementing this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.615 (XXVII)

**Decision on the Hissène Habré Case
(Doc. EX.CL/986 (XXIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on the implementation of the Assembly decision on the Hissène Habré trial;
2. *Congratulates* the Republic of Chad, the Commission, AU partners, countries and institutions that contributed to the establishment and funding of the African Extraordinary Chambers towards the successful conclusion of proceedings in the Hissène Habré case;
3. *Expresses its gratitude and commends* the Republic of Senegal for having adequately discharged the mandate to have Hissène Habré prosecuted by the competent African Extraordinary Chambers with all the guarantees for a fair trial;
4. *Welcomes* the decision of the African Extraordinary Chambers in the Hissène Habré case;
5. *Notes* the Commission's effort on the operationalization of the Appeals Chamber of the African Extraordinary Chambers to hear appeals from the decision of the Trial Chamber;
6. Pursuant to Articles 27 and 28 of the Statute of the African Extraordinary Chambers on the need to address reparation for victims and the establishment of a reparation fund for victims, decides:
 - (i) That a Trust Fund on reparations for rightful victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the African Extraordinary Chambers shall be established under the auspices of the Union;
 - (ii) To request the Commission, in collaboration with the Government of Chad, to organize a pledging conference involving Member States, partner countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities for voluntary contributions to the fund for the victims;
 - (iii) That the Executive Council shall make resources available to the Commission for the organization of the pledging conference.

Assembly/AU/Dec.616 (XXVII)

**Decision on the International Criminal Court
(Doc. EX.CL/987 (XXIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the implementation of decisions on the International Criminal Court (ICC);
2. *Reiterates* the following:

- (i) The commitment of the African Union and its Member States to the fight against impunity in accordance with the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
 - (ii) Its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.547 (XXIV) on the progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Previous Decisions on the International Criminal Court (ICC) adopted by the Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2015, and, in particular, paragraph 17 (d) which calls for the suspension of proceedings against President Omar Al Bashir of Sudan and urges the United Nations Security Council to withdraw the referral case in Sudan;
 - (iii) Its previous decision that the Open-Ended Ministerial Committee should meet with the United Nations Security Council to engage on all issues that have been consistently raised by the African Union;
 - (iv) All Member States should comply with the Assembly decisions on the warrants of arrest issued by the ICC against President Al Bashir of Sudan and subsequent ICC notifications to the Security Council of so-called non-complying States pursuant to Article 23, paragraph 2, of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and Article 98 of the Rome Statute of the ICC;
 - (v) The request to AU Member States to sign and ratify, as soon as possible, the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol on the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights adopted in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 27 June 2014;
3. *Welcomes* the decision of the Trial Chamber of the ICC to terminate the proceedings against the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya due to insufficient evidence adduced by the Prosecutor, which gives credence to its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.590 (XXVII) that the continued prosecution of the Deputy President is without foundation given the unambiguous absence of incriminatory evidence;
4. *Commends* the members of the Open-Ended Committee of Foreign Ministers ("Open-Ended Ministerial Committee") under the chairpersonship of H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, for the work done so far;
5. *Takes note* of the upcoming session of the Fifteenth Assembly of the States Parties of the ICC (ASP) scheduled to take place in November 2016 in The Hague and decides that:
- (i) At the upcoming Fifteenth ASP in November 2016, African States parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC should reject the provisional amendment to rule 165 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence adopted by the judges of the International Criminal Court during their thirty-fourth plenary session as this will increase prejudice, may be used to circumvent substantive rights enshrined in the Rome Statute and remove the possibility of the checks and balances in the form of a dissenting opinion;
 - (ii) African States parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC should reject during the consideration and adoption of the draft ICC Action Plan on Arrest Strategies any provision that includes language requiring the Security Council to mandate United Nations peacekeeping missions to enforce ICC arrest warrants in Africa because the exercise of arrest is a sovereign power that cannot be delegated to any other authority;
 - (iii) The Open-Ended Ministerial Committee should:
 - (a) Engage the United Nations Security Council as mandated by the Assembly before the January 2017 ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and before the upcoming Fifteenth Assembly of States Parties (ASP) in November 2016;

- (b) Implement Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.590 (XXVI) adopted by the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2016, on the development of a comprehensive strategy including on a collective withdrawal from the ICC to inform the next action of AU Member States that are also parties to the Rome Statute;²
- (c) Conclude its work on the review of the ICC's interpretation of its power pursuant to Article 93 of the Rome Statute that allows the latter to impose on the State parties to forcibly compel unwilling witnesses to testify before the ICC, with a view to rejecting witness compulsion in toto and inform the ICC and the next ASP accordingly;
- (d) In its engagement with the Security Council, the Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute and other stakeholders on AU concerns on the activities of the ICC in Africa, convey that the AU Member States object to the inclusion of language requiring the Security Council to mandate United Nations peacekeeping missions to enforce ICC arrest warrants in Africa;
- (e) The Commission, through the AU Mission in Brussels, Belgium, will serve as the secretariat to the Open-Ended Ministerial Committee and provide institutional support to the African Group in The Hague, Netherlands, to ensure effective coordination of its activities;
6. *Requests* the Commission in collaboration with all stakeholders to follow up on this matter to ensure that the African proposals and concerns are addressed and to report regularly to the Assembly through the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.617 (XXVII)

**Decision on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the eighteenth Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council (C10);
2. *Conscious* of the need, within this process of reform to ensure Africa's legitimate right to a fair and equitable geographical representation;
3. *Recognizing* that all the regions of the world must in this era of globalization, endeavour in a spirit of solidarity to build a world of peace, security, justice, good governance and sustainable development;
4. *Persuaded* that the Security Council reform should be all-inclusive and encompass all components of the United Nations system, including the General Assembly and the Security Council;
5. *Determined* to achieve Africa's goal to be fully represented in all the decision-making organs of the United Nations, particularly in the Security Council, which is the principal decision-making organ of the United Nations in matters relating to international peace and security;
6. *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;

² Reservations entered by Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal.

7. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the progress made by the C10 in advocating and canvassing support for the Common African Position as outlined in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 2005 Sirte Declaration on the United Nations Security Council Reform;
8. *Welcomes*, in that regard, the support that the Common African Position continues to garner within and outside the intergovernmental negotiations on the United Nations Security Council reform;
9. *Reaffirms* its strong commitment to the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;
10. *Reiterates* that full representation of Africa in the United Nations Security Council means:
 - (i) Not less than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership, including the right of veto;
 - (ii) Five non-permanent seats;
11. *Also reiterates* that even though Africa is opposed, in principle, to the veto, it is of the view that so long as it exists, and as a matter of common justice, it should be made available to all permanent members of Security Council;
12. *Further reiterates* the firm commitment to preserve Africa's unity and solidarity on all aspects of the reform process of the Security Council, including participation within and outside the intergovernmental negotiations, and the selection by the AU of its representatives in the Security Council to act in its name and on its behalf;
13. *Requests* 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, the need to correct without further delay, the historical injustice that the African continent continues to endure;
14. *Requests* the African States in New York which have re-joined the L-69 to withdraw from the informal group and to belong only to the African Group in order to consolidate the Common African Position as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and in the Sirte Declaration;
15. *Decides* that the Commission should allocate a budget for the C-10 activities for the year 2017 in accordance with the existing rules;
16. *Also decides* that the C-10 remains seized of its mandate until Africa achieves its objectives on the Security Council reform.

Assembly/AU/Dec.618 (XXVII)

**Decision on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XXVII))**

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-fourth and Thirty-fifth Sessions of the NEPAD HSGOC Meeting;

3. *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) and as a shared vision to advance regional, political and economic integration for the economic emancipation of African people;
4. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.283 (VIV) on the need for the NEPAD Agency, as the technical body of the African Union, to have the required flexibility to carry out its mandate and therefore calls on the African Union Commission to facilitate the implementation of that decision in line with the aspirations of NEPAD and its initiators;
5. *Endorses* the implementation of key regional and continental programmes and projects as reflected in the NEPAD Agency Results-Based Performance Report for January to December 2015 specifically noting the progress on the African Science Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII); the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization Programme (AMRH); the NEPAD Agency's contribution to the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease; strategic engagements on natural resources governance; technical support to Africa's participation in the global climate change negotiations; technical support to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) under the Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF); National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs); National Gender Climate Change Agriculture programmes and Capacity Development for Women in Agribusiness under CAADP; institutional development support to Member States and RECs under the Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF) and the design of the Youth and Skills Project under the Rural Futures Programme;
6. *Appreciates* the progress recorded to date relating to the implementation of the Rural Futures Programme which is promoting a multi-sectorial approach for rural transformation by creating an enabling environment through a people-centred development based on equity and inclusiveness; further commends the NEPAD Agency for the commencement of the Decent Job for Rural Areas Project in four AU Member States and calls for Member States to support the Rural Futures Programme as it provides opportunities for youth employment and fosters rural transformation;
7. *Notes* the progress made in the development of the NEPAD Policy Framework on Youth Employment in Africa;
8. *Commends* the Government of Germany for the support provided to the NEPAD Skills Development Initiative which is expected to act as a catalyst for entrepreneurship development and urges the NPCA to ensure a speedy implementation of the project;
9. *Takes note* of the importance of the African Rural Development Forum as a platform to engage in dialogue on inclusive development and rural transformation as well as on south-south cooperation to be held in the second half of 2016; and requests African Member States, FAO, IFAD and other development partners to fully support and participate in the Forum;
10. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.579 (XXV) and notes with appreciation the outcomes of the Dakar and Johannesburg regional dialogues and training on contract negotiation and tax policies and administration in the extractive industry; and requests the NEPAD Agency to continue the exercise as well as the implementation of the outcomes of Dakar and Johannesburg, including an in-depth understanding of the value chain of the extractive industry;
11. *In furtherance* of the NEPAD Natural Resources Governance Programme, takes note of the NEPAD partnership between OECD, NEPAD and GIZ on Strengthening Assistance for Complex Contract Negotiations (CONNEX Initiative); and requests this partnership to strengthen knowledge-generation and exchange as well as capacity development for African countries and AU institutions, in particular the NEPAD Agency;
12. *Notes with appreciation* the support extended to African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities under the NEPAD Climate Change Fund and reaffirms full support to the NPCA to seek accreditation

to the Green Climate Fund as a Regional Implementing Entity; and also calls on development partners and Member States to contribute financially to the NEPAD Climate Change Fund;

13. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and commends the effective collaboration between the NEPAD Agency, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in hosting the African Pavilion at the Twenty-first Conference of Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, France, while noting the successful outcomes of the Africa Pavilion and Africa's overall participation at COP 21;

14. *Appreciates* the technical and financial support provided by the NEPAD Agency to Africa's climate change negotiating bodies, particularly the African Group of Negotiators during its preparatory and consultative meetings towards the Twenty-first UNFCCC Conference of Parties, and requests the NEPAD Agency to continue to provide technical support to Member States in implementing and monitoring the outcomes of the Paris Climate Agreement and to provide similar support towards COP 22 in Morocco;

15. *Commends* the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency and the AfDB, including key strategic partners and the private sector, for successfully holding the first PIDA Week at the headquarters of the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; takes note of the Report of the Council for Infrastructure Development (CID) under the Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa (IAIDA); calls for the institutionalization of the PIDA Week events; and welcomes the proposal of Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group, to host the PIDA Week events annually;

16. *Commends* the NEPAD Agency for establishing the Continental Business Network (CBN) and welcomes the efforts made to involve the private sector in PIDA implementation through the CBN; notes that the CBN as a platform will facilitate private sector participation in developing and financing infrastructure across the continent; and therefore calls on the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency to work with private sector organizations to further the infrastructure dialogue between the CBN members and governments at the highest level;

17. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.540 (XXIII) approving the formation of the Africa Global Partnership Platform (AGPP) and commends H.E President Macky Sall for hosting the inaugural plenary session of the AGPP in Dakar, Senegal; notes with interest the AGPP thematic focus on agriculture and infrastructure as key sectors for Africa's development; and further welcomes the AGPP as a high-level dialogue on shared responsibilities between Africa and its development partners;

18. *Calls upon* the Member States, the G7 and G20 together to support the operations of the AGPP Secretariat so as to ensure that the AGPP serves as a dynamic interlocutor between Africa and bodies such as the G7 and G20 on Africa's policies and priorities with respect to economic growth and social development; and notes with appreciation the leadership of H.E President Macky Sall in engaging his G7 and G20 counterparts on Africa's inclusive development;

19. *On implementation* of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024), commends the progress made in the establishment of the Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Sciences in Africa (AESA); endorses the request by the Technical Specialized Committee (STC) on Education, Science and Technology that the NEPAD Agency working with the AUC should advise Member States and RECs on matters of technology prospecting including regulatory and ethical requirements that need to be put in place in order for the continent to benefit from emerging technologies for economic development and environmental sustainability; and further directs the NEPAD Agency to establish a system for obtaining expert contribution on the matters of technology development, acquisition and deployment for economic development;

20. *On implementation* of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA), commends the progress made in the implementation of the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) Programme especially in the East African Community (EAC) region; and therefore calls upon the NEPAD Agency, the West Africa Health

Organization (WAHO) and the West Africa Monetary Union (WAEMU) to expedite the roll-out of the AMRH Programme in the West Africa Region in 2016 and present a progress report on implementation at the HSGOC in January 2017;

21. *In supporting* efforts towards ending tuberculosis (TB) by 2030, commends the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of Zambia for their willingness to collaborate in tackling the burden of TB with emphasis on the mining sector while strengthening critical dimensions of health systems; further commends the NPCA for collaborating with the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) to support implementation of the project in the four Member States and the World Bank for the technical and financial support for the project; accordingly, requests the NPCA, in partnership with ECSA-HC and in collaboration with SADC, to facilitate implementation of the regional components of the project and, in the process of implementation, to facilitate piloting of innovative approaches to TB control and utilize lessons learned among the four countries to out-scale to more countries; and calls upon Member States, regional bodies and international partners to support implementation of the project and scale up efforts, including expansion to other equally affected countries;

22. *Congratulates* the President and the people of the Republic of Zimbabwe for establishing the Pan-African Minerals University of Science and Technology (PAMUST) which aims to contribute to building skills in mineral resources beneficiation and improve the quality, productivity, and competitiveness of the African mining industry; further calls upon the NEPAD Agency to support the establishment of PAMUST; and requests the African Development Bank and private sector to support PAMUST;

23. *Congratulates* the countries that have been declared free of Ebola during the third and fourth quarters of 2015 and calls upon the NEPAD Agency to continue mobilizing partners and resources to continue with the work on developing and testing vaccines and therapies for the Ebola Virus Disease and other emerging diseases;

24. *Commends* the NEPAD Agency for establishing an online platform that will promote learning and foster information and knowledge sharing for Africa's transformation; calls upon the NEPAD Agency, in collaboration with other partners, to support Member States and RECs to effectively use the online learning and knowledge exchange platform; furthermore, urges the NEPAD Agency to facilitate systematic learning and sharing knowledge and expertise among RECs and Member States around pertinent issues obtaining to Africa's transformation. The platform is available on <http://www.nepad.org>;

25. *Requests* the NEPAD Agency to strengthen its think-tank function as stipulated in its mandate in order to effectively inform development discourses on the continent and guide the implementation of continental development frameworks, drawing on best practices;

26. *In general, extols* the enriched quality of the technical work of the NPCA under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki.

Assembly/AU/Dec.619 (XXVII)

Decision on Aids Watch Africa (AWA)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) Report and endorses the recommendations contained therein, including on the Africa Health Strategy, the Maputo Plan of Action, and the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030;

2. *Urges* Member States to further strengthen their health systems and align their national strategic plans with the Africa Health Strategy and the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the significant progress made in reducing AIDS-related deaths, new HIV infections and elimination of mother to child transmission while the fight against tuberculosis requires more concerted efforts and investments;
4. *Expresses concern* that AIDS-related deaths and new HIV infections are increasing in North Africa while there is insufficient progress in reducing AIDS-related deaths and new HIV infections as well as the elimination of mother to child transmission in West and Central Africa;
5. *Welcomes* the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS “On the Fast Track to Accelerate the Fight against HIV and to End the AIDS Epidemic by 2030” which aligns with and supports the implementation of the targets set in the Common Africa Position and the Catalytic Framework;
6. *Notes* the significant progress made in the implementation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) and its Business Plan and requests the Commission and the NEPAD, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS as well as other stakeholders to further accelerate ongoing efforts to ensure access to affordable and quality assured medicines;
7. *Recalls* our previous commitments to domestic financing for health and accountability and endorses the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health;
8. *Requests* the Commission in collaboration with WHO and other partners to support countries in strengthening national health accounts and submit the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health annually to the Assembly;
9. *Invites* Member States to share best practices on innovative and domestic financing for health and appeals to Member States to explore innovative mechanisms in order to increase the allocation of domestic financing for health, including health insurance schemes;
10. *Requests* the Commission, in partnership with all stakeholders, to conduct a wide consultative process to develop the new AWA Strategic Framework (2016-2020);
11. *Calls upon* Member States and other stakeholders to support the Fifth Replenishment Target of the Global Fund in order to end AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as public health threats by 2030, and to build resilient and sustainable health systems;
12. *Invites* Member States to ensure that environmental and social impact assessments of large capital projects incorporate health considerations by improving the costing, allocation and monitoring of health mitigation measures;
13. *Requests* the Chairperson of AWA to report on the progress made to the June/July 2017 ordinary session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.620 (XXVII)

Decision on the Dates and Venue of the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the dates of the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investments in the Youth” shall be the following:

- (i) Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC): 23, 24 and 25 January 2017;
- (ii) Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 26, 27 and 28 January 2017;
- (iii) Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 30 and 31 January 2017;

2. *Requests* the Commission to put in place all the necessary measures in order to organize the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly as well as the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC according to the aforementioned dates.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXVII) Rev.1

Declaration on the Theme of the Year 2016

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), meeting at the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Kigali, Rwanda, from 17 to 18 July 2016, and after having debated the theme of the year, namely, “The African Year of Human Rights with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women”,

Recalling the Decision EX.CL/Dec.842 (XXV), which was endorsed by the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session, held from 20 to 24 June, 2014, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, which decided to “...declare 2016 as the African Year of Human Rights with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women...”,

Inspired by Africa’s continued quest for the promotion and protection of human and peoples’ rights as well as Africa’s contribution to the universal principles of governance, democracy, and human rights,

Reiterating our commitment made in the Banjul Declaration on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights adopted during the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly to ensure respect for human and peoples’ rights as a prerequisite for the attainment of our common vision of a united and prosperous Africa,

Reaffirming our commitment to the African 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 and human and peoples’ rights,

Recommitting ourselves to the promotion and protection of human and peoples’ rights in Africa as part of the African shared values, which is one of the pillars of the AU Agenda 2063, through which the Member States, through the technical support of the Commission of the African Union seeks to implement the vision of the Union,

Cognizant of the critical role of women, youth and civil society in the promotion and protection of human and peoples’ rights and the importance of securing and enhancing their participation in the popularization and domestication of these values,

Determined to protect and promote women’s human rights as embodied in the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa which specifically addresses rights that are particular to women in Africa and rooted in the Constitutive Act of the African Union,

Desirous of the need to continue to promote and encourage democratic practices, good governance and the rule of law, promote and protect human and peoples’ rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the sanctity of human life and international humanitarian law, as part of the efforts to prevent conflict on the continent,

Convinced that the AU organs with a human rights mandate are well positioned to fulfil their mandate to promote and protect human and peoples' rights in Africa as stipulated in the Human Rights Strategy for Africa of 2011,

Further convinced that the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their regional institutions constitute the building blocks in the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa based on the African shared values,

Mindful that the continent still faces many challenges in promoting and protecting human and peoples' rights as well as ratifying, domesticating and implementing human rights instruments and recognizing that there are a number of obstacles that need to be overcome in furtherance of the African shared values,

Now, hereby:

1. *Affirm* that human rights and the rights of women in particular are a collective responsibility of all in Africa;
2. *Commit* ourselves to enhancing efforts aimed at entrenching and reinforcing deeper understanding of the culture of human and peoples' rights, in particular the rights of women, and their promotion and popularization among the African peoples by declaring the next ten years as "the Human and Peoples' Rights Decade in Africa" and its Action Plan;
3. *Recommit* ourselves to expedite the ratification, domestication and implementation of all human and peoples' rights instruments, in particular the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in African (Maputo Protocol), 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 the monitoring and review of the domestication efforts;
4. *Reiterate* our unflinching determination to promote and protect human and peoples' rights and all basic freedoms in Africa and the need for the consolidation and the full implementation of human and peoples' rights instruments and relevant national laws and policies as well as decisions and recommendations made by the AU organs with a human rights mandate;
5. *Uphold* firmly the principles of universality, objectivity and non-selectivity in the consideration of human rights and the elimination of double standards and politicization;
6. *Also uphold* our common position that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principle of cooperation and genuine dialogue aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations;
7. *Call upon* the Commission to ensure the independence and integrity of AU organs with a human rights mandate by providing adequate financing and shielding them from undue external influence;
8. *Also reiterate* our commitment to eliminate violence and all forms of every discrimination against women and to ensure the protection of the rights of women as stipulated in the Maputo Protocol and the international declarations and conventions as well as empowering women by granting their full rights;
9. *Further reiterate* our commitment to promote the right to development (including the right to water and sanitation, health, shelter and education) as an inalienable human and peoples' right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized;
10. *Express great satisfaction* at the positive contributions made by the AUC and AU organs with a human rights mandate and request them to ensure greater synergy between the African Governance Architecture and the

African Peace and Security Architecture in order to ensure that the developments in the terrain of human rights feature prominently on the agenda of the Peace and Security Council;

11. *Encourage* the Commission and AU organs with a human rights mandate to strengthen the African system for the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights through wider communication and information sharing, coupled with the direct support of Member States, by ensuring the strengthening of human rights institutions and putting in place all the necessary measures so that success is documented and challenges noted to ensure that there is an ongoing review of progress in the implementation of adopted human rights instruments;
12. *Call upon* the RECs to work closely with the Commission and other AU organs with a human rights mandate in harmonizing their instruments and further urge them to collectively promote and protect human and peoples' rights on the continent;
13. *Also call on* the Commission and AU organs with a human rights mandate to identify modalities for the participation of African research institutes, universities, civil society and the media in promoting the culture of human rights in Africa including the protection and promotion of the rights of women;
14. *Further call on* the Commission and AU organs with a human rights mandate to identify the obstacles that have hindered implementation of human and peoples' rights instruments and our previous commitments relating to human rights with special focus on the rights of women and to propose modalities for addressing them;
15. *Note with appreciation* the support provided by our bilateral and multilateral partners and call on them to continue working closely with us to build and enhance the capacity of the AU and its Member States to promote and protect human and peoples' rights;
16. *Request* the Commission and AU organs with a human rights mandate to take the necessary steps to establish the Pan-African Human Rights Institute (PAHRI) and to encourage Member States to commit to host it;
17. *Also request* the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Declaration.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XXVII)

**Declaration on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East
(Doc. EX.CL/961 (XXIX))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda, from 17 to 18 July 2016,

Taking note of the Report on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine, and recalling all resolutions and decisions of the Organization of African Unity/African Union on the situation in Palestine towards achieving lasting peace and security in the Middle East,

Reaffirming our full support to the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization in their quest for the restoration of their legitimate rights to establish an independent State coexisting peacefully with the State of Israel with East Jerusalem as its capital, and calling for the implementation of resolution 194* requiring the return of the Palestinian refugees to their home and properties,

Reiterating our wish for the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions; and expressing support for the two-State solution,

* Editor's note: The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 194 (III) on 11 December 1948.

Renewing our call for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides in order to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East; and supporting all initiatives aimed at bringing peace to the region, in particular, the French initiative of holding an international peace conference aimed at relaunching negotiations to solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict on a specific timeframe,

Condemning the continued occupation of Palestinian lands and the Judaization campaign aimed at changing all Islamic and Christian features of the Holy City and reducing the Palestinian population to the fullest extent through the confiscation of their lands and the destruction of their homes, and further condemning the illegal settlements in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and in the occupied territory of the Syrian Golan Heights,

Denouncing the Israeli practices against the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, which are contrary to international law and international humanitarian law, and calling on the Israeli Government to release all Palestinian and Arab political prisoners and detainees in the Israeli jails,

Equally demanding that Israel refrains from using acts of terrorism against the Palestinian's civilian populations as well as 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,

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 support the efforts of the Palestinians for membership in international agencies and to be a party to international conventions and protocols;
2. *Reject and condemn* the illegal settlements by the Israeli occupation and call on the international community to put pressure on Israel to immediately stop these settlements;
3. *Further reject* the land sea blockage imposed on the Gaza Strip, which led to the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation, and demand an immediate lifting of all restrictions on the Gaza Strip;
4. *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 a two-State solution, according to the 1967 borders, and apply the provisions of relevant international law and previous decisions of the Security Council in this regard;
5. *Urge* Member States to boycott goods and products that are produced and exported from the settlements in the Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem;
6. *Request* the United Nations and the Quartet to intervene immediately in order to shoulder their responsibilities and pressure Israel to commit to the process of serious peace negotiations;
7. *Further request* Member States to continue to support the Palestinian people in their struggle to establish a sovereign State over its national territory with Quds El-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital;
8. *Reaffirm* the right of the Palestinian people to establish their own Palestinian independent State with East Jerusalem as its capital on its borders of June 1967, and supports the Palestinian approach to obtain full membership of the State of Palestine at the United Nations;
9. *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 (XXVII) Rev.1

Declaration on the Selection Process for the Post of the United Nations Secretary-General

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 17 to 18 July 2016,

Considering the ongoing process of selection for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations against the background of current global mega trends, global economic and political interdependence as well the need for strong international cooperation and partnerships,

Considering also Africa's role and place in the strengthening of world governance, particularly in the team of the United Nations Secretary-General,

Taking into account Africa's aspirations and legitimate demands as espoused in the Ezulweni Consensus and in Africa's Agenda 2063 as well as its Ten-Year Implementation Plan,

Further noting the pivotal role of African members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) in the selection process at the level of the United Nations Security Council,

1. *Welcome* the efforts of the General Assembly to ensure a transparent, open and inclusive process for selecting the best candidate for the post of United Nations Secretary-General in conformity with General Assembly resolution 69/321;
2. *Also welcome* the active engagement of the African Group in New York in the selection process of the Secretary-General with a view to making Africa's voice heard and to having its concerns taken into account;
3. *Request* the African Group in New York to continue to promote and defend, as a united body, Africa's interests and priorities with all candidates by making use of its numeric strength and insisting on respect of key principles of fundamental interest to Africa, notably:
 - (i) Regional rotation;
 - (ii) Equitable geographical distribution, including gender balance, in the appointments to senior positions;
 - (iii) Reinforcement of the authority of the General Assembly (e.g. the appointment of the Secretary-General by a formal resolution adopted by secret ballot instead of by acclamation consistent with paragraph 141 of the Rules of Procedures of the General Assembly);
4. *Call upon* the African members of the United Nations Security Council to speak with one voice in the selection process at the level of the United Nations Security Council;
5. *Reiterate* our commitment to further strengthen cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations and work in close collaboration with the next United Nations Secretary-General in promoting Africa's priorities within the United Nations.

**EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT ON MARITIME SECURITY,
SAFETY AND DEVELOPMENT**

**15 October 2016
Lomé, Togo**

Note

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held an Extraordinary Summit on Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Lomé, Togo, on 15 October 2016. The African Heads of State and Government adopted and signed the African Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development on 15 October 2016.*

* Editor's note: The African Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development is reproduced in the *African Law Handbook* and the *African Treaty Collection*.

TWENTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
30 to 31 January 2017**

Assembly/AU/Dec.621 (XXVIII)

**Decision on the 2016 Annual Report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission
(Doc. EX.CL/994 (XXX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note and endorses* Decision Executive Council EX.CL/Dec.943 (XXX) adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2017 on the Annual Report of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, and the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Decides to:*
 - (i) Extend the term of His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho, as the AU Champion on Nutrition from 2017 to 2019;
 - (ii) Grant the status of specialized agency to the Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO) and the African Capacity-Building Foundation (ACBF);
3. *Requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the Assembly, through the Executive Council, on a regular basis.

Assembly/AU/Dec.622 (XXVIII)

**Decision on the International Criminal Court¹
(Doc. EX.CL/1006 (XXX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the implementation of decisions on the International Criminal Court (ICC);
2. *Reiterates* the following:
 - (i) The commitment of the African Union and its Member States to the fight against impunity in accordance with the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
 - (ii) The suspension or termination of proceedings against President Omar Al Bashir of Sudan and urges the United Nations Security Council to withdraw the referral case in Sudan;
 - (iii) The need for all Member States to continue to comply with the Assembly decisions on the warrants of arrest issued by the ICC against President Al Bashir of Sudan pursuant to Article 23, paragraph 2, of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and Article 98 of the Rome Statute of the ICC;
3. *Expresses its dissatisfaction* that the meeting between Open-Ended Ministerial Committee and the United Nations Security Council was aborted due to the inappropriate representation of the delegations of the latter, which prevented a constructive engagement, in the absence of officials with decision-making powers, and decides that the Open-Ended Ministerial Committee discontinue any further engagement with the United Nations Security Council as no tangible result will come out of the exercise due to the recalcitrant position of some members of the Security Council;

¹ Reservations entered by Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia and Zambia.

4. *Further expresses deep concern* at the slow pace of ratification of the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol on the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights adopted on 27 June 2014, and reiterates its previous call on Member States to sign and ratify the Protocol, as soon as possible;
5. *Commends* the Members of the Open-Ended Committee of Foreign Ministers ("Open-Ended Ministerial Committee") and requests the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, to continue to steer the work of the Committee;
6. *Welcomes and fully supports* the sovereign decisions taken by Burundi, South Africa and Gambia as pioneer implementers of the Withdrawal Strategy, regarding their notification of withdrawal from the ICC;
7. *Also takes note* of the initiative by the President of the Assembly of States Parties, H.E Mr. Sidiki Kaba from Senegal, for creating the enabling environment for a constructive dialogue on Africa's concerns with the ICC as a catalyst for further open and transparent engagement on all issues, including those related to the linkages between peace and justice;
8. *Adopts* the ICC Withdrawal Strategy along with its Annexes² and calls on Member States to consider implementing its recommendations;
9. *Requests:*
 - (i) The Group of African States Parties in New York, in collaboration with the Commission, to actively participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Amendments to ensure that African proposals are adequately considered and addressed;
 - (ii) The Commission to support the AU Mission in Brussels and The Hague in fulfilling its responsibility by providing secretariat services to the African Group in Brussels;
 - (iii) The Open-Ended Ministerial Committee to report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council, in July 2017.

Assembly/AU/Dec.623 (XXVIII)

**Decision on the Continental Free Trade Area
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.608 (XXVII) on the Continental Free Trade Area and the update on the proposed mechanism for the elimination of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) in the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA);
2. *Calls upon* Member States to secure funding for the activities of the Eminent Persons Group on the Continental Free Trade Area;
3. *Requests* the Commission to:
 - (i) Mobilize funding for the implementation of the NTBs Elimination Programme on the CFTA;

² Liberia entered reservations to the study on the Withdrawal Strategy.

- (ii) Undertake consultations and capacity-building assistance to Member States and relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to ensure timely conclusion of the CFTA negotiations;
 - (iii) Report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2017;
4. *Mandates* H.E Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, to champion the process of the CFTA to ensure that the deadline of the end of 2017 is reached and report on measures taken to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2017.

Assembly/AU/Dec.624 (XXVIII)

**Decision on Universal Access to Immunization as a Cornerstone for Health and Development in Africa
(Doc. EX.CL/1002 (XXX) Add.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on “Universal Access to Immunization as a Cornerstone for Health and Development in Africa”;
2. *Recognizes* that as the continent with the youngest population of any region globally, developing the right policies and investments in health for youth, including investments in immunization, will position Africa to benefit from new opportunities that emerge from a demographic dividend;
3. *Recalls* that Article 14 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child stipulates that every child shall have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health;
4. *Acknowledges* that harnessing the demographic dividend through broad-based inclusive economic growth in Africa is dependent on a healthy population; and that strong immunization programmes are a cornerstone of robust health systems that help to achieve universal health coverage which is critical for Africa to achieve the economic and development goals set by Agenda 2063;
5. *Recognizes* that the economic imperative and benefits of reducing vaccine-preventable diseases and consequential deaths will improve overall health, empower our future generation and allow every person to achieve his or her full potential;
6. *Reaffirms* its commitment to implement the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan in Africa (PMPA) that will promote and invest in regional capacity for the development and production of vaccines;
7. *Endorses* the Ministerial Declaration on Universal Access to Immunization as a Cornerstone for Health and Development in Africa;
8. *Calls upon* Member States to support the implementation of the Declaration to ensure and facilitate universal access to immunization by allocating adequate domestic resources and securing new investments to strengthen national immunization programmes as well as mount strong advocacy campaigns to achieve the Global Vaccine Action Plan goals and overall health care delivery systems;
9. *Further calls upon* Member States in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, to negotiate with vaccine manufacturers to ensure and facilitate access to vaccines at affordable prices while increasing price transparency;
10. *Requests* the Commission, Member States, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other relevant partners to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration and put in place a mechanism for follow-up and regular reporting to the Summit, including a corresponding accountability framework;

11. *Also requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision in January 2018.

Assembly/AU/Dec.625 (XXVIII)

**Decision on Promotion and Protection of African Investments to Sustain Investment in the Youth
(Doc. EX.CL/1002 (XXX) Add.2)**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes and takes note* of the proposal of Libya on the promotion and protection of African investments to sustain investment in the youth, which will provide the youth with greater job opportunities, prevent illegal migration and allay their frustration;
2. *Reiterates* its support for the initiatives and strategies put in place at the continental, regional and national levels designed to support efforts for the implementation of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan and calls upon Member States to take firm and sustained steps for resource mobilization within the context of supporting, encouraging and protecting Africa-Africa investments, in particular, investments owned by countries under exceptional circumstances;
3. *Encourages* Member States to adopt regulations that will promote the establishment of small and medium enterprises in support of the African youth thereby creating access to sustainable investment in the youth;
4. *Requests* the Commission to report regularly to the Assembly, through the Executive Council, on the implementation of this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.626 (XXVIII)

Decision on the Date of the Fifth African Union-European Union Summit in 2017

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of Decision EX.CL/Dec 930 (XXX) adopted by the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2016 accepting the offer of Côte d'Ivoire to host the Fifth African Union (AU)-European Union (EU) Summit in November 2017;
2. *Approves* the dates of 29 and 30 November 2017 proposed by the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for the convening of the Fifth AU-EU Summit;
3. *Directs* the Commission, in close collaboration with the host country, to undertake preparations for the Summit;
4. *Requests* the Commission to report thereon to the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC).

Assembly/AU/Dec.627 (XXVIII)

**Decision on the African Union Special Fund on the Prevention and
Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/Dec.614 (XXVII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.614 (XXVII) adopted by the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016, establishing the African Union (AU) Special Fund on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa;
2. *Takes note* of the progress made by the Commission in developing the draft Statute of the AU Special Fund on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa and requests the Commission to submit the legal instrument to the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs for consideration and appropriate recommendations thereon;
3. *Requests* the Commission to report to the Assembly on progress in the implementation of this Decision in July 2017.

Assembly/AU/Dec.628 (XXVIII)

Decision on the Dates and Venue of the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the dates of the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held at the African Union Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, shall be the following:
 - (i) Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 8 and 9 July 2017;
 - (ii) Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: from 4 to 6 July 2017;
 - (iii) Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC): from 1 to 3 July 2017.

Assembly/AU/Dec.629 (XXVIII)

**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 (XXVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Congratulates and welcomes* the President of Gambia, H.E. Adama Barrow. The Assembly further congratulates the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its leaders, for the efforts deployed towards finding a peaceful solution in to the post-election crisis in Gambia that respects the will of the people of the country and upholds the African Union (AU) and ECOWAS instruments on democracy, elections and governance. The Assembly reiterates its tribute to the leadership and commitment demonstrated by H.E. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia, Chairperson of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, as well as to H.E. President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria, ECOWAS Mediator, H.E. President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone, former President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana, ECOWAS co-Mediator, and President Macky Sall of Senegal, for their efforts that led to the peaceful and smooth transfer of power in Gambia. The Assembly commends Presidents Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz of Mauritania, Alpha Condé of Guinea and Theodore Obiang Nguema Bassogo of Equatorial Guinea for their contribution to efforts that led to the peaceful resolution of the post-election crisis in Gambia. The Assembly calls on all AU Member States, as well as the international community at large, to continue to extend support to Gambia, with a view to assisting the new Government in its efforts towards consolidating peace, security and stability, as well as the healing and reconciliation process, that will enable the country to unite and rebuild its economy;
2. *Calls upon* the South Sudanese stakeholders to engage fully in the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCRSS), and further calls upon all stakeholders to contribute towards healing and reconciliation efforts in South Sudan, as part of calming down of ethnic tensions.

The Assembly stresses the need to ensure the all-inclusive character of the national dialogue initiated by President Salva Kiir Mayardit that will lead to the reconciliation and healing of the nation. The Assembly also calls on all AU Member States to continue to support the efforts of the AU High Representative, former President Konare, as well as those of the Evaluation and Monitoring Commission (JMEC), led by former President Festus Mogae, to sustain political dialogue in order to de-escalate tensions in South Sudan. The Assembly urges the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU), working with countries of the region and the United Nations, to accelerate the process of deploying the Regional Protection Force (RPF) for the protection of civilians in the country. The Assembly urgently calls for sustained political and financial support for the JMEC, in order to facilitate the implementation of the ARCRSS that the AU is one of the Guarantors;

3. *Commends* the Federal Government of Somalia, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), as well as its troop and police contributing countries (T/PCC), for the progress made in the State building and electoral processes in Somalia, despite various challenges facing the country. Furthermore, and given the security challenges and the fragility of the gains made so far in Somalia, the Assembly appeals to all AU Member States and the international community at large, to continue to provide political, financial and logistical support to Somalia and the AMISOM, in this critical period, to ensure full stabilization of the country. The Assembly welcomes the understanding between the Government of Burundi and the AU Commission, in relation with the European Union (EU), that may resolve the issue of paying the salaries to Burundian troops. The Assembly, once again, appeals to the United Nations Security Council for the use of United Nations assessed contributions in support to the AU-led Peace Support Operations (PSOs), in general, and to AMISOM, in particular, including the closing of the gap of 20 per cent left by the EU. The Assembly also calls for continued mobilization of international support to address the humanitarian situation in the country;

4. *Welcomes* the Agreements signed on 18 October 2016 and on 31 December 2016, respectively, for the Organization of Peaceful, Credible and Free and Fair Elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), paving the way to a peaceful solution for the political crisis in the country. In this context, the Assembly encourages the Congolese political and social actors to work towards the speedy and effective implementation of the Agreements and those who have not yet done so, to sign the Agreements. The Assembly commends the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, under the chairmanship of President Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola, for its contribution to efforts aimed at finding a solution to obstacles in the electoral process in the DRC. The Assembly calls on the stakeholders and Guarantors of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for DRC and the Region, signed on 24 February 2013, in Addis Ababa, to take the necessary measures and redouble their efforts to ensure the effective implementation of all aspects of the Framework Agreement and more specifically to neutralize the negative forces in Eastern DRC. The Assembly appeals to the AU Member States and the international community at large, to continue providing financial and logistic support to the Government of the DRC, for the smooth organization of elections in the country, on the agreed timeframe;

5. *Welcomes* the outcome of the meeting of the High-Level Committee on Libya in Brazzaville on 27 January 2017 and reiterates the need for the convening of a meeting of Libyan stakeholders to address the issue of national reconciliation, in accordance with the Kigali Assembly decision of 2016, including the necessary measures for the normal functioning of the government and all institutions of the country and requests the Commission to finalize the necessary modalities for the organization of this meeting. The Assembly endorses the decision of the AU High-Level Committee and decides to expand the Committee by including in its membership the neighbouring countries of Libya, namely Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Niger, Sudan and Tunisia. The Assembly looks forward to the early convening of the Libya National Reconciliation Meeting in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea;

6. *Reiterates* its support for the full implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali issuing from the Algiers Process and urges the Malian parties to redouble efforts to expedite its implementation. The Assembly strongly condemns the deadly ignominious terrorist attack in Gao, Mali, on 18 January 2017, that constitutes an attempt by terrorist groups to derail the ongoing political process under the Agreement. The Assembly reaffirms the importance of the Nouakchott Process within the framework of the AU Sahel Strategy and encourages the countries of the Process, with the support of the Commission, to ensure the regular conduct of its activities, including the expeditious convening of the ministerial meeting to consider the findings of the

Assessment Mission to Northern Mali that took place in July/August 2016. In this regard, the Assembly welcomes the initiative taken by the countries of the G5-Sahel Group to put in place a joint force with a view to more effectively fight against terrorism in the Sahel region, and, more specifically, the decision taken by the three countries of the Liptako-Gourma (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) to create a Multinational Force to secure the Liptako-Gourma (FMS/LG). The Assembly calls on the multilateral and bilateral partners, in particular the United Nations and the European Union, to provide all the necessary support to these initiatives that are undertaken within the Framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture;

7. *Commends* the tremendous progress made in the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram. The Assembly expresses its appreciation to the countries of the Commission of the Lake Chad Basin and Benin for their tremendous efforts, in the Framework of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), which contributed to reducing significantly the capacity of Boko Haram, as evidenced by the massive surrender of its combatants. The Assembly welcomes the gains achieved by the MNJTF, which could serve as a reference model for Member States in their common efforts to fight against terrorism and other threats to peace, security and stability;

8. *Urges* the Government of Sudan to deploy additional efforts to ensure inclusivity in the next steps following the National Dialogue process, and further strongly calls upon the armed movements and the opposition political parties to take part in this national process aimed at bringing lasting peace to the country. The Assembly takes note with appreciation of the partial lifting of sanctions in Sudan, by the United States Government and, furthermore, appeals to the United States Government to lift all remaining sanctions on Sudan, which continue to negatively affect the economy of the country. The Assembly commends the ongoing engagement between the Government of Sudan, the AU and the United Nations to have a well-planned exit strategy of the African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) that will ensure continued security for civilians in Darfur;

9. *Urges* the East African Community (EAC), with the support of the AU, to take the necessary steps for the resumption of the Inter-Burundian inclusive Dialogue and calls upon the Government of Burundi and all other relevant Burundian stakeholders to fully participate in the process. The Assembly further urges the Government of Burundi to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the deployment of AU human rights observers and military experts in the country. The Assembly calls upon the Burundian Government and all Burundian stakeholders to adhere to the provisions of the Constitution of the country and the Arusha Agreement of 2000, which is the cornerstone of peace in the country, in resolving their political differences, for the benefit of their country and the people of Burundi;

10. *Welcomes* the Conakry Agreement signed on 14 October 2016 and calls on all political stakeholders to resolve their differences through inclusive dialogue and within the framework of the Constitution of Guinea-Bissau, as well as in line with the Agreement, bearing in mind the critical importance of constitutional reforms for lasting peace and stability in the country. The Assembly emphasizes the critical importance of the role being played by the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB) in stabilizing the country, and calls for joint efforts to support the mobilization of financial resources to support the ECOMIB operations in Guinea-Bissau;

11. *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 reiterates its call to 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 urges the United Nations Security Council to fully assume its responsibilities in restoring the full functionality of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), as it is indispensable for overseeing the ceasefire and organizing the self-determination referendum in Western Sahara, as well as in addressing the issues of the respect of human rights and the illegal exploration and exploitation of the territory's natural resources, particularly in line with the important judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union issued on 21 December 2016, on the arrangement between the EU and Morocco signed in 2012, on the mutual liberalization of the trade in agricultural and fishing products. The Assembly reiterates its Declaration adopted at its Twenty-fourth and Twenty-sixth Ordinary Sessions, regarding the convening by the

Crans Montana Forum, a Switzerland-based organization, of a meeting in the occupied territory of Western Sahara and calls on the Crans Montana to desist from this activity. The Assembly appeals once more to all Member States, African civil society organizations and other relevant actors to boycott any such event;

12. *Commends* the President of the Central African Republic (CAR), H.E. Faustin-Archange Touadéra, for his policy of openness and promotion of peace and inclusivity for all the daughters and sons of his country, with a view to achieving reconciliation and national development. The Assembly expresses its support for the efforts of the AU, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), with the support of Angola, Chad and Congo, for the finalization and conclusion of a Peace Agreement with all the armed groups and calls on the partners, particularly the United Nations and the EU to provide full support to this African initiative. The Assembly also welcomes the convening, in Addis Ababa, on 1 February 2017, of the conference within the framework of the African Solidarity Initiative in support of the CAR;

13. *Takes note with appreciation* on the progress made in the implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA), and commends the efforts deployed by the PSC, in collaboration with the RECs/RMs and the AU Commission, as well as civil society, the United Nations, the EU and other partners, in ensuring the full functioning and working in synergy of the APSA components. The Assembly stresses the need to further enhance synergy between the APSA and AGA. The Assembly appeals to all AU Member States to continue to provide support towards attaining the objective of the full-functioning of the APSA components, in particular the African Standby Force, and welcomes the upcoming inauguration of the Continental Logistic Base in Douala, Cameroon, in May 2017;

14. *Emphasizes* the need for all AU Member States, in particular the PSC, to continue to give more focus on conflict prevention, early warning and early response, in order to prevent, for the future, the occurrence of full blown conflicts on the continent. Furthermore, the Assembly stresses the need to closely monitor those countries emerging from conflicts and to provide sustained support to them, with a view to accomplishing the tasks of post-conflict reconstruction and development, as a measure to prevent relapses;

15. *Commends* the Peace and Security Council for the holding of the Retreat on Practical Steps to Silence the Guns by 2020, from 7 to 9 November 2016, in Lusaka, Zambia, which developed the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020, to serve as a guideline in the implementation of the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted on 26 May 2013. In this regard, the Assembly endorses the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020, as a guideline for Africa's efforts to this end and calls on all AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention (RECs/RMs) and the AU Commission, as well as civil society and the private sector in Africa to support its implementation;

16. *Endorses* the relevant conclusions and recommendations of the Fourth High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa, held in Oran, Algeria, from 17 to 19 December 2016, aiming at strengthening coordination between the Peace and Security Council and the African Members (A3) in the United Nations Security Council, as well as enhancing their role in the promotion and defence of African interests and common positions on peace and security matters of concern to Africa, in the decision-making process of the United Nations Security Council. Furthermore, the Assembly commends Egypt during the time that it was coordinating the A3, in New York, for having initiated the process of providing updates on the activities of the A3 to the PSC.

Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII)

**Decision on the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps for
Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XXVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Expressing deep concern* over the persistence of violent conflicts and crisis situations in some parts of the African continent, as well as the scourges related to this persistence, which have resulted in losses of innocent lives, untold suffering to the people, internally displaced persons and refugees, destruction of infrastructure and the environment, as well as derailment of national development programmes and projects among others;
2. *Recalling* its OAU/AU Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted on 25 May 2014, in which the Assembly pledged not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020;
3. *Convinced* that Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020 will fast-track integration and economic transformation of Africa by eliminating conflicts and channeling resources towards development;
4. *Commends* the Peace and Security Council for having developed the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020, which constitutes frontal efforts towards promoting a conflict-free Africa as envisioned in Agenda 2063;
5. *Further commends* the Government of the Republic of Zambia for hosting the PSC Retreat, in Lusaka, Zambia, from 7 to 9 November 2016, where this road map was crafted; also expresses appreciation to the Republic of Sierra Leone for the successful conduct of the PSC Retreat;
6. *Endorses* the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020;
7. *Directs* the PSC to establish a monitoring and evaluation mechanism on the basis of which the Assembly will periodically review progress in the implementation of the Master Road Map;
8. *Requests* the PSC to take the required steps and mobilize the necessary support from all concerned stakeholders, including, in particular, the United Nations Security Council and other similar organs, in order to ensure effective follow-up and implementation of the Master Road Map with a view to realizing the goal of a conflict-free Africa;
9. *Calls on* all Member States, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), as well as civil society organizations, in collaboration with the Commission, to take the necessary measures to fully implement the Master Road Map;
10. *Requests* the PSC to submit reports on the status of implementation of the AU Master Road Map to each ordinary session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.631 (XXVIII)

Decision on the Revitalization of the African Peer Review Mechanism

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Special Summit of the Forum of Heads of State and Government of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) held on 29 January 2016 on the Revitalization of the African Peer Review Mechanism;
2. *Congratulates* the Chairperson of the APR Forum for convening the Special Summit of the APR Forum with the theme “Revitalizing the APRM to Strengthen Governance in Africa” and APR Forum Members for their active participation;

3. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.527 (XXIII) adopted by the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on the integration of the APRM into the African Union structures;
4. *Acknowledges* progress made in the implementation of the integration decision and actions taken by the Chairperson of the AU Commission and APRM Secretariat to fast track the process;
5. *Welcomes* the Report of the Committee on the Revitalization of the APRM anchored on the revitalization agenda driven by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta;
6. *Welcomes and supports* the recommendation contained in the Report on the Institutional Reform of the African Union by H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, that the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) should be strengthened to track implementation and oversee monitoring and evaluation in key governance areas on the continent, and requests the APRM to take the necessary steps towards the attainment of this goal;
7. *Embraces* the positive contributions and recommendations emanating from the January Special Summit of the Forum of Heads of State and Government debate on the Revitalization of the APRM, and welcomes the commitment towards the revitalization of the APRM, key among them:
 - (i) Repositioning of the APRM to play a monitoring and evaluation role for the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030;
 - (ii) Widening the APRM approach from the current narrow-approach to capture local, homegrown and indigenous knowledge embedded in the African culture;
 - (iii) Refocusing the APRM as an innovative tool for sharing best practices regionally and globally;
 - (iv) Encouraging AU Member States that have already been reviewed to implement their national plans of action and recommendations to inform institutional reform at the national level and avert highlighted challenges in their peer reviews;
 - (v) Revisiting the APRM questionnaire in sync with current development frameworks including the AU Agenda 2063 and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (vi) Reengineering and rekindling the APRM spirit to deliver comprehensive reviews to avoid fragmentation;
 - (vii) Revisiting the original vision of the APRM and draw fully from this original vision to address leadership gaps that may have emerged;
 - (viii) Translating the political will of the APRM into financial contribution for greater ownership of the Mechanism;
 - (ix) Integrating the APRM into national plans, RECs and regional development, including NEPAD and relevant international frameworks for greater coherence;
 - (x) Sharing the APRM model, experience and knowledge with other regions of the world for benchmarking and enhancing the international recognition of the Mechanism; and
 - (xi) Exploring domestic resource mobilization avenues for the Mechanism and stabilizing the APRM financial base through the payment of outstanding arrears;

8. *Reiterates* that the APRM remains the premier homegrown, African good governance tool conceived in 2003 and voluntarily acceded to by 36 Member States representing 65 per cent of AU Member States, more than half of whom (20) have undergone the review;
9. *Acknowledges* the peer review reports of Chad, Djibouti, Kenya, Senegal and Sudan and congratulates the three AU Member States as well as the Panel of Eminent Persons that led the review work;
10. *Further congratulates* the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the APRM Secretariat and commends him for his comprehensive report which reflects remarkable progress made in the last 11 months under his leadership to put the review process back on track, restoring confidence in the running of the Secretariat affairs and developing a turn-around strategy;
11. *Welcomes* the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2016-2020 of the APRM;
12. *Takes note* of the Statute on the APRM integration into the AU, provisionally adopted by the APR Forum, and duly provides to consider it for adoption in July 2017;
13. *Directs* the APRM to provide support to Member States in the field of rating agencies;
14. *Commends* the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, for supporting the APRM's integration and revitalization by designating senior staff from the Commission to support the APRM Secretariat;
15. *Appreciates* the Panel of Eminent Persons for their resilience and commitment to the process;
16. *Urges* Member States that have not so far acceded to the APRM to do so, and those that have done so to honour their annual contributions;
17. *Calls on* the Chairperson of the APR Forum to consider launching a Campaign on Universal Accession to the Mechanism to encourage more AU Members States to accede;
18. *Looks forward* to the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the APRM in 2018, and directs the AU Commission to prepare a draft declaration in this regard for the consideration of the Assembly at its ordinary session in January 2018.

Assembly/AU/Dec.632 (XXVIII)

**Decision on the Appointment of Two Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/1010 (XXX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of two judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following persons as judges of AfCHPR for a six- year term:

No.	Name	Gender	Country	Region
(1)	Chafika Bensaoula	Female	Algeria	Northern;
(2)	Rose Tujilane Chizumila	Female	Malawi	Southern.

Assembly/AU/Dec.633 (XXVIII)

**Decision on the Appointment of Eleven Members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption
(Doc. EX.CL/1011 (XXX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of seven out of the 11 members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (the AU ABC) by the Executive Council;

2. *Appoints* the following seven members of the AU ABC for a two-year term:

No.	Name	Country	Region
(1)	Begoto Miarom	Chad	Central;
(2)	John Kithome Tuta	Kenya	Eastern;
(3)	Paulus Kalomho Noa	Namibia	Southern;
(4)	Florence Ziyambi	Zimbabwe	Southern;
(5)	Pascal Bamouni (Floating seat)	Burkina Faso	Western;
(6)	Daniel Batidam	Ghana	Western;
(7)	Elisabeth Afiavi Gnansounou Fourn	Benin	Western;

3. *Decides* that the remaining four members will be elected at the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for July 2017, in accordance with the Modalities on Implementation of Criteria for Equitable Geographical and Gender Representation in the African Union Organs adopted by the Executive Council in January 2016 vide Decision EX.CL/Dec.907 (XXVIII), as follows:

(i) Two female candidates, namely, one candidate from the Central Region and one candidate from the Eastern Region;

(ii) Two candidates from the Northern Region, namely, one male candidate and one female candidate.

Assembly/AU/Dec.634 (XXVIII)

**Decision on the Appointment of One Member of the African Union Commission on International Law
(Doc. EX.CL/1012 (XXX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of one member of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL) by the Executive Council;

2. *Appoints* Ms. Kathleen Quartey Ayensu (Ghana - Western) as a member of the AUCIL for the remaining three years of the term of the late Mr. Ebenezer Appreku (Ghana - Western) who was elected for a five-year term by the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 23 to 27 January 2015.

Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII)

Decision on the Outcome of the Retreat of the Assembly of the African Union on the Institutional Reform of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report on “The Imperative to Strengthen our Union: Proposed Recommendations for the Institutional Reform of the African Union” submitted by H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, to the second Retreat of Heads of State and Government at the AU Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, held on 29 January 2017;
2. *Commends* H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, and the High-Level Team of Experts for the excellent study undertaken on the institutional reform of the African Union (AU) and the proposals for a system of governance for the AU to enable it to address the challenges facing the continent, and for submitting his report in a timely manner, as mandated by Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.606 (XXVII) adopted in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016;
3. *Also takes note* of the recommendations for the proposed reforms to further strengthen the African Union, in the following five areas:
 - (a) Focus on key priorities with continental scope;
 - (b) Realign African Union institutions in order to deliver against those priorities;
 - (c) Connect the African Union to its citizens;
 - (d) Manage the business of the African Union efficiently and effectively at both the political and operational levels;
 - (e) Finance the African Union sustainably and with the full ownership of the Member States;
4. *Welcomes* the comments and observations made by Member States aimed at reinforcing the proposals and identifying the way forward with special emphasis on the Pan-African values of unity, solidarity, freedom and equality, and the vision of our founders of a political and economic union. We reiterate the importance of African Common Positions as the most effective way of advancing Africa’s voice and representation in the world;
5. *Adopts* the recommendations in the report, as amended by Member States during the Retreat’s deliberations, contained in annex I to this Decision and, in particular, the following:
 - (a) On realigning African Union institutions in order to deliver against those priorities:
 - (i) The Commission should initiate, without delay, a professional audit of bureaucratic bottlenecks and inefficiencies that impede service delivery and the recommendations thereof;
 - (ii) The Permanent Representatives Committee’s (PRC) Rules of Procedures should be reviewed and be in line with the mandate provided for in the Constitutive Act of the African Union. The PRC should facilitate communication between the African Union and national capitals, and act as an advisory body to the Executive Council, and not as a supervisory body of the Commission;
 - (b) On connecting the African Union to its citizens:

- (i) The Commission should establish women and youth quotas across its institutions, and identify appropriate ways and means to ensure the private sector's participation;
- (ii) The Commission should establish an African Youth Corps, as well as develop programmes to facilitate cultural and sports exchanges among Member States;
- (c) On managing the business of the African Union efficiently and effectively, at both political and operational levels:

On political management of the Union:

- (i) The African Union Assembly shall handle an agenda of no more than three strategic items at each summit, in line with the Mek'ele Ministerial Retreat recommendations. Other appropriate business will be delegated to the Executive Council;
 - (ii) The Assembly shall hold one ordinary summit per year, and shall hold extraordinary sessions as the need arises;
 - (iii) In place of the June/July summit, the Bureau of the African Union Assembly shall hold a coordination meeting with the Regional Economic Communities, with the participation of the Chairpersons of the Regional Economic Communities, the AU Commission and Regional Mechanisms. Ahead of this meeting, the AU Commission shall play a more active coordination and harmonization role with the Regional Economic Communities, in line with the Treaty Establishing of the African Economic Community (the Abuja Treaty);
 - (iv) External parties shall only be invited to summits on an exceptional basis and for a specific purpose determined by the interests of the African Union;
 - (v) Partnership summits convened by external parties shall be reviewed with a view to providing an effective framework for African Union partnerships. Africa will be represented by the Troika, namely the current, incoming and outgoing Chairpersons of the African Union, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, and the Chairpersons of the Regional Economic Communities as well as the Chairperson of NEPAD;
 - (vi) To ensure continuity and effective implementation of Assembly decisions, a troika arrangement between the outgoing, the current, and the incoming African Union Chairpersons shall be established. In this regard, the incoming chairperson shall be selected one year in advance;
 - (vii) Heads of State shall be represented at summits by officials not lower than the level of Vice-President, Prime Minister or equivalent;³
 - (viii) The current sanctions mechanism should be strengthened and enforced. This would include consideration of making participation in the African Union deliberations contingent on adherence to summit decisions;
- (d) On Financing the African Union sustainably and with the full ownership of the Member States:
- (i) The Kigali Decision on Financing of the Union (Assembly/AU/Dec.605 (XXVII)) should be implemented in full and without undue delay;
 - (ii) The Committee of Ten Finance Ministers will assume responsibility for oversight of the African Union budget and reserve fund (in paragraph D (iii)), and develop a set of "golden rules", establishing clear financial management and accountability principles;

³ The State of Eritrea entered a reservation.

(iii) After funding of the budget of the African Union and the Peace Fund, the balance of the proceeds of the 0.2 per cent AU levy on eligible imports, the Committee of Ten Finance Ministers will look into placing surplus in a reserve fund for continental priorities as decided by the Assembly;

(iv) The current scale of contributions should be revised based on the principles of ability to pay, solidarity, and equitable burden-sharing, to avoid risk concentration;

6. *Further decides as follows:*

(i) Mandate H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, in his capacity as the lead on the institutional reform of the Union, in collaboration with H.E. President Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, in his capacity as the outgoing Chairperson, and H.E. Alpha Conde, President of the Republic of Guinea, in his capacity as the current Chairperson, to supervise the implementation process;

(ii) The incoming Commission elected at the January 2017 Summit shall put in place a Reform Implementation Unit at the AU Commission, within the Bureau of the Chairperson, responsible for the day-to-day coordination and implementation of this Decision;

(iii) H.E. President Paul Kagame shall make recommendations on a mechanism to ensure that legally binding decisions and commitments are implemented by Member States;

(iv) H.E. President Paul Kagame shall also report at each ordinary session of the Assembly on progress made with the implementation of this Decision;

7. *Requests* H.E. President Paul Kagame to report on the implementation of this Decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2017.

**Annex to Assembly Decision on the Outcome of the Retreat of the Assembly of
the African Union on the Institutional Reform of the African Union**

A. On focus on key priorities with continental scope:

(i) The African Union should focus on a fewer number of priority areas, which are by nature continental in scope, such as political affairs, peace and security, economic integration (including the Continental Free Trade Area), and Africa's global representation and voice;

(ii) There should be a clear division of labour and effective collaboration between the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Regional Mechanisms (RMs), the Member States, and other continental institutions, in line with the principle of subsidiarity;

B. On realigning African Union institutions in order to deliver against those priorities:

(i) The Commission's structures should be re-evaluated to ensure that they have the right size and capabilities to deliver on the agreed priorities;

(ii) The Commission's senior leadership team should be lean and performance-oriented;

(iii) NEPAD should be fully integrated into the Commission as the African Union's development agency, aligned with the agreed priorities and underpinned by an enhanced results-monitoring framework;

(iv) The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) should be strengthened to track implementation and oversee monitoring and evaluation in key governance areas of the continent;

(v) The roles and functions of the African Union judicial organs and the Pan-African Parliament should be reviewed and clarified, and their progress to date assessed;

(vi) The Peace and Security Council (PSC) should be reformed to ensure that it meets the ambition foreseen in its Protocol, by strengthening its working methods and its role in conflict prevention and crisis management;

(vii) The Permanent Representatives Committee's (PRC) Rules of Procedures should be reviewed and be in line with the mandate provided for in the Constitutive Act of the African Union. The PRC should facilitate communication between the African Union and national capitals, and act as an advisory body to the Executive Council, and not as a supervisory body of the Commission;

C. On connecting the African Union to its citizens:

(i) The Commission should establish women and youth quotas across its institutions and identify appropriate ways and means to ensure the private sector's participation;

(ii) The Commission should establish an African Youth Corps, as well as develop programmes to facilitate cultural and sports exchanges among Member States;

(iii) Member States should make the African passport available to all eligible citizens as quickly as possible, in line with the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.607 (XXVII) adopted in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016;

(iv) The Commission should identify and provide a set of new capabilities or "assets" in the form of common continent-wide public goods and services valued by Member States and citizens. Such services could include the provision of neutral arbitration and competition services, or a common technical platform for the data and analysis needed to assess Africa's progress toward its development goals;

(v) Member States should engage their parliaments and citizens, including civil society, on the African Union reform process;

D. On managing the business of the African Union efficiently and effectively, at both political and operational levels:

On operational management:

(i) The election of the Chairperson of the AU Commission should be enhanced by a robust, merit-based, and transparent selection process;

(ii) The Deputy Chairperson and Commissioners should be competitively recruited in line with best practice and appointed by the Chairperson of the Commission, to whom they should be directly accountable, taking into account gender and regional diversity, among other relevant considerations;

(iii) The Deputy Chairperson role should be reframed to be responsible for the efficient and effective functioning of the Commission's administration;

(iv) The title of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson may also be reconsidered;

(v) A fundamental review of the structure and staffing needs of the organization, as well as conditions of service, should be undertaken to ensure alignment with agreed priority areas;

E. On Financing the African Union sustainably and with the full ownership of the Member States:

- (i) The Kigali Decision on Financing of the Union (Assembly/AU/Dec.605 (XXVII)) should be implemented in full and without undue delay;
- (ii) The Committee of Ten Finance Ministers should assume responsibility for oversight of the African Union budget and reserve fund (in paragraph D (iii)), and develop a set of “golden rules”, establishing clear financial management and accountability principles;
- (iii) After funding of the budget of the African Union and the Peace Fund, the balance of the proceeds of the 0.2% AU levy on eligible imports, the Committee of Ten Finance Ministers should look into placing surplus in a reserve fund for continental priorities as decided by the Assembly;
- (iv) The current scale of contributions should be revised based on the principles of ability to pay, solidarity, and equitable burden-sharing, to avoid risk concentration.

Assembly/AU/Dec.636 (XXVIII)

**Decision on the Draft Legal Instruments
(Doc. EX.CL/1013 (XXX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs and the recommendations of the Executive Council thereto;
2. *Adopts* the following legal instruments:
 - (i) Statute of the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL);
 - (ii) Draft amendment to the Constitution of the African Civil Aviation Commission in its Article 10, paragraph 4, as follows: The quorum for the Plenary shall be simple majority (50 per cent plus one) of Member States;
3. *Calls on* Member States to sign and ratify the said legal instruments, where applicable, to enable them to enter into force.

Assembly/AU/Dec.637 (XXVIII)

**Decision on the Election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (XXVIII) and Assembly/AU/3 (XXVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Elects* the following persons as follows:

No.	Name	Country	Gender	Region	Portfolio
(1)	Moussa Faki Mahamat	Chad	Male	Central	Chairperson;
(2)	Thomas Kwesi Quartey	Ghana	Male	Western	Deputy Chairperson;

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.638 (XXVIII)

**Decision on the Appointment of the Commissioners of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/1009 (XXX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of the Commissioners of the African Union by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following candidates as Commissioners of the African Union:

No.	Name	Gender	Country	Region	Portfolio
(a)	Smail Chergui	Male	Algeria	Northern	Peace and Security;
(b)	Minata Samate Cessouma	Female	Burkina Faso	Western	Political Affairs;
(c)	Amani Abou-Zeid	Female	Egypt	Northern	Infrastructure and Energy;
(d)	Amira Elfadil Mohammed Elfadil	Female	Sudan	Eastern	Social Affairs;
(e)	Albert M. Muchanga	Male	Zambia	Southern	Trade and Industry;
(f)	Josefa Leonel Correa Sacko	Female	Angola	Southern	Rural Economy and Agriculture;

3. *Congratulates* the newly elected Commissioners;
4. *Decides* that the remaining two Commissioners will be elected at the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and appointed during the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2017 as follows:
 - (i) One male from the Eastern Region; and
 - (ii) One female from the Central Region;
5. *Also decides* that the elected Commissioners who did not take the oath of office during the current session of the Assembly will do so before the Chairperson of the Commission.

Assembly/AU/Dec.639 (XXVIII)

Decision on the Admission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the request by the Kingdom of Morocco to accede to the Constitutive Act of the African Union (Constitutive Act) and to be admitted as a Member State of the African Union;
2. *Also takes note* of the debate on the matter and the legal opinion provided by the Legal Counsel of the AU, at the request of some Member States;

3. *Welcomes* the request from the Kingdom of Morocco as it provides the opportunity to reunite the African community of States around the Pan-African core values of the founders of solidarity, unity, freedom and equality, in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Constitutive Act. This will strengthen the ability of the African Union to find African solutions to African problems;
4. *Decides* to admit the Kingdom of Morocco as a new Member State of the African Union in conformity with Article 9, subparagraph (c), and Article 29 of the Constitutive Act;
5. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to communicate this Decision of the Assembly to the Kingdom of Morocco and request the latter to deposit their instrument of accession to the Constitutive Act.

Assembly/AU/Dec.640 (XXVIII)

**Decision on Africa's Engagement in the Global Climate Change Negotiations at COP 22
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XXVIII))**

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 the Global Climate negotiations; and endorses the recommendations and key messages contained therein;
2. *Congratulates* the Kingdom of Morocco on successfully hosting the Twenty-second Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and welcomes the entry into force of the Paris Agreement under the Convention on 4 November 2016 and the successful convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1) at COP 22 in Marrakesh;
3. *Expresses appreciation* to the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) as well as the Commission, and 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 UNFCCC process; urges AMCEN, the Commission and AGN to continue to maintain the unity of the group and to continue to represent African interests in the UNFCCC process; calls on the AGN, in collaboration with the Commission, to continue to provide the necessary technical support and advice to CAHOSCC through AMCEN;
4. *Commends* the Commission, the African Development Bank, and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), as well as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for the establishment and the effectiveness of the Africa Pavilion and the Africa Day at COP 22;
5. *Welcomes* progress on the African Adaptation Initiative (AAI) and the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI); commends the work done by the co-leaders of the AREI and technical working groups of AAI in collaboration with other relevant partners; and urges developed countries to support the implementation of these two initiatives launched by H.E President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Coordinator of the CAHOSCC at COP 21, along with the High-Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCAA), the Phase 2 ClimDev-Africa and the African Environmental Partnership Platform (AEPP) launched at COP 22 through the provision of new and additional resources;
6. *Acknowledges* the progress made in advancing the AREI by the co-leaders along with the Coordinator of Renewable Energy on the African continent and commends the ongoing efforts in the operationalization of the initiative in accordance with the previous decisions of the Summit of the African Union; and stresses the importance of ensuring full coordination and cooperation with the AMCEN and the CAHOSCC in this regard;

7. *Welcomes* the convening of the meeting of the African Heads of State and Government in Marrakesh on 16 November 2016 at the invitation of His Majesty Mohamed VI, King of Morocco, under the title “the first African Summit of Action”, on the margins of COP 22; and takes note of its outcomes including the establishment of three commissions dedicated to the Sahel region, Chaired by the Republic of Niger, the Congo Basin region, chaired by the Republic of Congo, the island States, chaired by the Republic of Seychelles; and stresses the importance of ensuring full coordination and cooperation with the AMCEN and the CAHOSSC in this regard;

8. *Requests* the AGN, in collaboration with the Commission and AMCEN, to elaborate a High-Level Framework for Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Support in the context of jointly mobilized annual \$US 100 billion goal by 2020 by developed countries with a view to enhancing the scale, country-driven and ownership of action in Africa, and strengthening outcomes to address climate change and sustainable development.

Assembly/AU/Dec.641 (XXVIII)

**Decision on the Implementation of the Financing of the Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XXVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Chairperson on the implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.605 (XXVII) on the financing of the Union adopted in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016;

2. *Commends* the countries which have already started implementation and urges other Member States to speed up implementation;

3. *Takes note* of the challenges faced by some Member States and requests the F10 Committee of Ministers of Finance to address the concerns raised by those Member States;

4. *Calls upon* the Member States to ensure that the Decision is fully implemented in 2017;

5. *Requests* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2018.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXVIII)

**Declaration on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East
(Doc. EX.CL/993 (XXX))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2017,

Taking note of the Report on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine, and recalling all resolutions and decisions of the Organization of African Unity/African Union on the situation in Palestine towards achieving lasting peace and security in the Middle East,

Reaffirming our full support to the Palestinian people and the State of Palestine under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas in their quest for the restoration of their legitimate right to establish an independent State coexisting peacefully with the State of Israel and commending the recent reconciliation deal reached on 15 January 2017 in the Russian capital Moscow, between Palestinian Organizations to form a unity government,

Reiterating our wish 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,

Renewing our call for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides in order to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East,

Reaffirming our full support to all initiatives aimed at bringing peace to the region in particular the Arab Peace Initiative and the French initiative of holding an international peace conference aimed at relaunching negotiations to solve the Palestine-Israeli conflict on a specific timeframe,

Condemning the illegal settlements in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and in the occupied territory of the Syrian Golan Heights and the continued occupation of Palestinian lands and the Judaization campaign aimed at changing all Islamic and Christian features of the Holy City and reducing the Palestinian population to the fullest extent through the confiscation of their lands and the destruction of their homes and all measures of collective punishment,

Denouncing the Israeli practices against the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including women and children, which are contrary to international law and international humanitarian law,

Calling on the Israeli Government to release all Palestinian and Arab political prisoners and detainees in the Israeli jails immediately and unconditionally,

Equally demanding that Israel refrains from using acts of terrorism against civilian populations as well as 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,

We hereby:

1. *Demand* the international community to find an ever-lasting solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the relevant international resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative;
2. *Call on* the international community to exert pressure on Israel to stop all settlement activities, release Palestinian and Arab political prisoners in Israeli jails and support the efforts of the Palestinians for membership in international agencies and to join international conventions and protocols;
3. *Further call on* members of the international community to refrain from transferring embassies and diplomatic missions accredited to Israel from Tel Aviv to the city of Jerusalem, in order to achieve the foundation of peace based on a two-State solution;
4. *Support* the outcomes of the International Peace Conference based on the French Initiative and call for the launching of serious negotiations to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the two-State solution;
5. *Reject* the illegal settlements by the Israeli occupation and highly commend the position of the United Nations Security Council in its resolution 2334 of 24 December 2016, which emphasizes the illegality of the settlements built in flagrant violation of international law;
6. *Condemn* the land and sea blockage imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip, which has led to the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation, and demand an immediate lifting of all restrictions on the Gaza Strip;
7. *Request* the United Nations Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security, by taking 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 a two-State solution, according to the 1967 borders, and apply the provisions of relevant international law and its previous decisions in this regard;

8. *Urge* Member States to boycott goods and products that are produced and exported from the settlements built on the occupied Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem;
9. *Request* the United Nations and the Quartet to intervene decisively with a view to pressure Israel to commit to the process of serious peace negotiations;
10. *Further request* Member States to continue to support the Palestinian people in their struggle to establish a sovereign State over its national territory with Quds El-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital;
11. *Reaffirm* the right of the Palestinian people to establish their own Palestinian independent State with East Jerusalem as its capital on its borders of June 1967, and supports the Palestinian approach to obtain full membership of the State of Palestine at the United Nations;
12. *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;
13. *Welcome* the UNESCO resolution of 26 October 2016 on the conservation of the current status of the Old City of Jerusalem and call on all stakeholders to respect this resolution;
14. *Call upon* Member States to abide by the Common African Position mentioned in declarations of AU Summits when the Palestinian issue is discussed in regional and international arenas.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XXVIII)

**Declaration on the Commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Operationalization of
the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/999 (XXX))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2017,

Recalling Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.903 (XXVIII), requesting the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Court) to "present, in collaboration with the AU Commission and the PRC, at the July 2016 Ordinary Session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council, a Declaration on the Commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Operationalization of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights",

Recalling the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Protocol) on 9 June 1998, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso,

Noting that the Protocol was established to enhance the protective mandate of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Commission) in particular, and the enjoyment and protection of human and peoples' rights on the continent generally,

Noting further the entry into force of the Protocol on 25 January 2004, the election of the first judges of the Court in January 2006, and the swearing-in of the said judges in July 2006, during the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in Banjul, Gambia, from 1 to 2 July 2006,

Noting also that 2016 marks the tenth anniversary of the operationalization of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, and has been declared the African Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the rights of women,

1. *Congratulate* the Court, as it commemorates its tenth anniversary, for the laudable role it has played, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, particularly Member States, national human rights institutions, bar associations and civil society organizations and other partners, in enhancing the protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa;
2. *Recall* in particular the contribution of the Court in the development of the African human rights jurisprudence;
3. *Reiterate* our commitment made in the Banjul Declaration on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, adopted during the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2006, and, in this regard, reaffirm our full support to the Court, and commit ourselves to provide the necessary human and financial resources to allow the Court to discharge its functions effectively and efficiently, as well as to fully cooperate with and render all the necessary assistance to the Court;
4. *Also reiterate* our intention to strengthen the protection of human rights in particular, and the justice system on the continent as a whole, including the fight against impunity;
5. *Concerned* that almost two decades after the adoption of the Protocol, only 30 Member States have ratified it and only eight have deposited the declaration under Article 34, paragraph 6, thereof;
6. *Congratulate* the 30 States parties that have ratified the Protocol, that is, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo and Tunisia;
7. *Also congratulate* the seven States parties that have deposited the declaration under Article 34, paragraph 6, of the Protocol, namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi, Mali and the United Republic of Tanzania, and encourage the Republic of Rwanda to reconsider its decision to withdraw the said declaration;
8. *Reiterate* Executive Council Decisions EX.CL/Dec.842 (XXV) of June 2014 and EX.CL/Dec.865 (XXVI) of January, 2015, urging those States that have not already done so, to take all necessary measures to ratify the Protocol and deposit the Article 34, paragraph 6, declaration, as we commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Court and celebrate the African Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the rights of women;
9. *Recall* the adoption of the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, (Malabo Protocol) in June 2014, which seeks to fight impunity on the continent;
10. *Note with concern* that more than two years after the adoption of the said Protocol, only nine Member States have signed and none have ratified it;
11. *Congratulate* the nine States that have signed the Protocol, that is, Benin, Chad, Congo, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Sao Tomé and Príncipe;
12. *Urge* all Member States of the African Union to manifest their commitment to the protection of human rights, justice and the fight against impunity, by taking urgent and necessary measures to ratify the Malabo Protocol;
13. *Rededicate* ourselves to ensuring respect for human and peoples' rights, justice and the fight against impunity as prerequisites for the attainment of our common vision of a united and prosperous Africa.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXVIII)

**Resolution on the Chagos Archipelago
(Doc. EX.CL/994 (XXX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chairperson on the activities of the AU Commission;
2. *Having regard* to 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;
3. *Reaffirms* that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius and that the decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius will not be complete until it is able to exercise its full sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago;
4. *Recalls* in this regard the previous resolutions adopted by the Assembly, in particular, Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXV) of June 2015 of the Assembly of the African Union held in Johannesburg, South Africa, expressing its full support to the 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;
5. *Notes* that at the request of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius, an item entitled “Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965” has been included in the agenda of the seventy-first session of the United Nations General Assembly and that action on that item is likely to be taken in June 2017;
6. *Resolves* to fully support the action initiated by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius at the level of the United Nations General Assembly with a view to ensuring the completion of the decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius and enabling the Republic of Mauritius to effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia;
7. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter and requests the Commission to report on progress and the implementation of this Decision to the Assembly in July 2017.

Assembly/AU/Res.2 (XXVIII)

Resolution on Recent Developments in the Cuba-United States of America Relations

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Governments of the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America to improve their bilateral relations and create bonds of peaceful coexistence and mutual benefit;
2. *Calls for* the lifting of the long-standing unjust economic, commercial and financial blockade on Cuba;
3. *Urges* the President of the United States to take into account the positive results achieved in bilateral relations during the last few years.

Assembly/AU/Motion (XXVIII)

Motion

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 January 2017, denounce and condemn in the strongest terms, the injustice meted out to African youth at a time when they celebrate one of the most unifying and momentous events in the world, the African Cup of Nations.

Throughout the continent, our peoples have unfortunately been frustrated and prevented from watching and joyfully experiencing these moments of jubilation for Africa, due to the monopolistic stance dictated by pure commercial interests that international lobbies and financial powers bring to bear on the direct control of television broadcasting rights.

These prohibitive and inconsiderate fees, which our broadcasters cannot afford, much less hundreds of millions of young Africans, deprive them of the right to participate in an event which should be an African festival and a great opportunity for rapprochement and sharing of cultures among our peoples.

We demand that a law on the terms and conditions of broadcasting sporting events of great significance be adopted at the continental level and at the level of each Member State, and that measures and actions be taken to put an end to the unjust and discriminatory broadcasting market rights on the continent, which deprive the large majority of Africa's youth from watching competitions.

Furthermore, in order to put a definitive end to this injustice, particularly at a time when our appeal coincides with the theme for the year 2017, which we have rightly dedicated to the youth of Africa, we urgently call on all African bodies in charge of youth and sports, to work resolutely towards the re-establishment of equity and justice for Africa, particularly its youth.

TWENTY-NINTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
3 to 4 July 2017**

Assembly/AU/Dec.642 (XXIX)

**Decision on the Budget of the African Union for the 2018 Financial Year
(Doc. PRC/Rpt. (XXXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* a total budget of US\$ 769, 381,894 for the African Union for the year 2018, broken down into US\$ 458,763,038 operating budget and US\$ 310,618,856 programmes budget to be financed as follows:

- (i) A total amount of US\$ 318,276,795 to be assessed on Member States;
- (ii) A total amount of US\$ 451,105,099 to be raised from international partners;

2. *Also adopts* the budget breakdown among the AU organs as follows:

Organs	Member States			Partners			Total Budget for 2018		
	Operating Budget	Programmes	Total Assessment	Operating	Programmes	Total	Operating	Programmes	Total 2018
AUC	130,948,702	98,174,167	229,122,869		147,801,924	147,801,924	130,948,702	245,976,091	376,924,793
PAP	17,044,559		17,044,559		2,920,000	2,920,000	17,044,559	2,920,000	19,964,559
AfCHR (The Court)	10,581,742	-	10,581,742		1,238,417	1,238,417	10,581,742	1,238,417	11,820,159
ACHPR (The Commission)	5,612,542	-	5,612,542		707,138	707,138	5,612,542	707,138	6,319,680
ECOSSOC	1,214,363	1,314,303	2,528,666		-	-	1,214,363	1,314,303	2,528,666
NEPAD	10,299,329	368,486	10,667,815		40,000,000	40,000,000	10,299,329	40,368,486	50,667,815
AUCIL	442,576	-	442,576		325,458	325,458	442,576	325,458	768,034
Advisory Board on Peace & Security	2,082,152	761,576	2,843,728			-	2,082,152	761,576	2,843,728
	-	3,036,746	3,036,746			-	-	3,036,746	3,036,746
ACERWC	291,995	88,727	380,722		502,787	502,787	291,995	591,514	883,509
SPECIALIZED OFFICES OF THE AU									
AFREC	1,275,699	-	1,275,699		-	-	1,275,699	-	1,275,699
IPED	762,647	-	762,647		-	-	762,647	-	762,647
CIEFFA	716,656	-	716,656		-	-	716,656	-	716,656
PAU	2,821,977	-	2,821,977		-	-	2,821,977	-	2,821,977
AIR	749,028	-	749,028		-	-	749,028	-	749,028
ACDC	3,971,148	11,320,248	15,291,396		2,058,880	2,058,880	3,971,148	13,379,128	17,350,276
AOSTI	916,272	-	916,272		-	-	916,272	-	916,272
AFRIPOL	948,450	-	948,450		-	-	948,450	-	948,450
PEACE OPERATIONS									
AMISOM	12,532,704	-	12,532,704	238,121,383	-	238,121,383	250,654,087	-	250,654,087
MNJTf				7,161,400		7,161,400	7,161,400		7,161,400
LRA				1,461,205		1,461,205	1,461,205		1,461,205
HRMOM				8,806,508		8,806,508	8,806,508		8,806,508
TOTAL	203,212,542	115,064,253	318,276,795	255,550,496	195,554,603	451,105,099	458,763,038	310,618,856	769,381,894

TWENTY-NINTH ORDINARY SESSION (2017)

3. Further adopts the 2018 budget breakdown by expense components as follows:

	Staff Cost	Operating Expenses	Capital Expenses	Sub-Total Operational	Programs	TOTAL
AUC	90,843,197	37,607,080	2,498,424	130,948,702	245,976,091	376,924,793
NEPAD	8,089,713	2,057,641	151,975	10,299,329	40,368,486	50,667,815
PAP	9,810,122	7,062,993	171,444	17,044,559	2,920,000	19,964,559
ACDC	2,708,414	1,172,733	90,000	3,971,148	13,379,128	17,350,276
AfCHR (The Court)	6,628,196	3,663,726	289,820	10,581,742	1,238,417	11,820,159
ACHPR (The Commission)	3,192,542	2,376,000	44,000	5,612,542	707,138	6,319,680
Advisory Board on Corruption	864,938	1,217,214	-	2,082,152	761,576	2,843,728
PAU	2,146,895	672,083	3,000	2,821,977	-	2,821,977
ECOSSOC	-	1,214,363	-	1,214,363	1,314,303	2,528,666
Peace & Security Council	-	-	-	-	3,036,746	3,036,746
AFREC	1,127,099	123,600	25,000	1,275,699	-	1,275,699
AFRIPOL	712,350	96,100	140,000	948,450	-	948,450
AOSTI	699,938	131,234	85,100	916,272	-	916,272
ACERWC	28,835	263,160	-	291,995	591,514	883,509
AUCIL	-	442,576	-	442,576	325,458	768,034
IPED	516,881	116,566	129,200	762,647	-	762,647
AIR	569,400	138,600	41,028	749,028	-	749,028
CIEFFA	480,484	122,972	113,200	716,656	-	716,656
Sub-Total excluding Peace Support Operations	128,419,006	58,478,641	3,782,191	190,679,838	310,518,856	501,198,694
AMISOM	14,483,387	236,170,700	-	250,654,087	-	250,654,087
MNJTF	-	7,161,400	-	7,161,400	-	7,161,400

	Staff Cost	Operating Expenses	Capital Expenses	Sub-Total Operational	Programs	TOTAL
LRA	-	1,461,205	-	1,461,205	-	1,461,205
HRMOM	-	8,806,508	-	8,806,508	-	8,806,508
Sub-Total Peace Support Operations	14,483,387	253,599,813	-	268,083,200	-	268,083,200
Grand Total	142,902,393	312,078,454	3,782,191	458,763,038	310,618,856	769,381,894

4. *Requests* the Commission:

(i) To refer to the Peace and Security Council the funding gap of US\$ 81,846,337 for AMISOM created due to a decision by the European Union to withdraw 20 per cent of their annual funding;

(ii) To coordinate and oversee the budget process from all organs before submission to the competent PRC Subcommittee for scrutiny and endorsement;

(iii) To use a new format in preparing the AU budget which should be backed by a projection on future remittance of Member States and any other relevant information in accordance with the related decisions adopted by the AU in order to facilitate the efficient consideration and adoption by Member States;

5. *Urges* the Commission to further improve and strengthen the budget process by introducing a budget that is focused on priorities along with establishing a mechanism to allow results-based assessment and monitoring;

6. *Calls upon* the Commission to harmonize all allowances across all AU organs and bring to the PRC for endorsement;

7. *Requests*:

(i) The PRC at the fifth year of implementing Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.578 (XXV), on the scale of assessment and alternative sources of financing the African Union, to assess the level of the implementation of the latter and make the appropriate recommendations to the Executive Council with the objective to fund 100 per cent of the operational budget, 75 per cent of the programme budget and 25 per cent of the peace support operations by 2020, with a view to aligning the implementation timeframe with the actual capacity of Member States to pay;

(ii) The PRC, in accordance with the AU Financial Rules, to propose modalities for the effective and efficient management of the reserve fund by the Commission;

(iii) The Commission to work out all legal, structural and financial implications affecting the relocation of ECOSOCC to Lusaka, Zambia, and submit to the PRC for supplementary budget consideration;

(iv) The Commission to utilize the comparative advantage of Member States to finance the implementation of specific approved projects or programmes, through a financial or in-kind contribution received from a Member State concerned that has been specifically earmarked by the AU for that purpose.

Assembly/AU/Dec.643 (XXIX)

**Decision on the Report on the Inaugural African Economic Platform Held in
Port Louis, Mauritius, 20 to 22 March 2017
(Doc. EX.CL/1023 (XXXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Inaugural African Economic Platform; held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 20 to 22 March 2017 and adopts the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Commends* the Republic of Mauritius for the successful hosting of the Inaugural African Economic Platform;
3. *Decides* as follows:
 - (i) The Commission and the African Union Foundation to ensure that all Member States are invited to the African Economic Platform, and that the level of representation be at the discretion of the Member States;
 - (ii) Adequate time to be allocated to the discussion of all the themes of the Platform;
 - (iii) An appropriate venue to be used for future African Economic Platforms;
 - (iv) An independent financial audit be undertaken to determine the financial impact of the Inaugural African Economic Platform;
 - (v) The Commission, in collaboration with the African Union Foundation, to reduce the cost of private sector participation in the African Economic Platform, with a view to attract more participants from the private sector;
 - (vi) A Tripartite Summit (Member States, private sector and academia) on Education and Skills Development, Science, Technology and Innovation to be convened before the second edition of the African Economic Platform, to be held in 2018;
 - (vii) The Commission, in collaboration with the African Union Foundation, to develop a road map for the implementation of the recommendations on the Inaugural African Economic Platform, and to submit the same for consideration at the January 2018 Summit;
 - (viii) The Commission, in collaboration with the African Union Foundation and Member States, to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the Inaugural African Economic Platform, and to submit a report with appropriate recommendations to the January 2018 Summit;
 - (ix) The African Union Foundation, in collaboration with the Commission, to develop a follow-up mechanism to record and facilitate agreements reached, projects enunciated and business deals concluded during the meetings of the Platform;
4. *Approves* the offer by the Republic of Mauritius to host the second African Economic Platform in March 2018; and, in this regard, requests the African Union Commission and the African Union Foundation to work closely with the host country Mauritius to ensure a successful second African Economic Platform.

Assembly/AU/Dec.644 (XXIX)

**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 (XXIX))**

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. *Commends* the PSC, the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs) for their commitment and efforts towards peace, security and stability in Africa; and, in this regard, takes note with appreciation of the intensive efforts deployed by the Chairperson of the Commission in support of peace processes within the continent;
3. *Congratulates* President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed on his election as President of the Federal Republic of Somalia; welcomes the continued progress made in Somalia while recognizing the challenges still facing the country; reiterates its appeal to AU Member States and the wider international community to pursue and intensify their political, financial and logistical support for Somalia and the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to enable the full stabilization of the country, in particular for the security reform that will enable the operationalization of the National Security Architecture; recalls the PSC communiqué of 6 September 2016, calling on the United Nations Security Council to consider, following its resolution 2244 (2015), lifting the arms embargo imposed on Somalia, as a critical aspect of building Somali security institutions; expresses its concern at the threat that Al-Shabaab continues to pose to peace, security and stability in Somalia, and, once again strongly condemns the terrorist attacks by Al-Shabaab on innocent civilians, AMISOM and Somali forces; further expresses concern at the resurgence of piracy activities off the coast of Somalia; calls on the AU and international partners to coordinate their support through the implementation mechanism of the Security Pact, as agreed at the London Conference held on 11 May 2017, with a view to optimizing the impact of joint efforts in support of the Somali National Security Forces; to this effect, welcomes the establishment of the AU-Somalia Joint Task Force as the best channel to harmonize support by partners; expresses its deep concern at the dire humanitarian situation prevailing in Somalia and appeals to the international community for increased support in addressing the assistance needed by the affected Somali people;
4. *Expresses its deep concern* at the continued deterioration of the situation in South Sudan and, once again, calls upon South Sudanese parties to demonstrate leadership and uphold their responsibility towards ending the long suffering of their own people; welcomes the launching of the National Dialogue initiative by President Salva Kiir Mayardit and urges the South Sudanese stakeholders to ensure its inclusivity, independence and impartiality; commends the AU High Representative for South Sudan, former President Alpha Oumar Konaré, for his efforts to assist the South Sudanese stakeholders to address their challenges through constructive engagement, as agreed by the AU, the United Nations and IGAD at the meeting of 29 January 2017, and underscores the need for continued formal engagement by the three institutions; endorses the decisions of the Thirty-first IGAD Extraordinary Summit held on 12 June 2017, in particular the urgent convening of the High-Level Revitalization Forum of the Peace Agreement; in this regard, commends the efforts of President Yoweri Museveni and the Government of Uganda to address the challenges in South Sudan; calls upon the government forces and armed groups to lay down their arms and engage in a constructive political process to address the root causes of the challenges facing South Sudan; expresses its concern over the humanitarian situation in South Sudan and urges the international community to provide the necessary assistance to the needy people in South Sudan and the neighbouring countries; and, in this regard, calls on the Transitional Government of National Unity, the SPLM-IO and all armed groups to observe strictly international humanitarian law with regard to humanitarian agencies and workers, with a view to creating or facilitating access and delivery of the humanitarian assistance to the population in need;
5. *Welcomes* the significant improvements noted in the political and security situation in Darfur, as well as the outcome of the National Dialogue and the formation of a new Government of National Unity, and urges the Sudanese authorities to continue their outreach efforts; takes note of the recommendations of the AU-United Nations Joint Strategic Review Report on the withdrawal and reconfiguration of the UNAMID forces and stresses that the process should be carried out in a gradual and smooth manner, to ensure that the civilian population is not exposed to danger; underlines the need for the international community to extend the necessary support to the Government of Sudan in its efforts towards post-conflict reconstruction in Darfur, in particular in the areas to

be vacated by UNAMID; in particular, takes note of the steps already taken by the United States to ease the sanctions regime imposed on Sudan, and looks forward for their complete lifting by the 12 July 2017 review; furthermore, commends the AU High-Level Implementation Panel for its relentless efforts to assist the Sudanese to reach peaceful solutions to their various challenges, and encourages it to continue to foster an inclusive process to help the next stages of the peace process; and strongly urges all armed movements to engage in the negotiations process without further delay;

6. *Commends* the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan for reaching agreements on the operationalization of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM); in this regard, calls for the urgent convening, without preconditions, of the postponed meeting of the Joint Security Committee (JSC), in order to address the outstanding issues between the two countries and urges Sudan and South Sudan to hold more regular meetings of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism to address outstanding matters between the two countries, especially as these relate to the establishment of the JBVMM;

7. *Calls for* the urgent implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement on the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area, especially the establishment of the Council, Administration and Police Service; and pays tribute to the United Nations Interim Security Force (UNISFA) for Abyei for its contribution to the maintenance of peace and security in the Abyei area;

8. *Takes note* of the withdrawal of the troops of the State of Qatar from the border between Djibouti and Eritrea; calls on Djibouti and Eritrea to exercise restraint in their border dispute; and encourages the Chairperson of the Commission, with the necessary support of the two countries, to pursue his efforts towards a peaceful solution to the dispute and the normalization of relations and good neighbourhood between Djibouti and Eritrea;

9. *Expresses once more its concern* at the continuing political impasse and the security situation in Libya; urges the Libyan parties to overcome their current political differences, with a view to readjusting consensually the Libya Political Agreement, in order to enable its early implementation in a way that will create conditions conducive to an all-inclusive dialogue for sustainable peace and reconciliation in Libya; commends the AU High-Level Committee for Libya, chaired by H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso of Congo, which held its third meeting on 2 July 2017, in the margins of the current ordinary session, and welcomes the visit to Libya by an AU Ministerial delegation, including the Commissioner for Peace and Security; and also commends the efforts by neighbouring countries, as well as by the AU High Representative for Libya, former President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania, and the United Nations, for their continuing engagement in the search for a lasting solution to the Libyan crisis;

10. *Appeals* to all Congolese actors to work for the preservation of the still fragile gains in the path of peace and stability in the DRC, in particular the effective and consensual implementation of the 31 December 2016 Agreement, with a view to organizing elections in December 2017; in this regard, welcomes the initiatives taken thus far by the Chairperson of the Commission, including the dispatching, from 29 to 30 May, in Kinshasa, of a mission led by Commissioner for Peace and Security and comprising the representatives of the United Nations, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), guarantor institutions of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region, signed on 24 February 2013, in Addis Ababa; commends the DRC for its decision to ensure the financing of the electoral process through the government budget and to avail to the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) the necessary resources for the conduct of the electoral process and the organization of elections; calls for the urgent appointment of the Chairman and Members of the National Follow-up Council of the Agreement (CNSA), in order to establish the electoral calendar of the elections; expresses its deep concern at the prevailing security and humanitarian situation in the Kasai province; stresses the need to take all necessary steps to reenergize the cooperation and stabilization process in the DRC and the region, in conformity with the Framework Agreement; and calls upon the United Nations, the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Congo (MONUSCO), the Guarantors of the Framework Agreement and the member countries of the ICGLR and SADC to provide all the necessary support to this end;

11. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the peaceful resolution of the crisis in Burundi through the rapid launching of an inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue, under the aegis of the East African Community (EAC), with the support of the AU, under the leadership of the EAC Mediator, President Yoweri K. Museveni of Uganda, and his Facilitator, former President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, and requests all Burundians to participate actively and unconditionally in this process; calls upon the Burundian authorities to take all necessary steps to build the widest consensus possible on the ongoing process of revising the Constitution, with the participation of all Burundians and on the basis of the Arusha Agreement of 2000; in this regard, reaffirms the readiness of the AU High-Level Delegation of Heads of State to assist in efforts aimed at finding a lasting solution to the crisis in Burundi; and calls for the rapid signing of the Memorandum of Understanding relating to the activities of the human rights observers and the military experts of the AU;
12. *Expresses its deep concern* at the deteriorating security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) and strongly condemns the attacks against civilians and the troops of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Mission for Stabilization in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), as well as the destabilizing activities of the armed groups, and demands that they commit themselves resolutely to the DDR programmes and the pacification process in the country; reaffirms its full support to the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in CAR and calls on all Central African stakeholders, the United Nations and other partners to support this process.; welcomes the signing in Rome, on 19 June 2017, under the facilitation of the Sant' Egidio community, of the agreement between armed groups, including a country-wide ceasefire; urges Member States and partners to pursue and increase their assistance to the CAR and to contribute to the stabilization, post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts in the country;
13. *Calls on* all political actors in Guinea-Bissau to respect and implement the Conakry Agreement of October 2016 without any further delay, and urges all actors to refrain from actions or statements that could escalate tension and incite violence; commends the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for its continued efforts towards sustained peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau;
14. *Encourages* all Liberian stakeholders to continue to work together to consolidate peace in their country, in particular through creating conditions conducive to the holding of peaceful, free and transparent elections, with the support of the region, through ECOWAS, and the international community as a whole;
15. *Strongly condemns* the mutiny in Côte d'Ivoire and reaffirms the imperative for the defence and security forces to remain strictly subordinated to the civilian authorities; reiterates its support to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for its efforts aimed at consolidating reconciliation, which will enable the strengthening of peace and stability in the country, with a view to maintaining high economic growth for the benefit of the Ivorian people;
16. *Commends* the new authorities in Gambia and ECOWAS for their joint efforts to promote lasting peace, stability and socio-economic recovery in the country and encourages them to continue on this path; reaffirms the AU's full support to the post-crisis stabilization, reconstruction and development process in Gambia and invites those Member States, with means to second experts in SSR, justice and development, in line with the decision of the 694th meeting of the PSC; commends the Chairperson of the Commission for the dispatching of a High-Level Needs Assessment Mission in Gambia;
17. *Urges once again* all the Malian parties to redouble their efforts to overcome the challenges facing the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, which is the only framework that can make it possible to achieve lasting peace and reconciliation in Mali; in this regard, welcomes the progress made during the period, especially the establishment of the Interim Authorities and the convening of the National Accord Conference; reaffirms its firm condemnation of the despicable terrorist attacks against the civilian populations, the Malian and international forces of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Mission for Stabilization in Mali (MINSUMA) and the Operation Barkhane; welcomes the timely initiative of the G5 Sahel, namely Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad, which led to the establishment of the G5 Sahel Joint Force; further welcomes the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of resolution 2359 (2017) on the deployment of the G5 Joint Force and expresses its appreciation to the European Union (EU) for the financial support to the initiative of the G5

Sahel; requests the Commission to organize, as soon as possible, a meeting of the member countries of the Nouakchott Process to discuss their support to the G5 Sahel initiative, within the framework of the AU Strategy for the Sahel region;

18. *Stresses* that terrorism continues to be one of the greatest threats to peace, security, stability and development in the AU Member States and in the regions and notes that terrorist groups affiliated to Al-Qaeda and to the so-called Islamic State (IS), continued to be active in Somalia, in Libya, in the Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel region; reaffirms its conviction that success in the fight against terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism and transnational organized crime, is only possible with cooperation, solidarity and collective action; in this regard, stresses the need for Member States to implement the relevant African and international counter-terrorism instruments and to draw on existing cooperation frameworks, particularly the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the Committee on Intelligence and Security Services in Africa (CISSA) and the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL); stresses the importance of the Nouakchott and Djibouti Processes, which should be reinforced in order to fully play their role in efforts aimed at enhancing cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism;

19. *Congratulates* the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) of the Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), namely Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad, plus the Republic of Benin, for the significant progress made in the fight against the terrorist group of Boko Haram and encourages them to pursue their efforts, with the support of the AU and the international community; expresses its concern about the humanitarian situation in the north-east of Nigeria, resulting from the security situation and calls on the international community to provide the necessary assistance, commensurate to the needs of the affected people in the area; furthermore, notes with appreciation that, thanks to the efforts of the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA-RCI), particularly its military component, the Regional Task Force (RTF), the LRA is no longer a direct military threat to the States of the region; in this respect, commends the countries of the region for their invaluable contribution to this effort and stresses the need to do everything possible to ensure that the withdrawal of the Ugandan and United States forces does not compromise the gains made;* calls on the Member countries of the RCI-LRA to continue their action against the LRA, with the support of the AU Member States, United Nations and partners;

20. *Recognizes* the progress made in the operationalization and implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), in synergy with the African Governance Architecture (AGA); encourages the RECs/RMs and the AU Commission, with the support of the United Nations, the EU and other partners, and the participation of civil society, to pursue the efforts towards ensuring the full functioning of all APSA components, under the guidance of the Peace and Security Council; takes note of the steps taken with regard to the African Standby Force, in particular the review of its doctrine and the upcoming verification of pledges made by the regions; looks forward to the early inauguration of the Continental Logistic Base in Douala, Cameroon; also takes note of the activities conducted in the context of the African Capacity for the Immediate Response to Crisis (ACIRC), in particular with regard to the status of readiness in line with the Luanda Declaration of December 2016;

21. *Calls on* the RECs/RMs and Member States to prioritize implementation of the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy (PCRD) and to recommit themselves to the African Solidarity Initiative, placing it as a priority in the spirit of African solidarity; expresses its appreciation to AU partners and calls on them to pursue and intensify their support to the AU's PCRD activities;

22. *Reaffirms* the imperative need for Africa, within the framework of APSA, to encourage and strengthen its action in crisis and conflict prevention; in this regard, urges the Peace and Security Council, the Panel of the Wise and the Commission, in relation with Member States and RECs/RMs, in close cooperation with the United Nations and other relevant actors, to redouble efforts for conflict prevention, in particular with regard to conflict and violence related to elections on the continent, in line with the relevant provisions of the Protocol relating to the establishment of Peace and Security Council and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;

* Editor's note: The words "does not" have been added to align this phrase with the French text.

23. *Takes note with satisfaction* the steps taken towards the implementation of its decisions on the AU Peace Fund; endorses the communiqué of the 689th meeting of the PSC, in particular the governance structures and eligibility criteria of the Peace Fund, taking into consideration representation of AU Member States in the governing structures of the Peace Fund, based on regional representation, and the modalities to implement it, in addition to the operating costs of the Fund; further endorses the scope of operations to be submitted, on a case by case basis, for authorization by the United Nations Security Council and subsequent financing through United Nations assessed contributions; thanks those Member States that have already paid their annual contribution to the Peace Fund and urges those who have not yet done so as to expedite the payment of their contributions as soon as possible; pays tribute to the High Representative for the Peace Fund and the Financing of the Union, Dr. Donald Kaberuka, for his relentless efforts towards the implementation of the AU Peace Fund;

24. *Welcomes* the signing, on 19 April 2017, of the AU-United Nations Framework on Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, and encourages the Chairperson of the Commission, including through his High Representative for the Peace Fund and the Financing of the Union, Dr. Donald Kaberuka, to continue engaging the United Nations towards greater support to the AU's peace efforts, in line with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter; in this regard, requests the Chairperson of the Commission to take forward the political engagement to secure, in the course of 2017, a substantive United Nations Security Council resolution on the use of assessed contributions to support AU mandated or authorized missions in 2017;

25. *Welcomes* the commitment of the A3 Group, namely Egypt, Ethiopia and Senegal, to continue to promote and defend African common interests and positions on peace and security issues within the United Nations Security Council, in line with the conclusions of the High-Level Seminars on Peace and Security held in Oran, Algeria; commends Egypt and Ethiopia for providing updates to the PSC on the activities of the A3 since January 2017; congratulates Côte d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea for their election as African members of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2018/2019 and looks forward to their contributions towards fostering the AU's common interest and concerns in the United Nations Security Council, in line with the AU Assembly decision of January 2016;

26. *Endorses* the Conclusions of the Retreat of the Peace and Security Council on the Implementation of the Conclusions of Successive PSC Retreats and the Related Adoptive Decisions from 2007 to 2016, held from 3 to 5 May 2017, in Kigali, Rwanda.

Assembly/AU/Dec.645 (XXIX)

Decision on the Inaugural Report of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the Implementation of the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020 (Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (XXIX))

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* its Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted on 25 May 2013, in which it pledged not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020, as well as Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII) by which the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 to 31 January 2017 adopted the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020;

2. *Expresses deep concern* over the scourge of illegal weapons/arms, their illicit proliferation and use in various parts of Africa, where they cause countless deaths, untold suffering, population displacement, disruption of livelihoods, destruction of infrastructure and disruption of economic activities, which all combine to undermine efforts to realize the maiden goal of creating a conflict-free, integrated and prosperous Africa, as envisioned in Agenda 2063; further expresses deep concern over the scourge of illicit financial flows and trade in illicit goods;

3. *Commends:*

(i) The Peace and Security Council (PSC) for the work it has done as reflected in its Inaugural Report on the Implementation of the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020, and encourages it to continue mobilizing support from all concerned stakeholders within the continent and beyond for sustained implementation of the AU Master Road Map;

(ii) All Member States, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), as well as civil society organizations, in collaboration with the AU Commission for their efforts in implementing the AU Master Road Map;

4. *Appeals* to all AU Member States and RECs/RMs to redouble efforts in further strengthening their governance institutions, as part of the continental mobilization to ensure strong response to illicit weapons, their proliferation and use on the continent, as well as to illicit financial flows, production of dangerous drugs, as well as trade in illicit goods and illegal exploitation of natural resources;

5. *Calls on* all AU Member States and RECs/RMs to further strengthen their oversight and accountability mechanisms, including reinforcing legislative, operational and regulatory frameworks between countries and regions within the continent; further calls on AU Member States and RECs/RMs to enhance cooperation towards effective regulations and controls to prevent the diversion or re-export of weapons/arms;

6. *Stresses* the importance of promoting and supporting the involvement of youth and women in addressing the problem of proliferation and use of illegal weapons, as well as movement of illegal weapons and other illicit goods; in this respect, underscores the need to establish regional research institutions where they do not exist, considering that sound analytical and empirical research on weapons/arms proliferation will better equip the leadership with adequate information to facilitate decision-making;

7. *Emphasizes the need* to address root causes of conflicts, as well as undertaking effective security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and re-integration programmes in countries emerging from conflict, in order to avoid relapse and fresh exposure to inflow of illegal weapons and violence, as well as to trafficking of other illicit goods;

8. *Requests* the Commission, as also requested by the PSC in its press statement (PSC/PR/BR.(CDXXX)) of its 430th meeting held on 24 April 2014, to submit and present to the PSC, the outcomes of the continent-wide mapping exercise which was launched in early 2017, with a view to generating concrete data on patterns and trends in illegal weapons and ammunition inflows and cross-border flows, diversion and circulation, as well as gaps in control measures in Member States, in order to strengthen AU remedial efforts;

9. *Declares* the month of September, of each year till 2020, as "Africa Amnesty Month" for the surrender and collection of illegally owned weapons/arms, in line with the African and international best practices. In this context, pronounces as follows:

(i) Persons who surrender their illegally owned weapons/arms shall not be subjected to disclosure, humiliation, arrest or prosecution;

(ii) Persons who fail to surrender their illegally owned weapons/arms beyond the Africa Amnesty month, shall automatically be considered to be in violation of national laws and the amnesty and shall therefore be prosecuted according to the national laws of the Member States;

(iii) All Member States, RECs/RMs as well as civil society organizations shall give wide publicity, through all media networks, to the Africa Amnesty Month within their territories and regions; and

(iv) Requests Member States to adhere to and promote the Africa Amnesty Month, September each year, and mobilize their citizens to actively participate in the efforts to silence the guns;

10. *Acknowledges* that as part of the efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and practices throughout the continent, political will and commitment is a fundamental necessity for success in silencing the guns; in this regard, urges Member States, for those that have not yet done so, to submit their State reports on their implementation of the provisions of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG); and, furthermore, commends the Togolese Republic, as the only country to have submitted its State report on the implementation of the ACDEG;

11. *Urges* Member States to enhance civil-military collaboration through community-based intelligence gathering, notably through the Nouakchott and Djibouti processes, to support the national security agencies' efforts in curbing cross-border movement of illegal weapons and also movement of such weapons from one conflict to another or to zones that are peaceful, on the continent as a whole;

12. *Requests* the AU Member States to communicate to the AU Commission on their efforts in implementing the AU Master Road Map, once a year, after the Africa Amnesty Month and before the AU January Summit, in order to facilitate continuous assessment of its implementation, as well as sharing information and experience;

13. *Urges* AU Member States to demonstrate more commitment and to continue mobilizing for the signing and ratification of the OAU/AU treaties/instruments, as well as their implementation, in particular the signing and ratification of instruments that are essential for the full and effective implementation of the AU Master Road Map; in this context and considering the outcomes of the study conducted in 2008, as well as the reasons provided by Member States on the non-signature, non-ratification and non-implementation of the treaties/agreements, requests the AU Commission to convene a meeting of experts of AU Member States to review the OAU/AU treaty making process and make recommendations that will be submitted for consideration by the relevant AU policy organs in the course of 2017. In this regard, a report of the outcome of this process should be submitted to the ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union in January 2018;

14. *Encourages* AU Member States to speed up signing and ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 2 April 2013, which has the potential to play an important role in silencing the guns in Africa;

15. *Calls on* AU partners to adhere and fully support the implementation of the AU Master Road Map.

Assembly/AU/Dec.646 (XXIX)

**Decision on the Report of the Chairperson of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XXIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the African Union High-Level Committee presented by the Chair of the Committee;

2. *Invites* the African Union Commission to do its utmost to improve the coordination and harmonization of the initiatives of the different African actors involved in efforts to resolve the Libyan crises within the framework of the implementation of the Libyan Political Accord;

3. *Decides* that the Representative of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya, together with the High Representative of the African Union, should jointly participate in the activities of the Quartet;

4. *Commends* all the Libyan stakeholders for the momentum generated through the establishment of dialogue committees; and urges them to uphold the supreme interest of Libya by embracing the process of dialogue to end the crisis;
5. *Agrees* to convene a national reconciliation meeting in Addis Ababa, at a date to be determined;
6. *Reiterates* the rejection of any external interference in the affairs of Libya;
7. *Requests* the Commission, in consultation with the Member States, to formulate a Common Position on the issue of migration and its linkage with criminal and terrorist networks;
8. *Commends* H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo and Chairperson of the High-Level Committee on Libya, as well as all members of the Committee, for all the efforts made with a view to finding a solution to the crisis;
9. *Also commends* H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and High Representative of the African Union for Libya, for his efforts towards bringing about lasting peace in Libya.

Assembly/AU/Dec.647 (XXIX)

**Decision on the Continental Free Trade Area
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XXIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the report on the status of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) negotiations submitted by H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger and Champion of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Process;
2. *Reaffirms* the African Union's commitment to conclude the negotiations of the Continental Free Trade Area by December 2017;
3. *Approves* the modalities for trade in services negotiations as well as modalities for tariff negotiations with a level of ambition of 90 per cent in line with the adopted Modalities and urges the Ministers to conclude negotiations on sensitive and exclusion lists;
4. *Requests* the Commission to secure supplementary funding for the Revised Schedule of Meetings to enable the AU Member States to conclude the draft legal text and annexes by December 2017;
5. *Calls upon* AU Member States to undertake nationwide stakeholder sensitization activities so that all citizens of African countries are fully aware and own the process of establishing the Continental Free Trade Area.

Assembly/AU/Dec.648 (XXIX)

**Decision on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XXIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the nineteenth report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the reform of the United Nations Security Council;

2. *Reiterates* the need to reform the United Nations to conform to the present geopolitical realities, in particular, the need to address Africa's non-representation in the permanent category of the United Nations Security Council and its under-representation in the non-permanent category;

3. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the progress made by the C10 in advocating and canvassing support for the Common African Position as outlined in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 2005 Sirte Declaration on the United Nations Security Council Reform;

4. *Welcomes*, in that regard, the growing acceptance of the legitimacy of the Common African Position, which underscores that Africa deserves a place in the permanent category of the United Nations Security Council;

5. *Reaffirms* its strong commitment to the Common African Position espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration as the only viable option for Africa's full representation at the United Nations Security Council;

6. *Reiterates* that full representation of Africa in the United Nations Security Council means:

(i) Not less than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership, including the right of veto;

(ii) Five non-permanent seats;

(iii) That the African Union reserves the right to select its representatives for election to the United Nations Security Council to act in its name and on its behalf;

(iv) That all African Union Member States should remain firmly committed to preserving Africa's unity and solidarity on all aspects of the reform process of the Security Council, including participation within and outside the intergovernmental negotiations, and continue to speak cohesively with one voice in unity of purpose on all aspects of the reform process;

(v) That the African Union Member States in New York with dual membership should withdraw such membership from all other interest groups, in order to further consolidate the Common African Position as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;

7. *Requests*:

(i) The Committee of Ten to heighten its engagement with all interest groups, and stakeholders, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, with a view to achieving tangible progress on the United Nations Security Council reform process;

(ii) The Committee of Ten to develop a comprehensive strategy to consolidate gains made so far, as well as further engagement with a view to achieve tangible progress;

(iii) AU Member States to include the issue of the United Nations Security Council reform among their foreign policy priorities in their engagements with non-African partners, in particular, the need to correct without further delay, the historical injustice that the African continent continues to endure;

(iv) All AU Member States, to include in their respective national statements at the opening of the seventy-second session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2017, the call for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council with emphasis on the urgent need to address the demands of the Common African Position;

8. *Decides*:

- (i) That the Common African Position on the reform of the United Nations Security Council shall be a strategic item on the Assembly's agenda and work plan, and in this regard, requests the Commission to facilitate the work of the C-10 for the fulfilment of the Committee's mandate;
- (ii) That the Committee of Ten remains seized of its mandate until Africa achieves its objectives on the Security Council reform.

Assembly/AU/Dec.649 (XXIX)

Decision on the AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) Report

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the meeting of the AIDS Watch Africa Heads of State and Government and the recommendations therein;
2. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of Member States to strengthen health systems in line with the Africa Health Strategy (2016-2030) and the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030;
3. *Urges* Member States to further pursue initiatives to build strong Human Resources for Health (HRH) including harnessing the role of community health workers (CHWs); endorses the two million CHWs initiative and requests UNAIDS, WHO and other partners to support and facilitate its implementation;
4. *Applauds*, the significant progress made in the reduction of mortality and new rates of HIV infection, recognizes the importance to address the unmet needs of young people and adolescents so as to harness the demographic dividend; but concerned that the West and Central Africa region is lagging behind and the urgent need to address hepatitis B co-infection; endorses the Emergency Catch-up Plan to accelerate the HIV response and requests UNAIDS, WHO and other partners to support and facilitate its implementation;
5. *Commends* Member States who have pledged support to the Fifth Global Fund Replenishment and encourages others to contribute to the fund;
6. *Gravely concerned* that TB, a concomitant infection of HIV, continues to lag behind in terms of investments and response; calls upon Member States to increase coverage and access to services for detection and treatment of TB, Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) particularly for people living with HIV, children and mine workers;
7. *Calls upon* Member States and development partners to support the AU Campaign to Eliminate New HIV Infections in Children and Keep Mothers Alive as part of the Start Free, Stay Free, AIDS Free Collaborative Framework;
8. *Commends* efforts towards the implementation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) and its Business Plan including plans to establish a Fund for African Pharmaceutical Development (FAP-D) and the progress being made towards the establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA);
9. *Commits* to sustain the gains made in the fight against malaria and monitor antimalarial drug resistance and insecticide resistance; commits also to invest in the development and regulation of the gene-drive technology as well as other new innovations including next generation insecticides for Indoor Residual Spraying and Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets, Rapid Diagnostic Tests and Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy for the elimination of malaria and requests the Commission, WHO and NEPAD Agency to support these initiatives;

10. *Endorses* the AWA Strategic Framework (2016-2030) and requests the Commission working with partners and Member States to expeditiously facilitate its implementation;

11. *Reaffirms* our commitments to the Abuja 15 per cent target on domestic financing for health and requests the Commission to continue to produce the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health annually to monitor progress;

12. *Requests:*

(i) The Chairperson of the Assembly, H.E. President Alpha Condé, to engage relevant partners, particularly the G20, in support of strengthening Human Resources for Health in Africa including the two million Community Health Initiative and urges the Commission, in collaboration with UNAIDS, WHO and other partners to support the countries' efforts to implement the initiative and report yearly on progress;

(ii) The Chairperson of AWA to report on the progress made to the June/July 2018 ordinary session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.650 (XXIX)

**Decision on the Report of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, on the Implementation of the Decision on the Institutional Reform of the African Union (Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII))
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (XXIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* H.E Paul Kagame's Progress Report on the Implementation of the Decision on the Institutional Reform of the African Union;

2. *Takes note* of the progress made so far in taking forward the Institutional Reform Decision and urges implementation in line with the timelines and benchmarks in the Progress Report;

3. *Commends* the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for the steps taken to establish the Reform Implementation Unit in his Bureau and calls for the swift operationalization of the Unit;

4. *Reiterates* that the implementation process will incorporate proposals and suggestions made and accepted by Member States;

5. *Commends* the work of President Paul Kagame, President Alpha Condé and President Idris Déby in supervising the implementation of the Institutional Reform process.

Assembly/AU/Dec.651 (XXIX)

Decision on the Full Integration of NEPAD into the African Union Commission

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) and its annex adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2017 reaffirming that NEPAD should be fully integrated into the African Union Commission as the African Union's development agency, aligned with the agreed priorities and underpinned by an enhanced results-monitoring framework;

2. *Decides* to disband the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) from the January 2018 Summit and expresses its appreciation to the HSGOC for the political leadership and strategic orientation that it gave to NEPAD programmes in recent years;
3. *Requests* the Commission, in consultation with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), to take all the necessary measures to ensure the full integration of NEPAD into the Commission and report thereon to the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2018.

Assembly/AU/Dec.652 (XXIX)

**Decision on the Proposal to Declare the Period of 2018 to 2027 as the
African Decade for Technical, Professional, Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment
(Item proposed by Burkina Faso)
(Doc. EX.CL/1035 (XXXI) Add.1)**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal made by Burkina Faso regarding the "Proclamation of the period 2018-2027, as the African Decade for Technical, Professional, Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment";
2. *Declares* the 2018-2027 period, the African Decade for Technical, Professional and Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment;
3. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with Burkina Faso and partners of the AU, to develop a detailed plan of action for the Decade and set up a Continental Dialogue Platform on Skills Development in Africa. The plan of action should be submitted to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2018 through the competent organs.

Assembly/AU/Dec.653 (XXIX) Rev.1

Decision on the Issue of Western Sahara

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the return of the Kingdom of Morocco to the African family, a return which it hopes will enhance the capacities of the organization to address the different challenges and various crises affecting the continent, including the promotion of elements of a solution acceptable to the parties in line with the relevant decisions of the AU and the resolutions of the United Nations on Western Sahara;
2. *Also welcomes* the significant decrease in tension in the territory and the withdrawal of forces from the areas of confrontation, particularly the Guerguerat, as well as the commencement of the return of MINURSO staff;
3. *Commends* the appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a new Special Envoy accepted by the parties to the conflict, in the person of H.E. Mr. Horst Kohler, former President of Germany;
4. *Urges* the Chairpersons of the African Union and the AU Commission, on the basis of the Framework Agreement signed between the AU and the United Nations on 19 May 2017 in New York, to ensure appropriate support for the initiative which the United Nations Secretary-General plans to undertake in order to reach an agreement on a consensual and definitive solution to the conflict;
5. *Requests* the Chairpersons of the African Union and the AU Commission, in consultation with the AU Peace and Security Council, to take appropriate measures (including the possible revitalization of the Committee of Heads of State decided in 1978) to support the efforts of the United Nations and encourage the parties, both of

whom are now members of the African Union, to cooperate in good faith towards ensuring the success of the new process;

6. *Also requests* the Chairperson of the AU Commission to report to the Assembly in January 2018 on the measures and initiatives he might take on the issue, alone or with the Chairperson of the African Union, in partnership with the United Nations;

7. *Remains* seized of the issue.

Assembly/AU/Dec.654 (XXIX)

**Decision on the Appointment of Two Members of the African Union Commission
(Doc. EX.CL/1037 (XXXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of the Commissioner of Human Resources, Science and Technology and the Commissioner of Economic Affairs by the Executive Council;

2. *Appoints* the following two elected members of the African Union Commission:

No.	Name	Gender	Country	Region	Portfolio
1.	Sarah Mbil Enow Anyang Agbor	Female	Cameroon	Central	Human Resources, Science and Technology
2.	Victor Harison	Male	Madagascar	East	Economic Affairs

3. *Congratulates* the newly elected Commissioners.

Assembly/AU/Dec.655 (XXIX)

**Decision on the Appointment of Four Members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption
(Doc. EX.CL/1038 (XXXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of four members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC) by the Executive Council;

2. *Appoints* the following three members of the AUABC for a two-year term:

No.	Name	Gender	Country	Region
1.	Hocine Aït Chaalal	Male	Algeria	North Africa
2.	Anne-Marie Rose Mougemba née Kibongui-Saminou	Female	Congo	Central Africa
3.	Sabina Seja	Female	Tanzania	East Africa

3. *Decides* that the remaining one member will be elected at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Executive Council only from among the female candidates from the Northern Region in accordance with the Modalities on Implementation of Criteria for Equitable Geographical and Gender Representation in the African Union adopted by the Executive Council in January 2016 in Decision EX.CL/Dec.907 (XXVIII).

Assembly/AU/Dec.656 (XXIX)

**Decision on the Appointment of Four Members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/1039 (XXXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of four members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following four members of the ACHPR for a six-year term:

No.	Name	Country	Gender	Region
1.	Hatem Essaiem	Tunisia	Male	North Africa
2.	Maria Teresa Manuela	Angola	Female	Southern Africa
3.	Rémy Ngoy Lumbu	DRC	Male	Central Africa
4.	Maya Sahli Fadel	Algeria	Female	North Africa

Assembly/AU/Dec.657 (XXIX)

Decision on the Dates and Venue of the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the dates of the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme "Winning The Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation" shall be the following:
 - (i) Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC): 22 to 23 January 2018;
 - (ii) Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 25 to 26 January 2018;
 - (iii) Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 28 to 29 January 2018;
2. *Requests* the Commission to put in place all the necessary measures in order to organize the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly as well as the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC according to the aforementioned dates.

Assembly/AU/Dec.658 (XXIX)

**Decision on the Dates and Venue of the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union
(Proposed by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania)**

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the dates of the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, shall be the following:

- (i) Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC): 25 to 26 June 2018;
- (ii) Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 28 to 29 June 2018;
- (iii) Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 1 to 2 July 2018;

2. *Requests* the Commission to put in place all the necessary measures in order to organize the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly as well as the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC according to the aforementioned dates.

Assembly/AU/Dec.659 (XXIX)

**Decision on Ending Child Marriage in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XXIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* the progress report and recommendations on the Common African Position on Ending Child Marriage in Africa presented by H.E. Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia and Continental Champion on Ending Child Marriage in Africa;

2. *Commends* all the Member States of the African Union that have launched the African Union Campaign on Ending Child Marriage in their countries and urges those that have not launched the Campaign, to do so;

3. *Urges* all Member States, to fully implement legal instruments that empower the girl child, to integrate activities and programmes on the girl child in national development frameworks and to allocate adequate budgetary provisions;

4. *Urges* Member States to commit to keeping the girl child in school up to tertiary level, regardless of their status, mindful of the potential contribution of girls to economic development;

5. *Further urges* Member States who have not done so, to specify the minimum age of marriage in line with the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women and to enact appropriate national legislative measures to guarantee that every marriage shall be recorded in writing and registered in accordance with national laws, in order to be legally recognized;

6. *Strongly condemns* the abduction and forcible marriages of young girls, particularly in conflict situations, and commits to prosecute the perpetrators of these vices;

7. *Requests* H.E. the Champion on Ending Child Marriage in Africa, to keep the matter under active consideration and present a progress report at the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2018.

Assembly/AU/Dec.660 (XXIX)

**Decision on the Implementation of the Theme of the Year
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XXIX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the theme of the year 2017: “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth”;
2. *Commends* H.E. Mr. Idris Deby Itno, Leader of the theme of the year 2017, for his commitment to African youth;
3. *Welcomes* the successful organization of a Pan-African Youth Forum in N'Djamena, Chad, from 29 June to 1 July 2017;
4. *Commends* the African youth for their active participation in the Forum;
5. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Forum and requests the Commission to ensure their implementation;
6. *Also takes note* of the progress report of the Leader of the theme of the year 2017;
7. *Further takes note* of the progress report of the Commission on the implementation of the theme of the year 2017;
8. *Urges* Member States which have not yet done so to ratify the African Youth Charter;
9. *Requests* the Commission and the Pan-African Youth Union (PYU) to accelerate the implementation of their joint MoU which binds them;
10. *Commends* Member States for the successful launch of the theme of the year 2017 in their respective countries and requests those which have not yet launched the theme to do so;
11. *Takes note* of the implementation by the Commission of the pilot projects on technical and vocational training and non-formal education within the framework of the implementation of continental strategies;
12. *Welcomes* the proclamation of the period 2018-2027 as the "African Decade for Technical, Vocational and Entrepreneurial Training, and Youth Employment " and the creation of the African Youth Fund;
13. *Calls upon* Member States to make available adequate resources for the leadership and the empowerment of African youth and the implementation of national plans for youth development;
14. *Invites* the Leader of the theme of the year 2017 to follow up on the conclusions of the Pan-African Youth Forum in N'Djamena;
15. *Decides* to institutionalize the Pan-African Youth Forum.

Assembly/AU/Dec.661 (XXIX)

**Decision on the Establishment of the African Youth Fund
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XXIX))**

The Assembly,

Within the framework of the implementation of the theme of the year 2017 and pursuant to Decision EX.CL/Dec.921 (XXIX) of July 2016,

1. *Endorses* the establishment of the African Youth Fund;

2. *Requests* the Commission to present, at the January 2018 session of the Assembly, all the instruments for the management of the Fund, in accordance with the feasibility study of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Youth (July 2008);
3. *Authorizes*, pending the presentation of the said instrument, the allocation to the African Youth Fund of an amount at least equal to 1 per cent of the programme budget of the African Union Commission;
4. *Requests* the Commission to enlist the support of all partners of the African Union for the African Youth Fund.

Assembly/AU/Dec.662 (XXIX)

Decision on the Reports of the Heads of State and Government Leaders

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* H.E. Prof. Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea and Chairperson of the Union, for appointing Heads of State and Government leaders to champion and advocate continental strategic issues;
2. *Also commends* the Leaders, for their relentless efforts and invaluable contributions in advancing continental priorities within the framework of Agenda 2063, namely:
 - (i) H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, Leader and Chairperson of the High-Level Committee on Libya;
 - (ii) H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South African, Leader on African Union-United Nations Cooperation;
 - (iii) H.E. Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, Leader on the Continent's Political Integration;
 - (iv) H.E. Mr. Edgar Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, Leader on Combating Early Marriage of Young Girls;
 - (v) H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, Leader on Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Issues;
 - (vi) H.E. Mr. Idriss Déby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, Leader of the Theme of the Year 2017;
 - (vii) H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Leader on the Implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP);
 - (viii) H.E. Mr. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of the Togolese Republic, Leader on Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Africa;
 - (ix) H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Leader on the Thorny Issue of Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa;
 - (x) His Majesty Mohamed VI, King of Morocco, Leader on the Migration Issue;
 - (xi) H.E. Mr. Alassane Dramane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Leader on the Follow-up of the Implementation of African Union Agenda 2063;

(xii) H.E. Mr. Nana Akufo Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, Leader on Gender and Development Issues in Africa;

(xiii) H.E. Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Leader and Chairperson of the Committee of Ten (C10) on the United Nations Security Council Reform;

(xiv) H.E. Mr. Paul Kagamé, President of the Republic of Rwanda, Leader on the Institutional Reform of the African Union;

(xv) H.E. Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Gabonese Republic and Chairperson of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC);

3. *Congratulates* the Leaders who presented progress reports:

(i) H.E. Mr. Paul Kagamé, President of the Republic of Rwanda, Leader on the Institutional Reform of the African Union;

(ii) H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, Leader on Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Issues;

(iii) H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Leader on the Thorny Issue of Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa;

(iv) H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, Leader and Chairperson of the High-Level Committee on Libya;

(v) H.E. Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Leader and Chairperson of the Committee of Ten (C10) on the United Nations Security Council Reform;

(vi) H.E. Mr. Edgar Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, Leader on Combating Early Marriage of Young Girls;

4. *Requests* the Commission to continue working closely with Leaders to provide the necessary assistance to effectively discharge their mandate;

5. *Encourages* the Leaders to continue the commendable work in advocating the implementation of decisions related to their respective portfolios and tasks the Commission to report to the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.663 (XXIX)

Decision on the Appointment of the New Members of the Panel of the Wise

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.543 (XXIII) adopted at its Twenty-third Ordinary Session held in Malabo in June 2014;

2. *Takes note* of the end of the term of the current members of the Panel of the Wise (Lakhdar Brahimi of Algeria, Dr. Speciosa Wandira of Uganda, Mrs. Luisa Diogo of Mozambique, Mrs. Albina Assis of Angola and Mr. Edem Kodjo of Togo) 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 Eastern Africa region, Dr. Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe, from Uganda, is currently a member of the Panel of the Wise of the African Union since June 2014. Dr. Wandira was a Deputy President of the Republic of Uganda;
 - (ii) For the Northern Africa region, Mr. Amr Moussa, from Egypt, who was the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2001 to 2011;
 - (iii) For the Western Africa region, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, from Liberia, is the twenty-fourth and current President of Liberia. Her current term of office will expire in January 2018. Dr. Sirleaf was the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner with Leymah Gbowee of Liberia and Tawakkol Karman of Yemen;
 - (iv) For the Central Africa region, Mrs. Honorine Nzet Bitéghé from Gabon, is the former Minister for Social Affairs and has been a long-time human rights activists, especially women's rights;
 - (v) For the Southern Africa region, Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, from Namibia, is the former President of the Republic of Namibia from 2005 to 2015;
5. *Further decides* that the outgoing members of the Panel of the Wise shall become members of the Group 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;
7. *Also decides* to strengthen the preventive role of the Panel of the Wise by urging it to accelerate the establishment of national peace infrastructures, including by harnessing the efforts of national mechanisms;
8. *Decides* on the operationalization of "Pan-African Network of Women Mediators", as a subsidiary body of the Panel of the Wise;
9. *Requests* the Commission to take the necessary steps to enhance the human resources of the Secretariat of the Panel of the Wise.

Assembly/AU/Dec.664 (XXIX)

Decision on the Appointment of the Incoming Chairperson of the African Union for 2018

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) that in order to ensure continuity and effective implementation of Assembly decisions, a troika arrangement between the outgoing, the current, and the incoming African Union Chairpersons shall be established, and that in this regard, the incoming Chairperson shall be selected one year in advance;

2. *Also recalls* the principle of rotation for the Chairpersonship of the African Union, and taking into account that 2018 will be the turn of the East African region;
3. *Takes note* of the outcome of the consultations by the East African region as reported by the Republic of Djibouti, Dean of the latter;
4. *Decides* that the incoming Chair of the African Union for 2018 will be the Republic of Rwanda.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIX)

**Declaration on the 2017 AU Theme of Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XXIX))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, following our debate on the 2017 theme of the year on “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth”,

Recalling AU Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.601 (XXVI), that declared 2017 as the year of “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth” and called for the development of a concrete road map with milestones and deliverables that would guide Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) towards harnessing the demographic dividend,

Further recalling:

Assembly/AU/Dec 121 (VII) of July 2006 in Banjul on the adoption of the African Youth Charter,

EX.CL/Dec 468 (XIV) of January 2009 in Addis Ababa on the second session of African Ministers in Charge of Youth (COMY II), and

EX.CL/Dec 921 (XXIX) of July 2016 in Kigali on the adoption of the road map of the theme of the year 2017,

Acknowledging that our ability to achieve the “Africa We Want” as envisioned in Agenda 2063 will depend on the investments we make in the youth of Africa who form the majority of the continent’s population,

Further acknowledging that the strategic pillars of the “AU Road Map on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth” on education and skills development; employment and entrepreneurship; health and wellbeing; and youth, rights and governance, all lie at the core of national, subregional and continental development frameworks and action towards achieving these must be expedited,

Recognizing that the success of Africa’s efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend must go beyond 2017, and that the systematic work involving all key stakeholders, towards achieving Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial to this end,

Welcoming the progress made so far across many African countries in implementing key aspects of the AU Road Map on the Demographic Dividend while noting the need for further action and implementation on all fronts,

Bearing in mind the centrality of demographic dynamics in Africa’s development agenda as well as the important role of ensuring voluntary access to family planning and to sexual and reproductive health in speeding up the demographic transition in many of our countries and the urgency to ensure adequate funding in these areas,

We hereby:

1. *Call on* the AUC to strengthen the Demographic Dividend coordination mechanisms, including the secretariat and country technical mechanisms frameworks, and further establish an accountability framework for tracking progress within the AUC and Member States;
2. *Further call upon* all Member States to redouble efforts towards the full implementation of the AU Road Map on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend in 2017 and beyond, including country launches with clear commitments, creation of demographic dividend profiles and the development of country-specific road maps that feed into national development plans, bearing in mind the need for an institutional mechanism for coordinating the activities under the road map;
3. *Commit* to annually report on progress of implementation of the AU Demographic Dividend Road Map and request the AU Commission, with the support of partners, to facilitate the preparation of annual reports;
4. *Call on* the AUC to champion the framing and branding of the Demographic Dividend to reflect the African reality, to build ownership of the concept by Africans from the highest levels of Heads of State and Government, ministers, parliamentarians, policy makers and youth;
5. *Welcome:*
 - (i) The creation of the African Youth Fund;
 - (ii) The proclamation of the period 2018-2027 as the "African Decade for Technical Training, Professional and Entrepreneurial and the Employment of Young People";
6. *Call on* the Chairperson of the Union, the Chairperson of the Commission and the Leader of the Theme to mobilize international support for Africa's efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend by calling for a special session of the United Nations General Assembly and the creation of a global partnership on the demographic dividend;
7. *Express appreciation* to the Chairperson of the Union, H.E. Prof. Alpha Conde, President of the Republic of Guinea and the Leader for the 2017 AU theme, H.E. Mr. Idris Deby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, for their leadership and commitment towards the commemoration of the theme and to key partners and stakeholders who responded to the call of AU Heads of State and Government in providing support to the continent's efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XXIX)

**Declaration on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East
(Doc. EX.CL/1019 (XXI))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3 to 4 July 2017,

Having taken note of the Report on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East and recalling all previous resolutions and decisions of the OAU/AU on the situation in Palestine for the maintenance of a lasting peace and security in the Middle East,

Reaffirming our total support for the Palestinian people in their just struggle against Israeli occupation, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, for the restoration of their legitimate right to establish an independent Palestinian State peacefully coexisting with the State of Israel,

Also reaffirming our desire to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant resolutions,

Calling for the establishment of the Palestinian State within the June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital in implementation of the principle of the two-State solution and United Nations resolution 194 on the return of Palestinian refugees,

Reiterating our call for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides with a view to reaching a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East and expressing our support for all initiatives aimed at finding a lasting solution within a fixed timeframe,

Stressing our strong position in support of the Palestinian question and the African Union's continued search for a comprehensive and just peace for the Palestinian people,

Appealing to all Member States to deploy efforts for the realization of this endeavour in their international relations and in accordance with previous relevant decisions and taking into account the solid foundation on which the African Union is established, notably people's freedom to determine their destiny, considering Israel an occupying State and therefore cooperation by the countries of the continent with this State should not be at the expense of African support for the Palestinian question,

Reaffirming that settlements built in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights are illegal, condemning the Israeli policy designed to change the landscape and demographic status of Palestine and imposing the status quo, particularly in the vicinity of East Jerusalem, as well as the Judaization campaign aimed at changing the Islamic and the Christian character of the holy city and, also condemning the policy of land grabbing, demolition of houses and forced displacement of civilians coupled with the collective punishment measures,

Condemning Israeli practices against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, also rejecting the so-called administrative custody and repressive measures and torture imposed on detainees, particularly children and women, in Israeli prisons, which deprives them of their minimum rights guaranteed by the international human rights laws and norms, including the Geneva Convention on the rights of women and children, and calling upon the Israeli Government to release Palestinian detainees in the Israeli prisons unconditionally,

Denouncing Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territories and the escalation and tension caused by the Israeli Government and Israeli settlers as well as the policy of summary execution implemented in occupied Palestinian territories against unarmed civilians in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians during war,

Calling upon the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities in providing protection for the unarmed Palestinian people from the machinery of occupation in implementation of international laws, conventions and agreements,

Hereby declare the following:

1. *Request* AU Member States and countries of the world to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative;
2. *Appeal* to all States to refrain from any measures that will undermine the final two-State solution, particularly transfer of embassies and diplomatic missions accredited to Israel to Al Quds which is an occupied Palestinian territory;
3. *Call upon* the international community to apply pressure on Israel to stop all settlement activities, release all Palestinian prisoners in all Israeli prisons and support the efforts of Palestinian to join international agencies and adhere to international conventions and protocols;

4. *Reject* and condemn settlements built by the Israeli occupation force and call upon the international community to bring pressure to bear on Israel for it to put an immediate end to its settlement expansion policy in implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 of 24 December 2016, considering that settlements are a real obstacle to the maintenance of peace and resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the principle of the two-State solution, call upon all Member States to strictly adhere to the provisions of paragraph 5 of the Security Council resolution 2334 and refrain from rendering any assistance to Israel that can be used for its settlement activities;
5. *Reject* the land and sea blockade imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip, causing the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation there and request that all restrictions imposed on the Gaza Strip be lifted immediately;
6. *Reiterate* the need for the United Nations Security Council to shoulder its responsibility in maintaining international peace and security and taking all necessary steps for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in all aspects and reaching a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on the principle of the two-State solution within the 1967 borders and the implementation of the provisions of the relevant international law and previous resolutions of the Council;
7. *Request* AU Member States to boycott goods and commodities produced in, and exported from, the colonial settlements built in occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem;
8. *Commend and support* the outcomes of the international peace conference with the participation of the United Nations held in France on 15 January 2017 with the aim of launching serious negotiations for the settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the two-State solution, which guarantees the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent sovereign State in the territories occupied in 1967 in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;
9. *Reiterate*, in light of Israel's persistent lack of a prompt and positive response to the regional and international initiatives for the resumption peace negotiations to end its occupation and settlement policy as well as establish a just and lasting peace, our strong adherence to the Common African Position in support of the peace process and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State in line with the decisions and declarations of the successive of African Summits;
10. *Support* the Palestinians for their vision on the final resolution of the conflict based on the principle of the two-State solution while rejecting any fragmented and half-baked solution of a temporary State and recognition of Israel as a Jewish State;
11. *Welcome* the UNESCO's resolution of 26 October 2016 on the preservation of the current status of the Old City of Jerusalem and call upon all stakeholders to adhere to the full implementation of this resolution;
12. *Reiterate* that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories to the 1967 borders, including the Syrian Golan Heights and territories still under occupation in Southern Lebanon.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XXIX)

**Declaration on Accelerating Implementation of International Health Regulations in Africa
(Doc. EX.CL/1026 (XXXI))**

We, the Heads of State and Government, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly from 3 to 4 July 2017,

Deeply concerned about the increasing public health events and recurrent epidemics on our continent and their enormous socio-economic impact, as well as the inadequate implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR),

Noting the progress made so far in improving the health security of Africa in general and in particular controlling the Ebola outbreak in West Africa as well as ongoing efforts in tackling Yellow Fever, Zika, Chikungunya, Cholera among others,

Mindful of the efforts being made by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in disease surveillance, detection and response including emergency preparedness, as well as its important role in further strengthening the International Health Regulations (IHR) on our continent,

Mindful also of the important role played by the Commission, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other stakeholders in the improvement of health security in Africa,

Recognizing that a fundamental part of the governments' basic duty is to protect its citizens against health insecurity, risks and emergencies and considering the importance of meeting IHR core capacities in disease outbreak prevention, preparedness and response,

1. *Commit* to:

(i) Accelerate the implementation of IHR at national, provincial and local levels with a clear road map and monitoring mechanisms;

(ii) Put in place multi-sectorial mechanisms to accelerate the implementation of IHR;

(iii) Mobilize the necessary resources to implement the road maps for acceleration of implementation of IHR;

2. *Request* the Commission, the Africa CDC in collaboration with WHO and other stakeholders to:

(i) Provide the necessary technical support to Member States for accelerating the implementation of IHR;

(ii) Monitor and report the implementation of IHR within the context of the framework for collaboration between WHO and the Commission on the establishment and operationalization of Africa CDC to improve health security in Africa;

(iii) Submit a biennial report of the implementation of IHR at the Assembly at the January ordinary session.

Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXIX)

Algiers Declaration on Investment in Employment and Social Security for Harnessing the Demographic Dividend

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3 to 4 July 2017,

Expressing our deepest gratitude to H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Algeria, for hosting this event on the basis of his faith in African cooperation, his commitment and that of the Algerian Government since independence in favour of the continent's prosperity, and his conviction that "Algeria's stability is Africa's stability and its prosperity is that of Africa",

Recalling Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.601 (XXVI) taken in January 2016 wherein the Assembly devoted the theme of the year 2017 to "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth",

Aware that the demographic dividend is not automatic and that the benefit can arise when a country has a relatively large proportion of working-age population, and effectively invests in their health, empowerment, education, social protection and employment through public action and private sector involvement,

Noting that about 46 per cent of the 1.3 billion increase in Africa's labour force over the period 2015-2063 will be young people aged 15 to 34, averaging 12.1 million a year,

Alarmed that the youth account for more than 60 per cent of all unemployed people in Africa; and mindful of the need to address this high youth unemployment rate and the mismatch between the demands of the labour market and educational qualifications in Africa,

Convinced that the investments made today in the youth, who represent Africa's greatest asset, will determine the development trajectory of Africa over the next 50 years and position the continent towards realizing the "Africa We Want," a strong, united and influential global player and partner as envisioned in Agenda 2063,

Noting with appreciation the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa by the Heads of State and Government in January 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

Also noting the biennial report on the progress of the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa and the achievements made at the national level in ending child marriage within the framework of the campaign,

Further noting the ongoing efforts of the AUC, ECA, AfDB and ILO in the preparation and design of the Employment and Social Cohesion Fund,

Concerned that more than five years after the closure of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI), the former staff of the Institute have not been paid their entitlements,

Mindful of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, in particular its provisions on human security,

1. *Commit* ourselves to:

(i) Sign and ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa to expeditiously reap the demographic dividend of the contributions of this important population group;

(ii) Support the development of a United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons;

(iii) Take appropriate measures for the formulation of national and regional domestication documents on the Five-Year Priority Programme for the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development, set up or enhance an intersectoral follow-up structure and designate national focal persons by 30 September 2017; and submit the first national biennial follow-up report to the AUC in 2018;

(iv) Integrate the Road Map on the Demographic Dividend into national policy frameworks on employment and entrepreneurship, and report on its implementation using specific follow-up, M&E mechanism;

(v) Step up national measures on women empowerment in the African labour market under the human rights perspective, within the framework of the Ouaga+10 policy frameworks, AU relevant charters on women and children, the United Nations Agenda 2030 and in line with the conclusions of the sixty-first session of the United Nations Committee on the Status of Women, New York, March 2017, with the support of the AUC, NEPAD, ILO, AfDB, UNWOMEN, ECA and other partners;

(vi) Continue to collaborate with the African Union on the campaign to end child marriage and to engage with various stakeholders at community, national, regional and international levels in the fight against this harmful practice and others negatively affecting children;

(vii) Encourage and support RECs and Member States towards promoting free movement of people within regions, and support Member States to engage effectively in bilateral and multilateral negotiations with labour receiving countries with the aim of protecting the rights of African citizens working outside their country of origin; and commend the progress made in the implementation of the AU-ILO-IOM-ECA Joint Programme on Labour Migration, calling for operationalization of the Labour Migration Advisory Committee;

2. *Request* the African Union Commission to:

(i) Conduct a study with a view to gather experiences from Member States and produce a compendium of good practices on public-private partnership (PPP); and support Member States in developing PPP projects, including with concrete initiatives by the Jobs for Africa Foundation in skills matching, agriculture transformation, ICT, entrepreneurship, social dialogue, etc.;

(ii) Engage with partners such as ECA, GIZ and ILO on the promotion of skills demand and supply forecasts, including developing a model for use by Member States, and support capacity-building in countries;

(iii) Work with ILO, FAO, ECA, UNDP and other partners to facilitate the extension of social protection and social security to workers in the informal economy and rural sector, while supporting transitioning from the informal economy to the formal economy through combined implementation of AU and ILO relevant policies and instruments;

(iv) Engage with the Secretariat of the CODEPA to extend social security/protection to artisans and workers in the handicraft industry where needed, through implementation of the AU SPIREWORK and incorporate the handicraft industry in its social and economic development policies with a dedicated structure;

(v) Develop the technical cooperation between Member States, within the framework of the Intra-African Technical Cooperation Platform, and extend the South-South cooperation to other regions;

(vi) Elaborate an African Common Position on the “Future of Work” in Africa in collaboration with the ILO; and guide the coordination and harmonization of an African Common Position within the global process of the initiative on the future of work;

(vii) Complete the process of establishing the Employment and Social Cohesion Fund with AfDB, ILO and ECA and submit a framework to the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs and Development Planning for consideration;

(viii) Review the implementation of the AUC/AfDB/ILO/ECA Joint Initiative on Youth Employment to be in line with the AU Road Map on the Demographic Dividend and incorporate the new AfDB Strategy on Youth Employment in Africa;

3. *Call on* the remaining 17 ARI Member States to pay 15 per cent of audited arrears in their contributions to ARI in 2017 to facilitate the payment of the entitlements of former ARI staff;

4. *Endorse* the draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’ Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for onward transmission to the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs and adoption by the Assembly of the Union;

5. *Welcome* the offer of the Republic of Guinea to host the Third Session of the STC-SDLE in April 2019.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXIX)

Resolution on the Gulf Crisis

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses its concern* over the crisis between the Gulf countries and calls on all parties to promote dialogue and seek mutually acceptable solutions;
2. *Also expresses its support* for the efforts of the State of Kuwait reflected by the mediation of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Emir of the State of Kuwait, aimed at resolving the crisis;
3. *Calls on* the parties to refrain from any actions and/or words which might revive tension or create obstacles to these efforts and initiatives for peace and reconciliation;
4. *Expresses its ardent hope* to see the neighbouring Gulf region remain an area of peace, stability, prosperity and development, for the greater benefit of its peoples and for peace in that part of the world;
5. *Reiterates* its strong condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms, in Africa, the Middle East and in the world, and reaffirms its commitment to extend its full cooperation to all the countries concerned with a view to their elimination;
6. *Also reiterates* its appeal to all countries and international organizations to step up their efforts aimed at cutting off sources of funding for terrorism and work together to combat violent extremism and radicalization.

THIRTIETH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
28 to 29 January 2018**

Assembly/AU/Dec.665 (XXX)

**Decision on the Establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market
(Doc. EX.CL/1067 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Ministerial Working Group on the Establishment of a Single Air Transport Market (SAATM) within the framework of the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063;

2. *Recalls:*

(i) The Declaration on the Establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market (Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIV)) adopted at the Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 31 January 2015;

(ii) The Solemn Commitment declared by AU Member States to the Implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the Establishment of SAATM by 2017 at the Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 31 January 2015;

3. *Mindful* of the aspirations of:

(a) The Constitutive Act of the AU adopted at the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in Lomé, Togo, on 11 July 2000 with entry into force in 2001;

(b) The Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (also known as the Abuja Treaty) adopted at the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Abuja, Nigeria, on 3 June 1991 with entry into force on 12 May 1994;

(c) The Decision relating to the Implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on the Liberalization of Access to Air Transport Markets in Africa endorsed at the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in Lomé, Togo, on 12 July 2000;

4. *Convinced* that the realization of SAATM is vital to the achievement of the long-term vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa under the AU Agenda 2063; that it will bring about the enhanced connectivity across the continent leading to the sustainable development of the aviation and tourism industry with immense contribution to economic growth, job creation, prosperity and the integration of Africa;

5. *Affirms* that the following 23 Member States have declared their Solemn Commitment to the immediate implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the establishment of SAATM:

1. Benin;
2. Botswana;
3. Burkina Faso;
4. Cape Verde;
5. Congo;
6. Côte d'Ivoire;
7. Egypt;
8. Ethiopia;
9. Gabon;
10. Ghana;
11. Guinea;
12. Kenya;

13. Liberia;
14. Mali;
15. Mozambique;
16. Niger;
17. Nigeria;
18. Rwanda;
19. Sierra Leone;
20. South Africa;
21. Swaziland;
22. Togo;
23. Zimbabwe;

6. *Decides to:*

(i) Establish SAATM for African airlines within the framework of Agenda 2063 on this 29 January 2018 among the Member States that have declared their Solemn Commitment to date and for those that join later;

(ii) Appoint Regional Champions of the Single Air Transport Market;

7. *Welcomes* the launch of SAATM;

8. *Further requests:*

(i) Member States to abolish any provisions in their bilateral air service agreements (BASAs) for intra-African air services that are contrary to the provisions of the Yamoussoukro Decision. As the market goes into operation, Member States and the industry expect that the intra-African market will operate without the need for bilateral air service agreements between Member States. To enhance the objectives of Agenda 2063 towards Boosting Intra-Africa Trade (BIAT) and Fast Tracking of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) in relation to air transport, Member States are encouraged to go beyond the market access provisions of the Yamoussoukro Decision in order to accelerate the attainment of the objectives of the SAATM;

(ii) That subject to safety and security concerns of the aviation authorities of Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Executing Agency, eligible airlines of Member States and nationals operating under SAATM shall be entitled to file and fly on the basis of their own economic considerations and without any hindrance;

(iii) The Commission shall submit to the Assembly an updated status of implementation and revised objectives of the Single Market by January 2019;

(iv) The Commission, the RECs and the Champions, in collaboration with other air transport stakeholders, take effective steps to engage the African States who are not yet members to sign on to the Solemn Commitment;

(v) The Commission to expedite completion of the activities on the SAATM Road Map, ensure awareness and dissemination of key continental aviation frameworks especially the Yamoussoukro Decision regulatory and institutional texts, the African Civil Aviation Policy (AFCAP), as well as undertake capacity-building of Member States and RECs on the application and domestication of those instruments;

(vi) The Commission to work on a framework of establishing the single African sky architecture by 2023 that will strengthen aviation safety, security as well as ensure efficient and harmonized seamless air navigational and communication systems;

(vii) The African Development Bank (AfDB) and other funding partners to expedite the mobilization of resources for the operationalization of the Executing Agency to enable it to adequately carry out its functions in the management and supervision of the established SAATM;

9. *Calls upon* the RECs and all development partners including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the AfDB, the African Airlines Association, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the European Civil Aviation Commission/Conference, the Arab Civil Aviation Commission, the United States of America Department of Transport, Federal Aviation Administration and National Transport Security, civil aviation authorities of partner States, the International Air Transport Association, the Airports Council International, the European Union, the World Bank, the World Tourism Organization to recognize and support the smooth operationalization of SAATM under Agenda 2063;

10. *Expresses its profound appreciation* for the excellent work accomplished by the Ministerial Working Group on the establishment of SAATM.¹

Assembly/AU/Dec.666 (XXX)

**Decision on the African Continental Free Trade Area
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Status of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Negotiations submitted by H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger and Leader of CFTA process, and endorses the recommendations therein;

2. *Also takes note* of the achievement made in concluding the negotiations on the Agreement Establishing the Continental Free Trade Area and the Protocol on Trade in Services of the CFTA by the agreed date of December 2017;

3. *Requests* the African Union Ministers of Trade (AMOT) to conclude outstanding negotiations on the Protocol on Trade in Goods and its annexes and the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures of Dispute Settlement by March 2018;

4. *Encourages* Member States to be represented by Ministers at the African Union Ministers of Trade meetings;

5. *Decides* that the title of the legal instrument shall be “The Agreement on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”;

6. *Further decides:*

(a) To hold an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly on 21 March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda, to consider, adopt and sign the AfCFTA legal instruments and the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area;

(b) To hold an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council on 19 March 2018 in Kigali to consider the AfCFTA legal instruments for submission to the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly;

7. *Requests* the Commission to convene an Extraordinary Session of the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs to consider the said instruments prior to the Summit;

¹ Reservation entered by the Arab Republic of Egypt.

8. *Authorizes* the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) to approve a supplementary budget to hold the Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council and the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly on 19 and 21 March 2018, respectively;
9. *Takes note* of the consultations with the Group of Seven countries² on the level of ambition of tariff liberalization and encourages the Leader on CFTA to continue until there is a broad-based consensus;
10. *Requests* H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, to provide leadership to the CFTA Eminent Persons from the public and private sector appointed by the Commission, and encourages him to continue the good work, both in the implementation of the CFTA Agreement and in the negotiations of Phase 2 issues regarding competition, investment and intellectual property rights;
11. *Calls upon* Member States to start the second phase of negotiations and continue nationwide stakeholder sensitization activities so that all African citizens are fully aware and own the process of establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Assembly/AU/Dec.667 (XXX)

**Decision on the Hosting of the African Minerals Development Centre
(Doc. EX.CL/1075 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision EX.CL/Dec.857 (XXVI) of January 2015 on the establishment of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) as a specialized agency of the African Union to coordinate the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision that was adopted by Decision EX.CL/Dec.471 (XIV) of the January 2009 Summit;
2. *Decides* that further consultations be undertaken and report to the next June/July 2018 Assembly session;
3. *Calls upon* Member States to expedite the signature and ratification of the AMDC Statute;
4. *Appreciates* the success of the ongoing transition for the AMDC from UNECA to the Commission and requests the Commission to continue engaging partners on resource mobilization to ensure the sustainability of the AMDC.

Assembly/AU/Dec.668 (XXX)

**Decision on Fast Tracking the CAADP-Malabo Commitments for Accelerating Agriculture Transformation in Africa through the Biennial Review Mechanism and the Africa Agricultural Transformation Scorecard
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XXX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIII) adopting the Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods in Africa and which also calls on the Commission and NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), in collaboration with partners, 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;

² The Republic of Djibouti, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Zimbabwe.

2. *Takes note* of the Inaugural Biennial Review Report on the Implementation of the June 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, and the highlights of its findings on Intra-African Trade for Agriculture Commodities and Services: Risks and Opportunities;
3. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Commission in mobilizing key stakeholders and development partners to build partnerships with Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for establishing a mechanism for monitoring, evaluation and reporting, in a more aligned manner, on the progress made in implementing the commitments of the Malabo Declaration;
4. *Commends* the positive response of Member States in conducting self-assessments, inclusive validation process and providing information for the preparation of the inaugural report to the Assembly of the African Union on the progress in achieving our common goals on agricultural transformation in Africa; while noting challenges faced by Member States in collecting and compiling quality data to report progress on all goals and targets set in the commitments of the Malabo Declaration;
5. *Notes with satisfaction* the enormous efforts invested by Member States in implementing Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIII) to accelerate achievement of commitments made in the Malabo Declaration; while recognizing that, for the insufficient performances shown by Member States in several cases to reach the common set goals, considerable efforts and attention are still needed to rally itself to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) implementation by domesticating the Malabo commitments in national agriculture investment plans;
6. *Recommits* to take further actions in implementing the Africa Agriculture Transformation Agenda within the CAADP framework by increasing investment finance for agriculture, strengthening institutional capacity for implementation, improving coordination mechanisms to achieve concrete results and impacts leading to shared prosperity and improved livelihoods for African citizens;
7. *Calls upon* all Member States to mobilize adequate technical and financial resources in supporting agricultural data systems, monitoring and evaluation systems and strengthen mutual accountability structures to trigger evidence-based planning for agriculture transformation;
8. *Requests* the Commission to work closely with Member States, technical and financial development partners, the private sector and civil society, to mobilize the required support to strengthen mutual accountability, agricultural data systems and knowledge management, institutionalize the biennial review mechanisms and the Africa Agricultural Transformation Scorecard to ensure peer learning and scaling up of the Agriculture Transformation Agenda embedded in the Malabo Declaration.

Assembly/AU/Dec.669 (XXX)

**Decision on the Outcomes of COP 23/CMP 13 and Africa's Engagements at the
Global Climate Change Conference at COP 24/CMP 14
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XXX))**

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. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of Gabon, and Chairperson of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on the outcomes of the global Climate Change negotiations at the Twenty-third Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the thirteenth meeting of the parties serving as the Conference of the Parties to its Kyoto Protocol, and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (COP 23/CMP 13/CMA1.2); and endorses the recommendations therein;

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the CAHOSCC preparatory meeting held in New York, and that facilitated the adoption of the CAHOSCC Key Messages;
3. *Salutes* the diligence of the Members of CAHOSCC for the commendable political directive and guidance they provided that has concretized Africa's solidarity and Pan-Africanism at the negotiations and contributed to the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as a result of a strong united voice;
4. *Commends* the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN), the Commission, Pan-African institutions such as the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and that of partners such as UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC Secretariat, the World Bank, as well as other relevant institutions and development partners for supporting Africa in addressing the crucial issue of climate change;
5. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Commission along with Pan-African and other relevant institutions and development partners; the African parliamentarians; the civil society group, including the women and youth groups; the media and all friends and collaborators in the implementation of climate actions for the realization of Agenda 2063;
6. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Commission, in collaboration with NPCA, the Pan-African Parliament, AfDB and UNECA that jointly organized an Africa Day high-level and technical side event on 15 November 2017 at COP 23/CMP 13/CMA1.2 along with the Central African region: ECCAS, Gabon, Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo;
7. *Applauds* Fiji in collaboration with Germany for successfully hosting COP 23/CMP 13/CMA1.2 and appreciates Germany for the additional contribution of €50 million to the Adaptation Fund announced at the meeting and also recognizes France for jointly hosting the One Planet Summit along with other key partners in December 2017 and for mobilizing more resources to implement laudable initiatives and projects for climate action as part of the implementation of the Paris Agreement;
8. *Urges* developed country parties to scale up the current levels of climate finance, through agreement among parties on concrete pathways and accounting methodologies for achieving the collective goal by developed countries to mobilize US\$ 100 billion a year by 2020 and beyond, while striking a balance in the allocation of financial resources between adaptation and mitigation as a trust-building effort in the negotiations, and including a significant increase in grant-based support for adaptation and adequate support for capacity-building and technology transfer;
9. *Stresses* the importance of initiating substantive negotiations, immediately and prior to the completion of the Paris Work Programme, on the long-term finance goal for the post-2025 period, so as to ensure scaled up, additional and predictable levels of public finance to implement developing countries' ambitious nationally determined contributions;
10. *Further urges* the parties and the COP 23 and COP 24 Presidencies to expedite action on consultations involving the specific needs and special circumstances of Africa, as mandated by COP 22 to urgently reach consensus for support to the African populace, especially the most vulnerable communities such as women, youth and children to benefit from the implementation of the Paris Agreement;
11. *Calls on* all parties to work together as 2018 is crucial in the context of the Talanoa Dialogue and the need to advance work on the pre-2020 agenda and agree on the details of the "Paris Rulebook", which will be announced at COP 24 in Poland to deliver planet earth from the looming danger of slow and insufficient actions to deliver progress on the support to the developing countries, especially Africa, in the implementation of nationally

determined contributions (NDCs); and also urges Member States to facilitate the AMCEN and AGN members to participate in all negotiation processes towards the Talanoa (Facilitative Dialogue) and COP 24;

12. *Further urges* partners to support African countries in the implementation of their NDCs and laudable continental initiatives such as the High-Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCAA) with components on Gender Women and Youth Programmes on Climate Change; Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme Phase 2; and Africa Climate Resilient Investment Facility (Afri-Res) as well as the regional initiatives such as the African Adaptation Initiative; Africa Renewable Energy Initiative as well as the three Climate Commissions on Sahel, Congo Basin and Island States; and the Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative among others;

13. *Commends* the CAHOSCC members for their personal commitments in maintaining the unity of purpose and providing political directives; AMCEN for its guidance; and the tireless efforts of AGN in remaining focused around Africa's Common Position, and Key Political Messages, the Commission, AfDB, UNEP, UNECA, AMCEN Secretariat and other development partners that have supported the negotiators for Africa to continue to speak with one voice;

14. *Encourages* CAHOSCC Members to participate at all CAHOSCC meetings at the Heads of State and Government level;

15. *Calls on* partners, the United Nations and international organizations to support the continental, regional and national efforts on the implementation of NDCs in Africa;

16. *Approves* the recommendation that Egypt and Mali join CAHOSCC on the ground of strong commitment during their tenures as members of the Committee;

17. *Requests* the AfDB, UNECA, UNEP, other United Nations and international agencies/organizations and development partners to support the Commission, AMCEN and the African Group of Negotiators and African States at all levels in the implementation of this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.670 (XXX)

**Decision on the Report of the Leader of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XXX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya;

2. *Expresses its deep concern* over the persistent political impasse and the security situation in Libya, which perpetuates the suffering of the Libyan people, undermines the legal institutions of the country and poses a challenge to security and stability in neighbouring countries and in the entire region;

3. *Reaffirms* the urgent need to engage Libyans in an inclusive national reconciliation process in order to establish the requisite conditions for Libyans to determine the future of their country;

4. *Underscores* the need for Africa to preserve African unity and solidarity as well as regional understanding in the search for a lasting solution to the Libyan crisis;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the United Nations Special Representative to Libya, Mr. Ghassan Salame, in the implementation of the objectives defined in the United Nations Action Plan and expresses satisfaction over his commitment, during his visit to Addis Ababa, on 15 January 2018, towards strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union for the restoration of peace and stability in Libya;

6. *Stresses* in this regard, the importance of renewing and strengthening collaboration between the African Union, neighbouring countries and the United Nations in resolving the Libyan crisis, in order to reach a broad consensus on the objectives to be achieved and the initiatives to be carried out;
7. *Requests* the Commission to relaunch the efforts of the Contact Group on Libya, in close cooperation with the United Nations, in order to pool the efforts of the international community on the issue and support the efforts of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya;
8. *Expresses, once again, its appreciation* to H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, Leader of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya, the African Union Special Representative, H.E. Mr. Jakaya Kikwete, as well as to neighbouring countries, for the efforts made towards achieving lasting peace in Libya;
9. *Requests* the High-Level Committee to pursue its contacts with all relevant stakeholders in order to achieve tangible progress;
10. *Invites* to this end, the Commission to provide the necessary resources for the accomplishment of the mandate of the High-Level Committee.

Assembly/AU/Dec.671 (XXX)

**Decision on the Inaugural Meeting of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government as African Champions of Education, Science and Technology
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XXX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.572 (XXV) establishing a Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government as African champions of Education, Science and Technology;
2. *Takes note* of the Report presented by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, and endorses the recommendations therein;
3. *Congratulates* H.E. President Macky Sall, as the first Chairperson, and endorses H.E. Beji Caïd Essebsi, President of the Republic of Tunisia, as the first Vice-Chairperson, and H.E Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi, as the second Vice-Chairperson of the Committee of Ten;
4. *Reiterates* the core value of education, science and technology as a formidable tool for achieving Agenda 2063, the Africa We Want, of a people driven inclusive prosperity, peace and integration;
5. *Further reiterates* the need to enhance investments in education, science and technology as pillars for harnessing demographic dividends;
6. *Endorses* the list of ten Heads of State and Government as the first team of ten champions for Africa's Education, Science and Technology:

Northern Africa	Central Africa	West Africa	East Africa	Southern Africa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Egypt •Tunisia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chad •Gabon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Senegal •Sierra Leone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Kenya •Mauritius 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Malawi •Namibia

7. *Commends* the ten Heads of State and Government for accepting this important responsibility;
8. *Further commends* the Republic of Malawi for offering to host the first Education Summit of the Committee of Ten.

Assembly/AU/Dec.672 (XXX)

**Decision on the International Criminal Court
(Doc. EX.CL/1068 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of the Decisions of the Assembly on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the recommendations of the Open-Ended Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the International Criminal Court (the Open-Ended Ministerial Committee);
2. *Reiterates:*
 - (i) The unflinching commitment of the African Union and its Member States to combat impunity and promote democracy, the rule of law and good governance throughout the entire continent, in conformity with the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
 - (ii) Its previous decisions on the deferral or termination of proceedings against President Omar Al Bashir of the Republic of Sudan in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute;
 - (iii) The need for all Member States, in particular, those that are also State Parties to the Rome Statute, to continue to comply with the Assembly decisions on the warrant of arrest issued by the ICC against President Al Bashir of Sudan pursuant to Article 23, paragraph 2, of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and Article 98 of the Rome Statute of the ICC;
3. *Expresses:*
 - (i) Deep concern with the decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber II of the ICC on the legal obligation of the Republic of South Africa to arrest and surrender President Al Bashir of Sudan, which is at variance with customary international law and calls on Member States of the African Union, particularly those that are also State Parties to the ICC, to oppose this line of interpretation of their legal obligations under the Rome Statute;
 - (ii) The need for Member States to strengthen national and continental judicial and legislative mechanisms to deal with impunity in order to ensure that justice is served in a fair manner;
 - (iii) Concern at the slow pace of ratification of the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol of the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights adopted in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 27 June 2014 and endorses the Action Plan for the Ratification of the Malabo Protocol and, in this regard, urges all Member States to ratify the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol of the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights (Malabo Protocol);
4. *Takes note* of the sovereign decision made by the Republic of Burundi to withdraw from the ICC effective 27 October 2017, and condemns the decision by the ICC to open an investigation in the situation prevailing in the Republic of Burundi as it is prejudicial to the peace process under the auspices of the East African Community, and constitutes both a violation of the sovereignty of Burundi and is a move aimed at destabilizing that country;
5. *Requests:*

- (i) The African States Parties to the Rome Statute to request the ICC Assembly of States Parties to convene a working group of experts from its Member States to propose a declaratory/interpretative clarification of the relationship between Article 27 (Irrelevance of official capacity) and Article 98 (Cooperation with respect to waiver of immunity and consent to surrender) and other contested issues relating to the conflicting obligations of States Parties to cooperate with the ICC;
- (ii) The African Group in New York to immediately place on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly a request to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the question of immunities of a Head of State and Government and other senior officials as it relates to the relationship between Articles 27 and 98 and the obligations of States Parties under international law;
- (iii) The Commission to review its standard agreements on hosting of AU Summits and other high-level meetings, to ensure that any ambiguity concerning the provision of privileges and immunities of representatives of Member States are addressed;
- (iv) The African Group in New York and The Hague to request the next Assembly of States Parties of the ICC to withdraw from its agenda the consideration of the draft Action Plan on Arrest Strategies;
- (v) The African Group and the Commission to ensure that decisions of the AU policy organs are conveyed during the discussions on universal jurisdiction in the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and to make recommendations to the Summit on how to move this discussion forward, in view of the apparent impasse in the Sixth Committee.

Assembly/AU/Dec.673 (XXX)

**Decision on the Election of One Member of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption
(Doc. EX.CL/1069 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of one member of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (the Board) by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* Ms. Amal Mahmoud Ammar (Egypt) as member of the Board for a term of two years.

Assembly/AU//Dec.674 (XXX)

**Decision on the Election of Ten Members of the Peace and Security Council
(Doc. EX.CL/1070 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of 10 members of the Peace and Security Council by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following members for a term of two years:

Central: Equatorial Guinea;
Gabon;

East: Djibouti;
Rwanda;

North: Morocco;

South: Angola;
Zimbabwe;

West: Liberia;
Sierra Leone;
Togo.

Assembly/AU/Dec.675 (XXX)

**Decision on the Election of the President and Vice-President of the Pan-African University Council
(Doc. EX.CL/1071 (XXXII))**

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* Mr. Pierre Dominique Nzinsi (Gabon) as President of the PAU Council for a term of three years;
3. *Decides* that the Vice-President of the PAU Council will be elected at the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for June/July 2018.

Assembly/AU/Dec.676 (XXX)

Decision on the Legal Instruments

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) Statute of the Trust Fund for victims of Hissène Habré crimes;
 - (b) Amendment to Articles 10 and 14 of the Statute of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC);
 - (c) Statute of the African Institute for Remittances;
 - (d) Institutional and regulatory texts of the Yamoussoukro Decision;
 - (e) Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Rights of Residence and Right of Establishment and its Implementation Road Map;
 - (f) African Union Model Law for the implementation of the African Union Convention for the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;
 - (g) Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa;
 - (h) Statute of the African Space Agency;

3. *Calls on* Member States to sign and ratify the above legal instruments, where applicable, to enable them to enter into force.

Assembly/AU/Dec.677 (XXX)

**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 (XXX))**

The Assembly,

1. *Urges* the Malagasy parties to favour consensus with a view to establishing the conditions for a calm political climate that is conducive to the organization of free, transparent and credible elections, in strict conformity with the provisions of the Malagasy Constitution. In that respect, the Assembly congratulates the Chairperson of the Commission on his efforts to support Madagascar in the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, and encourages his High Representative to pursue and intensify his interaction with all the stakeholders in Madagascar;

2. *Takes note* of the launching by the Commission, in close collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), in Khartoum, from 8 to 10 October 2017, of the consultative process towards the development of a regional strategy for peace and security in the Horn of Africa, in line with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.472 (XX) adopted in January 2013, in which the Assembly reiterated 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;

3. *Welcomes* the signing, on 21 December 2017, by the South Sudanese stakeholders of an Agreement of Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access, and commends IGAD for leading the High-Level Revitalization Forum, which presents a unique opportunity for the implementation of the Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS), in line with the communiqué of the 720th meeting of the PSC, held at the ministerial level, in New York, on 20 September 2017. The Assembly congratulates IGAD and the Chairperson of the Commission for their efforts that led to that achievement, towards finding a lasting solution to the conflict that continues to devastate South Sudan. The Assembly expresses deep concern over the repeated violations of the Agreement by the parties, resulting in further deterioration of the already dire humanitarian situation caused by the ongoing conflict, and demands all warring parties to immediately put an end to all military actions and comply scrupulously with their commitments, as contained in the Agreement of 21 December 2017. The Assembly commends the AU High Representative for South Sudan, Alpha Oumar Konare, former President of Mali, and the Chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana, for their collective efforts towards implementation of the ARCSS. The Assembly welcomes efforts by Presidents Yoweri K. Museveni of Uganda and Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt that led to the Cairo Declaration and the Entebbe Agreement aimed at reuniting the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). Furthermore, the Assembly commends the Transitional Government of National Unity (ToGNU) for formally accepting the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Hybrid Court for South Sudan. The Assembly welcomes the enhanced coordination efforts between the IGAD, the AU and the United Nations;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the significant decrease of hostilities between the Government of Sudan and the rebel forces in Darfur and commends the Government of Sudan for extending the unilateral ceasefire as announced on 8 October 2017 and encourages the armed movements to also reciprocate the overture meant for maintaining peace and stability in Darfur. The Assembly commends the United Nations African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for the progress made on the first phase of the reconfiguration exercise and urges the Mission to ensure the second phase is also completed in June 2018, in line with the schedule outlined in the relevant PSC communiqués and press statements, as well as United Nations Security Council resolutions. In this regard, the Assembly underscores the need to reflect in the UNAMID reviewed mandate the new configuration in

Darfur to ensure that the Mission's priorities are aligned with the realities on the ground, including the much-needed support for reconstruction and stabilization;

5. *Commends* the rapprochement between the Republics of South Sudan and Sudan, in line with the Cooperation Agreement of 2012, and as a step further towards the objective to achieve two States at peace with each other. The Assembly encourages Sudan and South Sudan to enhance their cooperation towards reinforcing good neighbourliness and addressing border insecurity. The Assembly calls for greater commitment by the two countries for the resolution of the issues relating to the Two Areas of the Blue Nile and South Kordofan and Abyei;

6. *Commends* the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and all Somali stakeholders for the continued gains being made towards consolidating peace, stability and reconciliation in Somalia, with the support of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and partners. The Assembly further commends the efforts deployed towards reconciliation to enhance the working relations between the FGS and its Federal Member States (FMS), which augurs well for the consolidation of peace and stability in Somalia. In this context, the Assembly hails the visits undertaken by H.E. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo, President of Somalia, to the central and northern regions of Galmudug and Puntland for consultations with the stakeholders in these areas. The Assembly reaffirms its full support to the FGS, as well as its determination to spare no efforts towards achieving lasting peace, security and reconciliation in Somalia. The Assembly welcomes the progress made to date in the fight against the al-Shabaab terrorist group, thanks to the joint efforts by AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces (SNSF). In this regard, the Assembly encourages AMISOM to remain resolute and steadfast in discharging its mandate. Furthermore, the Assembly underlines the urgent need for AMISOM to be provided with predictable and sustainable funding and the requisite equipment to enhance its capacity, including force enablers and multipliers, with a view to enabling it to more effectively discharge its mandate, in line with the conclusions of the AU-United Nations Joint Review and in the spirit of the UN-AU Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed on 19 April 2017. The Assembly welcomes the appointment by the Chairperson of the Commission and the United Nations Secretary-General of Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria, and Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, former United Nations Under Secretary-General in charge of Peacekeeping Operations, to recommend to the AU and the United Nations the best options for predictable and sustainable funding for AMISOM and the Somali security forces;

7. *Welcomes* the progress made in the electoral process in the DRC, notably the announcement on 5 November 2017 of an electoral calendar setting the date of 23 December 2018 for the holding of the provincial, legislative and presidential elections, and urges AU Member States with the necessary logistical capabilities, to generously make them available to the DRC for the success of the electoral process. The Assembly encourages the AU, SADC, ICGLR, and the United Nations to continue to work together for coherent and effective financial, logistical and security support to the DRC, and invites the international community to give the necessary support for the holding of elections within the timeframe as announced on 5 November 2017. The Assembly expresses its full support for the efforts of the Chairperson of the Commission with the Congolese authorities, and urges them to take measures aimed at defusing political tension. The Assembly calls upon all the Congolese parties to exercise utmost restraint in that regard and condemns all forms of violence and deeply deplores the loss of human lives;

8. *Reaffirms* the leading role of the AU in the efforts to implement the African Initiative in the CAR and urges all armed groups to put an end to violence and the use of weapons throughout the territory. The Assembly calls upon CAR neighbouring States, members of the Facilitation Panel, to fully cooperate and work towards the success of the Initiative by taking internal steps to control and prevent the movements of armed groups in their territories. The Assembly stresses the importance of complementarity between MINUSCA and the African Mission for Central Africa (MISAC), with a view to restoring State authority and the adherence of armed groups to disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation (DDRR) programmes. The Assembly encourages the Government of the CAR to continue its recovery and peacebuilding efforts despite the many challenges the country faces, and the partners to continue to provide their support in the reconstruction of the CAR;

9. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the AU to a peaceful resolution of the political situation in Burundi through an inclusive dialogue on the basis of the Arusha Agreement of 28 August 2000 and the Constitution of Burundi and

appeals to the Burundian authorities to initiate all constitutional reforms through a broad consensus of all stakeholders. The Assembly awaits the result of the efforts of the East African Community (EAC) Facilitator, former President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, under the leadership of the EAC Mediator, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and expresses its readiness to deploy the High-Level Committee of Heads of State on Burundi. The Assembly calls, once again, on the Government of Burundi to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on the activities of the AU human rights observers and military experts;

10. *Calls upon* the Bissau-Guinean stakeholders to abide by their commitments and urges them to comply with and implement the 2016 Bissau Road Map and Conakry Agreement, so as to resolve the crisis and ensure a successful and timely conduct of the upcoming 2018 legislative elections. The Assembly underscores the primary responsibility of the President of the Republic to promote the compliance with the necessary conditions for an inclusive and genuine dialogue to bring about peace and stability in the country and urges all stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau to refrain from actions that could further ignite the crisis. The Assembly reiterates its support to the mediation efforts being deployed by the ECOWAS, including the role being played by the ECOMIB in maintaining and enhancing stability in Guinea-Bissau. The Assembly, recognizing the critical role of the mission in the resolution of the crisis and restoration of peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau, calls for the renewal of ECOMIB mandate, as well as for joint efforts to mobilize financial resources to support the continuation of its operation in the country;

11. *Commends* the progress made thus far in the implementation of the 20 June 2015 Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali which resulted from the Algiers process. In this context, the Assembly further commends, in particular, the efforts deployed by the Government of Mali in the conduct of political dialogue with other stakeholders, which led to the adoption of a road map of priority actions to be taken with a view to accelerating the peace process. The Assembly also urges the signatory parties of the Agreement to persevere in its implementation, as well as implement the said road map, particularly with respect to demobilization, disarmament and reintegration, and security in order to contribute to the fight against terrorism;

12. *Urges, once again,* the Malian parties to redouble their efforts with a view to ensuring the speedy implementation of the provisions laid down in the Agreement, and welcomes the signing of a Ceasefire Agreement on 23 August 2017 and the commitment to the Cessation of Hostilities, signed on 20 September 2017, by the armed groups that are signatories to the Algiers Agreement. The Assembly further urges the Malian parties to reach a consensus for the organization of the upcoming election in 2018. The Assembly commends MINUSMA for the work accomplished and renews the AU'S support for its stabilization efforts in Mali, and reiterates its support to Security Council resolution 2374 (2017), within the framework of international efforts to accelerate the process for the implementation of the Algiers Agreement. The Assembly expresses, once again, its deep concern at the continuous deterioration of the security situation in Mali and the Sahel region due to the continuation of the scourge of terrorism and organized transnational crime, and strongly condemns all terrorist attacks against civilians and Malian and international forces;

13. *Welcomes* the operationalization of the G5 Sahel Joint Force and requests the Commission and Member States to provide support for the Force in its mission to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime in the Sahel. In that regard, the Assembly calls on the international community to support the organization of the High-Level International Conference on the Sahel to be held on 23 February 2018 in Brussels;

14. *Reiterates* that terrorism and violent extremism continue to represent the most dangerous threat to peace, security and stability in Africa and strongly condemns the terrorist attacks perpetrated in Africa. The Assembly renews its total rejection and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms. In this regard, the Assembly welcomes all efforts being deployed on the continent to fight and defeat terrorist groups, including the convening in Addis Ababa, on 10 December 2017, of the joint meeting of the Nouakchott and Djibouti processes, which are both platforms for sharing information and intelligence in AU counterterrorism efforts. The Assembly takes note with appreciation of all support that the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services in Africa (CISSA) and the newly operationalized AU Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) are providing to Member States and RECs/RMs, with a view to enhancing capacities in their fight against terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization on the continent. The Assembly commends

the countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) for their continued fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group. The Assembly requests the Commission, working closely with partners, to continue to deploy necessary efforts towards mobilizing additional and adequate support for the MNJTF, based on the need expressed by the countries of the region, with a view to assisting them in filling its capability gaps. The Assembly further calls for the fulfilment of the pledges made by partners in support of the MNJTF. The Assembly calls on all AU Member States and the international community at large to extend the necessary assistance to the countries of the region confronted with a dire humanitarian situation. The Assembly welcomes the progress made in operationalizing the G5 Sahel Joint Force to combat terrorism and organized crime in the Sahel, as well as the pledges made by different partners, including the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2391 (2017). The Assembly calls upon the international community as a whole to continue efforts to ensure sustainable and predictable funding for the G5 Sahel Joint Force, and looks forward to the outcomes of the Conference on the Sahel scheduled to be held in Brussels in February 2018, to mobilize additional resources to support efforts of the countries of the region. The Assembly commends the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA) for the sustained gains made in the fight against the LRA, and welcomes the partnership between the AU and the United Nations in these efforts;

15. *Welcomes* the ongoing progress in Côte d'Ivoire on the path of consolidation of peace and stability in the country, and encourages the Ivorian authorities to continue with the reform of the security sector and the deepening of the national reconciliation;

16. *Expresses, once again, its deep concern* over the persistent political impasse and the security situation in Libya, which continues to prolong the suffering of the Libyan people, undermine the country's legal institutions and pose a challenge to security and stability in the neighbouring countries and the whole region. The Assembly reaffirms the imperative to engage the Libyans in an Inclusive National Reconciliation process in order to create the conditions conducive for the Libyans to determine themselves the future of their country and stresses the need for Africa to preserve the African unity and solidarity, as well as the regional harmony in the search for a lasting solution to the Libyan crisis. The Assembly further stresses the importance of renewing and enhancing cooperation between the African Union, the neighbouring countries and the United Nations in the resolution of the Libyan crisis, with a view to reaching a broad consensus on the objectives to be attained and the initiatives to be taken. The Assembly requests the Commission to relaunch the efforts of the Contact Group on Libya, in close cooperation with the United Nations, in order to bring together the efforts of the international community on the question and in support of the efforts of the AU High-Level Committee on Libya and the AU High Representative on Libya. The Assembly expresses, once again, its appreciation to H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo, Chairman of the AU High-Level Committee on Libya, members of the Committee, the AU High Representative on Libya, H.E. Mr. Jakaya KIKWETE, as well as to the neighbouring countries for their efforts to establish a lasting peace in Libya;

17. *Expresses its support* for the relaunching of the negotiation process between Morocco and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) with a view to reaching a durable solution consistent with the letter and spirit of the relevant OAU/AU decisions and United Nations resolutions. The Assembly reiterates its call on the two Member States, to engage, without preconditions, in direct and serious talks facilitated by the AU and the United Nations for the holding of a free and fair referendum for the people of Western Sahara. While the AU stands ready to operationalize, if and when necessary, its Committee of the Heads of State and Government on Western Sahara, the Assembly calls on the two parties to fully cooperate with the AU High Representative for Western Sahara, former President Joaquim A. Chissano of Mozambique, and the Personal Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Horst Köhler. The Assembly requests Morocco, as an AU Member State, to allow the AU Observer Mission to return to Laayoune, Western Sahara, as well as to allow an independent monitoring of human rights in the territory. The Assembly reiterates its repeated calls, in particular its declaration adopted at its Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, from 30 to 31 January 2015, on the Crans Montana Forum, a Switzerland-based organization, to desist from convening its meetings in the city of Dakhla, in Western Sahara and appeals to

all Member States, African civil society organizations and other relevant actors to boycott the upcoming meeting scheduled to take place from 15 to 20 March 2018³;

18. *Reiterates* its call to Member States and the RECs/RMs to prioritize support for and implementation of post-conflict reconstruction development activities in those areas emerging from conflict. The Assembly, while welcoming the holding by the Commission of the N'Djamena conference on stabilizing the Lake Chad Basin, calls on the PSC to continue mobilizing support, including from the private sector and international financial institutions, in support of countries emerging from conflict with a view to preventing relapse and advancing regeneration of resilience, as well as enhancing development;

19. *Recalls* its previous decisions emphasizing the need to prioritize preventive diplomacy and mediation in approaching crisis and conflict situations and stresses the need to enhance the AU's prevention capabilities and tools, in the context of silencing the guns by 2020. In this respect, the Assembly requests the PSC, working closely with the Commission and the Panel of the Wise, and taking note of the annual programme of the Panel, to explore, within the context of the PSC Protocol and all other relevant AU instruments, innovative ways and means to enhance preventive approaches in efforts aimed at promoting peace, security and stability;

20. *Reaffirms* its commitment for greater participation and responsibility of women in peace efforts in Africa. In this regard, the Assembly takes note of efforts being made towards finalizing a continental results framework for monitoring and reporting on delivery by Member States on commitments and implementation progress on women, peace and security. The Assembly welcomes the steps taken to operationalize the "Pan-African Network of Women Mediators" (FemWise-Africa), as a subsidiary body of the Panel of the Wise, in particular the convening of its General Assembly from 13 to 14 December 2017, in Constantine, Algeria. The Assembly also reaffirms its commitment to ensure the protection of children in conflict situations in Africa and takes note of the activities being undertaken to this effect and invites the Chairperson of the Commission to expedite the nomination of a Special Envoy for the protection of children in conflict situations;

21. *Underlines* the need for Africa to continue building the ongoing efforts to revitalize the AU Peace Fund which is a strategic asset in the continent's efforts to lead and control its peace and security agenda through availing predictable and sustainable funding. In this context, the Assembly encourages all Member States to continue deploying efforts towards the revitalization of the AU Peace Fund and expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have already made their contribution to the Fund;

22. *Commends* the African Members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) for their coordinated collective efforts in defending and promoting common African positions and concerns within the United Nations Security Council, including the regular briefings to the PSC by the Coordinator of the A3 Group. In this context, the Assembly stresses the importance for the A3 to continue to work as a coherent and coordinated group, speaking with one voice and to further strengthen their consultations with other members of the Security Council and the Africa Group in New York, and to continue keeping the PSC regularly informed of the results of these efforts. The Assembly commends the Republic of Zambia for the successful hosting of the Fifth High-Level Seminar, in Livingstone, from 4 to 5 December 2017 and endorses its conclusions as attached to the Report of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.678 (XXX)

Decision on the Second Report of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the Implementation of the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020 (Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XXX))

The Assembly,

³ Reservation entered by the Kingdom of Morocco.

1. *Recalls* the Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted on 25 May 2013, in which the Assembly of the Union pledged not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020, as well as Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII) by which the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2017, adopted the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020. The Assembly further recalls Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.645 (XXIX) by which the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 5 July 2017, adopted the Inaugural Report of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the Implementation of the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020;
2. *Commends* the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for its efforts in implementing Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.645 (XXIX), through, among others, the launching at its 716th meeting held on 4 September 2017, of the “Africa Amnesty Month” for the surrender and collection of illegally owned weapons/arms, in line with the African and international best practices. The Assembly underlines that observance of the African Amnesty Month is one of the major steps towards achieving the goal of silencing the guns in Africa by the Year 2020, and encourages Member States to implement activities foreseen under the Africa Amnesty Month in September each year and to actively engage in public awareness campaigns, including through their national media, in order to effectively educate the people on this issue with a view to ensuring their full cooperation and support, as well as success of the process;
3. *Further commends* the PSC and all Member States, as well as the AU organs, the RECs/RMs, the United Nations, the CSOs and think tanks for the efforts thus far deployed in implementing the AU Master Road Map and urges them to continue in their efforts;
4. *Urges* Member States and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs) to submit their reports to the Council, through the AU Commission, on the actions taken in implementing the Africa Amnesty Month, by November each year, to further popularize it within the communities, with a view to ensuring maximum participation of all citizens on the continent;
5. *Recognizes* that lack of dedicated research, which accounts for huge gaps in the data, particularly on illicit weapons, illicit financial flows, arms and drug trafficking, drug production, illegal exploitation of natural resources and migration, among others, remains one of the main challenges, while such data is required to further strengthen the efforts to silence the guns in Africa. In this regard, the Assembly appeals to Member States to mobilize resources to address the challenge and calls on the academia and private sectors in Africa to redouble their efforts to make contributions through research, publicity and mobilization towards effective implementation of the AU Master Road Map;
6. *Encourages* Member States to continue with their efforts to further improve their governance institutions and processes, robustly combat corruption, take measures to arrest illicit financial flows, mobilize action to mitigate the negative effects of climate change, environmental degradation and boost economic activities, including employment creation, especially in favour of the youth and women;
7. *Stresses* the need for Member States to deploy the required efforts on the implementation of the AU Master Road Map, particularly by paying due attention to all the five key aspects raised in the AU Master Road Map, namely political, social, economic, environmental and legal aspects, to enable Africa and its people to see the actual trends in the AU Master Road Map implementation process and address gaps where they appear in the run-up to the year 2020;
8. *Encourages* the RECs/RMs to fully mainstream implementation of the AU Master Road Map in their activities, including setting dedicated focal points, and/or special envoys on silencing the guns, with a view to enhancing coordination of efforts with the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns;

9. *Appeals* to Member States to demonstrate sustained political commitment and engagement, and emphasizes the need to be consistent in the application of the AU norms and instruments in the prevention and resolution of conflicts on the continent, with a view to ensure the creation of requisite conditions for silencing the guns in Africa, which will facilitate realization of a conflict-free continent in line with the letter and spirit of Agenda 2063;

10. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Chairperson of the Commission of Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra as the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa, and calls upon Member States, the RECs/RMs, the United Nations and all partners, to extend their cooperation and support his activities in assisting Africa and its people to silence the guns in Africa by the year 2020. The Assembly further stresses the urgent need for the AU to mobilize funding in support of the activities of the High Representative to enable him carry out his mandate, particularly galvanizing efforts of all stakeholders to scale up activities in the implementation of the AU Master Road Map.

Assembly/AU/Dec.679 (XXX)

**Decision on the Outcome of the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the
Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the tenth ordinary meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 9 January 2018;

2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.589 (XXVI), adopted by the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held from 30 to 31 January 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which directed that “the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) will continue its mandate pending the AMANI AFRICA II Field Training Exercise After Action Review scheduled for Maputo, Mozambique, in March 2016, and the Evaluation Mission to be undertaken by the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms to verify the state of readiness of the Regional Standby Forces”;

3. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States, the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs) for successfully conducting the After Action Review in Maputo in 2016;

4. *Commends* the successful conduct, between June and December 2017, of the Verification, Confirmation and Validation of African Standby Force (ASF) pledged capabilities, as conducted by the AU Commission and the RECs/RMs, and further commends the Independent Panel of Experts led by Professor Ibrahim Gambari for its contribution in this context;

5. *Recognizes* the progress made by the East African Standby Force (EASF), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in operationalizing their respective standby forces and acknowledges the efforts of the North Africa Regional Capability (NARC) towards operationalizing its standby force;

6. *Takes note* of the operationalization of the African Standby Force Continental Logistics Base in Douala, Cameroon, including its inauguration by the AU Commission and the Government of the Republic of Cameroon on 5 January 2017, as a major step in the development of the ASF. The Assembly commends the efforts of the Government of Cameroon in supporting this endeavour to advance peace, security and stability in Africa, as well as the Commission for its efforts in finalizing the acquisition of the African Standby Force Command, Control, Communication and Information Systems (ASF C3IS);

7. *Endorses* the Declaration of the Tenth Ordinary meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security and the outcomes contained therein;
8. *Decides* that all stakeholders should support the realization of the full operationalization of the ASF, and harmonize the activities of ACIRC with the Framework of the ASF and enhance cooperation with all ad hoc coalitions namely, MNJTF, the Group of Five Sahel Joint Force and RCI-LRA. In this context, the Assembly urges the PSC to continue mandating and deploying the ASF for AU peace support operations, including the use of ad hoc coalitions, in line with the AU Constitutive Act.

Assembly/AU/Dec.680 (XXX)

Decision on Progress on Maternal, New Born and Child Health (MNCH)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the 2017 Report on the Status of Maternal, New Born and Child Health (MNCH) in Africa and endorses recommendations contained therein;
2. *Reaffirms* its commitment towards ending preventable maternal, child and adolescent deaths on the continent by 2030;
3. *Recognizes* that targeting vulnerable populations, as defined within national contexts and policies, and addressing equity and coverage gaps of key health services and implementing cost-effective, high impact interventions in a multisectoral approach improves maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health;
4. *Commits* to providing strong and visible leadership via effective policymaking and legislation, budgeting and increased accountability for the health of women, children and adolescents;
5. *Also commits* to the provision of universal health coverage and to prioritize evidence-based, high MNCH impact interventions and services for women, children and adolescents;
6. *Requests* the Commission to include in the next MNCH Report, progress in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present report.

Assembly/AU/Dec.681 (XXX)

Decision on the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) Initiative

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXIII) on Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa, and Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIII) the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods;
2. *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 not decreased over the past few years;
3. *Commends* Member States that have made progress in ending child stunting and addressing underweight and encourages others to do the same;
4. *Reaffirms* its commitment to end hunger by 2025 through strengthening development policies as an effective investment in the human capital of Member States; and recommit to end child stunting by reducing

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;

5. *Acknowledges* the ongoing advocacy efforts by the African Union Nutrition Champion, His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho;

6. *Endorses* the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) Initiative by the African Development Bank and the Commission, as laid out in the concept document, which will establish the political leaders' initiative to overcome all forms of malnutrition on the continent and elevate nutrition-related matters on the continental and global political agenda as the driver for economic growth and sustainable development in Africa; recommends the ALN to establish dialogue with African leaders for new financial and policy commitments on nutrition to deliver the socio-economic, and health returns;

7. *Urges* the ALN to continue the dialogue and strengthen the advocacy efforts in support of improved nutrition, including through supporting the AU Nutrition Champion, His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho, to advance the implementation of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2015-2025) and the ARISE Initiative;

8. *Requests* the Commission to submit a biennial report to the Assembly on the activities and progress made by the ALN.

Assembly/AU/Dec.682 (XXX)

**Decision on the Report of the Commission on the Implementation of
the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)
(Doc. EX.CL1053 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the Eleventh Member State and Twelfth Chairperson Reports on the Implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA);

2. *Appeals* to the three Member States that are yet to submit their initial reports to do so urgently. These are: Cape Verde, Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau;

3. *Also appeals* to Member States which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women (Maputo Protocol) and those who have ratified, to accelerate its domestication and implementation;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to implement all the commitments made in the SDGEA;

5. *Also calls upon* the Commission to accelerate the alignment of its policies, programmes and reporting tools for gender equality with Agenda 2063.

Assembly/AU/Dec.683 (XXX)

Decision on the Reports of the Heads of State and Government Leaders

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* H.E. Professor Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea and the outgoing Chairperson of the Union, for appointing Heads of State and Government Leaders to champion and advocate continental strategic issues;
2. *Congratulates* the Leaders who presented progress reports:
 - (i) H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, Leader on the Institutional Reform of the African Union;
 - (ii) H.E. Professor Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea, Coordinator of Renewable Energies in Africa and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) on Operationalization of AREI and Implementation Status;
 - (iii) H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, Leader on Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Issues;
 - (iv) H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, Leader and Chairperson of the High-Level Committee on Libya;
 - (v) H.E. Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Leader and Chairperson of the Committee of Ten (C10) on the United Nations Security Council Reform;
 - (vi) H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South African, Leader on African Union-United Nations Cooperation;
 - (vii) His Majesty Mohamed VI, King of Morocco, Leader on the Migration Issue;
 - (viii) H.E. Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Gabonese Republic and Chairperson of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC);
 - (ix) H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Leader on the Implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP);
3. *Commends* the Leaders for their relentless efforts and invaluable contributions in advancing continental priorities within the framework of Agenda 2063 and encourages them to continue advocating towards the achievement of Africa's aspirations and goals;
4. *Requests* the Commission to continue supporting the Leaders in their work and report on the outcomes in the annual report of the African Union and its organs.

Assembly/AU/Dec.684 (XXX)

Decision on the Chagos Archipelago

The Assembly,

1. *Reiterates* its commitment to the fight against all forms of colonialism in Africa in accordance with the OAU/AU legal instruments and decisions, in particular, the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted at the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly in May 2013, which reaffirmed the need to ensure the completion of the decolonization process in Africa;
2. *Recalls* the United Nations resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965 in relation to the continued unlawful occupation by the United Kingdom of the Chagos Archipelago, which

forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius and over which the Republic of Mauritius is unable to effectively exercise its sovereignty; further recalls United Nations resolution 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966 and resolution 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967 which reiterated that any disruption of the territorial integrity of colonial territories in the decolonization process would be contrary to the United Nations Charter;

3. *Renews* its commitment to United Nations resolution 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965 which reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Mauritius to freedom and that the United Kingdom Government should implement United Nations resolution 1514 (XV) fully and invited "the administering Power to take no action which would dismember the Territory of Mauritius and violate its territorial integrity.";

4. *Recalls* the previous OAU/AU resolutions and decisions on the Chagos Archipelago, in particular Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXV) adopted in June 2015 in Johannesburg as well as Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXVIII) adopted in January 2017 in Addis Ababa;

5. *Takes note* of the resounding success at the vote taken at the United Nations General Assembly on 22 June 2017 for the adoption of resolution 71/292 requesting the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to give an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965, introduced by the Republic of the Congo on behalf of the Member States of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States;

6. *Acknowledges* the AU's request for an extension of the deadline of 30 January 2018 for the submission of a written statement by the AU to the ICJ in relation to the advisory opinion requested by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/292 (2017) on the "Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965" as well as the ICJ order granting the new deadline of 1 March 2018 and 15 May 2018 for written submissions in accordance with Article 66 of the ICJ Statute;

7. *Decides* to fully support the Republic of Mauritius by all means in order to ensure the completion of the decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius and enable the Republic of Mauritius to effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia;

8. *Calls upon* Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and all AU partners to make written submissions in support of the completion of the decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius to the ICJ within the deadline set by the ICJ order;

9. *Calls upon* the United Kingdom to expeditiously put an end to its unlawful occupation of the Chagos Archipelago, in accordance with well-established principles of international law and the relevant decisions of the OAU/AU and the pertinent decisions of the United Nations;

10. *Commends* the Chairperson of the Commission for the efforts exerted to make an AU submission and succeeding in bringing in the extension for the deadline and requests him to carry out the necessary campaign to bring more AU and United Nations Member States and other organizations to support the call for the complete decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius as well as to make submissions in accordance with Article 66 of the ICJ Statute;

11. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter and requests the Commission to report on the progress and implementation of this Decision to the Assembly in June/July 2018.

Assembly/AU/Dec.685 (XXX)

**Decision on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XXX))**

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. *Reaffirms* the continued relevance and uniqueness of accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2063 and, the vehicle to enhance the multisectoral and integrated approach to deliver transformative results as enshrined in the NEPAD Programme and the role that the NEPAD Agency plays and that will be reinforced in the proposed transition of the NEPAD Agency into the African Union Development Agency;
3. *Reasserts* the essential role played by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) in the provision of political leadership and strategic direction to the NEPAD programme;
4. *Takes note* of the implementation of key national, regional and continental programmes and projects as reflected in the NEPAD Agency Results-based Performance Report for January to December 2017, specifically noting the progress of implementing key continental policies and frameworks such as the Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF), the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan of Africa (PMPA), and Rural Futures;
5. *Commends* the NEPAD Agency for the development and implementation of the “Blueprint (policy framework) to Implement Rural Development Policies in Africa” and further requests the NEPAD Agency, with the support of development partners, to develop projects and programmes for the operationalization of the Blueprint through the application of geospatial planning and remote sensing technologies;
6. *Recognizes* sustainable tourism as one of Africa’s engines of growth and development and appreciates the contributions of the NEPAD Agency and its partners towards sustainable tourism in Africa, through the implementation of the NEPAD Tourism Action Plan (TAP) of 2004 and the progress made in the development of the NEPAD Policy Framework on Youth Employment in Africa; requests the NEPAD Agency and development partners to update the Tourism Action Plan, as well as to create programmes and projects to support the domestication of the tourism-related sections of Agenda 2063;
7. *Recalls* the Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.488 (XXI) and Assembly/AU/Dec.508 (XXII) and notes with satisfaction the NEPAD Agency’s 5 per cent Agenda campaign by the Continental Business Network (CBN), aiming to increase investment allocations by African institutional asset owners, like pension and sovereign wealth funds, into African infrastructure from its current low base of about 1.5 per cent of assets under management to a more impactful 5 per cent;
8. *Welcomes and endorses* the final version of the Model Law for Transboundary Infrastructure Projects in Africa (PIDA Model Law) developed by UNECA in response to the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.563 (XXIV) and calls on Member States to consider the PIDA Model Law as part of the tools for enhancing private sector investment in transboundary infrastructure in Africa and requests the NEPAD Agency, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Regional Economic Communities to assist Member States in domesticating the Model Law within their respective national legislative bodies;
9. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.601 (XXVI) of January 2016, in which the year 2017 was themed “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth”, and takes note of the ongoing development of the Skills and Employment for Youth (SEFY) Strategy by the NEPAD Agency, the strategy for implementing various continental policy frameworks and to support national development policy planning, as well as engage the private sector to drive inclusive economic growth and wealth creation;
10. *Commends* the NEPAD Agency and the African Union Commission, in cooperation with the Government of Germany, for establishing the Skills Initiative for Africa Finance Facility hosted at the NEPAD Agency in 2017, invites other African Member States to work with the NEPAD Agency for the extension of the Skills Initiative for Africa

Funding Facility for funding of projects related to technical vocation and education training (TVET), including development and rehabilitation of TVET facilities;

11. *Commends* the NEPAD Agency for establishing the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) and welcomes the efforts by African Heads of State and Government to become actively involved in the development and implementation of regional and continental infrastructure projects; and welcomes Namibia's accession into the PICI;
12. *Commends* progress made on the efforts initiated by Member States and partners to tackle TB as a multisectoral regional challenge such as the Southern Africa TB and Health Systems Support Project which is galvanizing efforts of Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia, and other SADC countries; welcomes efforts towards establishing regional centres of excellence on TB control and setting up a recognition scheme for the private sector's contribution to TB control; calls upon Member States and partners to expand such efforts to cover more countries in order to enhance the impact; emphasizes the need for increased financial and technical commitment, and accountability for disease surveillance, innovative prevention, detection and treatment of TB from both domestic sources and international partners; commits to target efforts towards fighting TB where it matters most, in the vulnerable communities and hot spots for the spread of the diseases such as mining communities, transport corridors, correctional facilities, migrants and refugees towards ending TB by 2030;
13. *Requests* the NEPAD Agency to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation function in order to effectively deliver tangible and visualized results and guide the implementation of the continental development frameworks as stipulated in Agenda 2063;
14. *Applauds* the enriched quality of the technical work of the NPCA team under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki;
15. *Takes note* of the progress made so far, decides to harmonize the outcomes of the HSGOC meeting and the outcomes of the current session of the Assembly on institutional reform of the AU, and to continue consultations and report to the summit in June/July 2018.

Assembly/AU/Dec.686 (XXX)

Decision on the Report of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Twenty-seventh Summit of the Forum of Heads of State and Government of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) held on 27 January 2018;
2. *Congratulates* H.E. Idriss Déby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, for his election as the new Chairperson of the APR Forum, and commends H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, for his sterling leadership of the mechanism, including its revitalization, during his tenure as the Chairperson of the APR Forum;
3. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.527 (XXIII) adopted by the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014, on the integration of the APRM into the African Union structures;
4. *Acknowledges* progress made in the implementation of the integration decision and actions taken by the Chairperson of the Commission and APRM Secretariat to fast track the process;

5. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.631 (XXVIII) adopted by the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2017, on the Revitalization of the African Peer Review Mechanism;
6. *Reiterates* that the APRM remains the premier homegrown, African good governance tool conceived in 2003 and voluntarily acceded to by 37 Member States representing 67 per cent of AU Member States, more than half of whom (21) have undergone the review;
7. *Acknowledges* the Peer Review Reports of Sudan, Liberia and Uganda, as well as the Progress Report of Sierra Leone; and congratulates the four Member States as well as the Panel of Eminent Persons that led the review work;
8. *Further congratulates* the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the APRM Secretariat for his comprehensive progress report on the Operationalization of the APRM Expanded Mandate emanating from the Institutional Reforms led by H.E. Paul Kagame and the Assembly Decision on the Revitalization of the APRM;
9. *Welcomes* steps taken to position the APRM as an early warning tool for conflict prevention on the continent, in the context of harmony and synergy between the APRM, the African Peace and Security Architecture, and the African Governance Architecture;
10. *Appreciates* the Panel of Eminent Persons for their resilience and commitment to the process;
11. *Urges* Member States that have not so far acceded to the APRM to do so, and those that have done so to honour their annual contributions;
12. *Congratulates* Gambia and Comoros for their accession as new members of the APRM, and encourages more Member States to emulate this good example;
13. *Adopts* the Assembly Declaration on the fifteenth anniversary of the APRM, and requests the Commission to collaborate with the APRM in celebrating this event throughout the year.

Assembly/AU/Dec.687 (XXX)

**Decision on the Progress Report on the Status of Implementation of Decision
Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) on the Institutional Reform of the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XXX))**

The Assembly,

Recalling Article 9, paragraph 1 (a), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union on the powers of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Union to determine the common policies of the African Union,

Further recalling Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) on the Outcome of the Retreat of the Assembly of the African Union on the Institutional Reform of the African Union,

Reiterating its commitment to the reform and renewal of the Union as part of the effort to ensure we deliver Agenda 2063, an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena,

Taking note of the Progress Report on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 on the African Union Institutional Reform,

Welcoming the direction of the reform and the progress made so far in implementing the AU Institutional Reform Decision,

Commending the work of President Paul Kagame, President Alpha Condé and President Idriss Déby in supervising the implementation of the institutional reform process, as well as the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Mahamat Faki, for the progress made in operationalizing the institutional reforms,

Further commending Professor Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo for the excellent work undertaken in coordinating the reform implementation process and Dr. Donald Kaberuka, AU High Representative for Financing the Union, for the excellent progress that has been made in advancing the financing of the Union and Peace Fund agenda,

Having adopted the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) on the African Union Institutional Reform and its addendum,

Decides as follows:

On Deepening the Consultation Process

1. That further consultations will take place on matters raised by some Member States in order to deepen the consensus and report to the next summit;
2. That the Reform Troika shall be expanded to the Bureau of the Assembly and will collaborate with President Kagame in his capacity as Leader on the AU Institutional Reform process;
3. That 15 Ministers of Foreign Affairs, three per region, shall play an advisory role to the AU reform implementation process;

On Women's Quotas

4. The Commission shall take specific measures to fully achieve the equal representation of women and men (50/50) in all senior level positions including political and special appointees, directors and heads of divisions by 2025 in the organs and institutions of the Union;
5. The Commission shall take specific measures to fully achieve the equal representation of women and men in both general service and professional staff positions by 2025 in the organs and institutions of the Union;
6. The Staff Regulations and Rules of the Union shall be amended to ensure enhanced policy direction is provided and programmes are designed to implement this decision;
7. The Commission shall report annually to the Assembly and in a stand-alone report on progress in implementing this decision, including specific measures taken to attain the quotas set for the organs and institutions of the Union in this decision;

On Youth Quotas and Financing of Youth Empowerment Programmes in the Union

8. The Commission shall take specific measures to ensure that by 2025, 35 per cent of the AU workforce will be made up of youth;
9. That from 2018 onwards, Member States shall fully finance the Youth Volunteer Programme and the Junior Professionals Programme from the regular budget of the Union;
10. That Member States shall accelerate the payment of their contributions to the African Youth Fund in line with the July 2017 Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.661 (XXIX) on the Establishment of the African Youth Fund;

11. The Commission shall report annually to the Assembly and in a stand-alone report on progress in implementing this decision, including specific measures taken to attain the quotas set for the organs and institutions of the Union and achieve the financing targets for the youth empowerment programmes;

On the Ordinary Summit

12. That the move to one ordinary summit shall take effect from 2019 onwards;

On the Delegation of Budget Adoption Powers

13. To delegate, in line with the provisions of Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Constitutive Act, the Assembly's budget adoption powers and functions, to the Executive Council once the move to one ordinary summit comes into force;

14. That the Executive Council will adopt the budget of the Union in June/July of every year during a dedicated budget session; and

15. That, in line with the provisions of Article 10, paragraph 1, of the Constitutive Act, the June/July budget session of the Executive Council shall be composed of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Finance;

On a Mechanism to Ensure that Legally Binding Decisions Are Implemented

16. Decision-making roles shall be properly delineated to ensure the disaggregation of the types of decisions that are taken at the Assembly, in line with Article 9 of the Constitutive Act, and at the Executive Council, in line with Article 13 of the Constitutive Act*;

17. Decisions shall be properly categorized, in line with Rule 33 of the Assembly Rules of Procedures and Rule 34 of the Executive Council Rules of Procedure, the type of decision and the associated obligations in terms of compliance and enforceability should be made explicit in any decision that is being taken;

18. The financial and other resource implications of any decision being taken shall be provided as part of the supporting proposal;

19. That the capacity of the Office of the Legal Counsel shall be strengthened to ensure the proper categorization of decisions and enhance the associated drafting of these decisions;

20. That the coordination and monitoring capacity within the Bureau of the Chairperson of the AU Commission shall be strengthened with a focus on communication and information, monitoring, follow-up, reporting and liaison with Member States, AU organs, institutions and AUC departments;

21. That monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of decisions and policies shall become a core part of the Assembly, the Executive Council, the PRC and the AU Commission's business as follows:

- (i) The AU Commission and PRC meet monthly on the status of implementation of decisions and policies;
- (ii) The June/July mid-year Coordination meeting reviews the status of implementation;
- (iii) The Executive Council mid-year meeting reviews of the status of implementation of decisions and policies;

* Editor's note: The reference to "Article 13 of the Executive Council" has been replaced by "Article 13 of the Constitutive Act".

(iv) The January Summit evaluates the status of implementation of decisions and policies and takes decisions on compliance;

(v) That AU Member States shall take all measures to enhance implementation and reporting capacity at the Member State level, including through the designation of focal points;

On Financing the Union

22. That the membership of the Committee of Ministers of Finance shall be expanded from 10 to 15 members, i.e., three Member States per region. In this regard, the Committee will be called the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15);

23. To endorse the F15 budget oversight role and function based on the following six primary duties:

(i) Comparing the expenditure and the rate of results achievement;

(ii) Establishing a baseline for the following financial year's budget;

(iii) Ensuring alignment between the budget and results achieved;

(iv) Ensuring the link between revenue forecasts and affordability;

(v) Ensuring that the proposed budget does not pose any unsustainable risk over the long term;

24. To adopt the "Golden Rules" that provide a framework for the financial management and accountability principles at the African Union;

25. To request the AU Commission to update the AU Financial Rules and Regulations taking into account the newly adopted Golden Rules and mechanisms for the involvement of the F15 on budgetary and financial issues of the Union;

26. That the F15 shall fully participate in the statutory budget process as follows:

(i) Subcommittees of Programmes and Conferences (CPC) and of General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters (GSCBFAM) of the PRC shall sit jointly with F15 Technical Experts to examine the budget priorities and proposals;

(ii) The Subcommittees shall submit their recommendations to the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) for consideration;

(iii) The PRC shall consider the report and submit its recommendations to the Executive Council for consideration;

(iv) The Executive Council shall be constituted by Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Finance for the purpose of the budget session;

(v) The Executive Council shall, prior to its consideration of the budget, receive the recommendations of the F15 on the budget;

(vi) The Executive Council shall submit the budget to the AU Assembly for adoption;

(vii) Once the move to one Ordinary Summit comes into force, the Executive Council in the configuration outlined in 5 (iii) shall adopt the budget;

27. That Member States shall for the time being retain any surplus from the levy after funding the budget of the Union in line with their annual assessed contribution;
28. To adopt the Instrument Relating to the Enhanced Governance and Management structure of the Peace Fund and requests the Commission to accelerate implementation.

Assembly/AU/Dec.688 (XXX)

Decision on the Dates and Venue of the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.658 (XXIX) adopted at the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
2. *Confirms* that the dates of the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, shall be the following:
 - (i) Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC): 25 to 26 June 2018;
 - (ii) Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 28 to 29 June 2018;
 - (iii) Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 1 to 2 July 2018;
3. *Requests* the Commission to put in place all the necessary measures in order to organize the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly as well as the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC according to the aforementioned dates.

Assembly/AU/Dec.689 (XXX)

**Decision on the Supplementary Budget for the 2017 Financial Year
(Doc. PRC/Rpt. (XXXV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* a supplementary budget amounting to US\$ 60,929,714 of which US\$ 3,179,562 is for operating expenses and US\$ 57,750,152 is for the programmes, including US\$ 4,790,000 for the payment of backlog of death and disability compensation for AMISOM troop contributing countries (TCCs);
2. *Decides* that the supplementary budget be financed as follows:
 - (a) Operating budget of US\$ 3,093,878 from Member States and US\$ 85,684 from partners;
 - (b) Programme budget of US\$ 12,532,009 from Member States and the balance of US\$ 45,218,143 from partners.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXX)

**Declaration on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East
(Doc. EX.CL/1050 (XXXII))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 28 and 29 January 2018,

Taking note of the Report on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East and recalling all previous resolutions and decisions of the Organization of African Unity/African Union on the situation in Palestine for the maintenance of a lasting peace and security in the Middle East,

Reaffirming our total support for the Palestinian people in their just struggle against Israeli occupation, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, for the restoration of their legitimate right to establish an independent Palestinian State peacefully coexisting with the State of Israel,

Reaffirming our willingness to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions calling for the establishment of a Palestinian State based on the June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in implementation of the principle of the two-State solution and United Nations resolution 194 on the return of Palestinian refugees,

Reiterating our call for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides with a view to reaching a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, and expressing our support for all initiatives aimed at finding a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict within a fixed timeframe,

Stressing our strong position in support of the Palestinian cause and the African Union's continued search for a just and comprehensive peace for the Palestinian people and hoping that all Member States deploy efforts for the realization of this endeavour in their international relations, and that any cooperation by the countries of the continent with the State of Israel should not support the occupying entity at the expense of African support for the Palestinian cause,

Further reaffirming that all settlements built in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights are null and void and illegal, and condemning the policy of land grabbing, demolition of houses and forced displacement of civilians coupled with collective punishment measures,

Condemning Israeli practices against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, and rejecting administrative detention and condemning arbitrary measures and sanctions imposed on detainees, particularly children and women, in Israeli prisons, which deprives them of their minimum rights guaranteed by the international human rights laws and norms, including the Geneva Convention on the rights of women and children, calling upon, in this regard, the Israeli Government to release all Palestinian and Arab prisoners detained in Israeli prisons immediately and unconditionally,

Denouncing Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territories, the escalation and tension caused by the Israeli Government and Israeli settlers as well as the policy of execution implemented in occupied Palestinian territory against unarmed civilians in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, calling on the United Nations Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities by providing protection for the unarmed Palestinian people from the oppressive machinery of occupation in implementation of international law, conventions and treaties in the occupied territories of the Palestinian State,

Hereby declare as follows:

1. *Request* Member States of the Union and urge countries of the world to work towards finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the relevant resolutions of international law and the Arab Peace Initiative, while awaiting the American Peace Initiative in the Middle East, and call upon the American Administration to include in the Initiative, equitable solutions to all unresolved issues between the two sides without fragmentation or postponement, in conformity with the relevant international resolutions and references, which could lead to the establishment of two States: an independent Palestinian State with the 4 June 1967 borders and the State of Israel, peacefully coexisting;

2. *Exhort* Member States of the African Union that have recognized and are maintaining relations with the State of Israel to openly declare that their recognition was based on the 1967 borders, and reiterate their recognition of the State of Palestine within the same borders, and refrain from any action that could undermine the basis of the final two-State solution, particularly transfer of embassies or diplomatic missions represented in Israel to the city of Jerusalem which is an occupied Palestinian territory; call upon African States those with missions in Israel not to visit the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem except in coordination with the State of Palestine;
3. *Urge* Member States to take into account, in any cooperation with the State of Israel, that such cooperation does not support the Israeli occupation at the expense of African support for the Palestinian cause, in line with the noble ideals and the noble foundation on which the African Union is established, the first of which is the right of people to self-determination;
4. *Commend and welcome* the Palestinian reconciliation and the Unity Government Agreement implemented in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and greatly appreciate the efforts of Egypt to achieve this reconciliation, and the monitoring and supervision of its provisions in order to strengthen the unity of Palestinian ranks and its negotiating position, and contribute to relaxing the unfair Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and the improvement of the humanitarian conditions of its population;
5. *Call upon* Member States to support the State of Palestine in their right to become a full-fledged member of the United Nations and support the efforts made by Palestinians to join international agencies and adhere to international conventions and protocols;
6. *Reject and condemn* the settlements by the Israeli occupation force in the occupied territories in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and call upon the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council, to trigger the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 of 24 December 2016, which Israel is openly violating by building new settlements and extending those that already exist;
7. *Deplore and denounce* the Israeli policy aimed at Judaizing the city of Jerusalem and changing its historic, legal and demographic character, continuing attacks against sacred Islamic and Christian sites, the imposition of restrictions and tight control of freedom of worship in the Holy City; and call on the United Nations Organization to supervise the implementation of the UNESCO resolution of 26 October 2016 on Jerusalem and ensure the respect of the full implementation of the said resolution;
8. *Reject* the decision of the American Administration published on 6 December 2017, which considers Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and believe that this decision constitutes a major obstacle to the achievement of peace; Jerusalem is one of the last issues in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the negotiations between the parties 26 years ago;
9. *Reaffirm* that East Jerusalem within the 4 June 1967 borders is the capital of the Palestinian State, in conformity with the resolutions of international law and the previous decisions of the African Union in this regard; and affirm the sanctity of holy Christian and Islamic sites in Jerusalem and the freedom of practice of religious rites;
10. *Call upon* all African States to put an end to any form of direct or indirect dealings with the illegal Israeli system of colonization of territories of the Palestinian State, including East Jerusalem, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 5 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2334, and to take all measures to end such dealings, as was done by the Organization of African Unity against the apartheid regime in South Africa;
11. *Consider* that the following Israeli practices and procedures are the hallmarks of a racist regime that call for the immediate intervention of the international community to put an end to the situation, which is contrary to international law and international humanitarian law, and undermines international moral values:

- The breaking up of the State of Palestine and its geographical contiguity through the confiscation of land for building settlements and the transformation of Palestinian cities into population centres;
 - The completion of the building of the separation and annexation wall, and the isolation of all Palestinian cities;
 - The linking of settlements constructed by their own road networks and preventing Palestinian citizens from using them;
 - The intransigence of asking Palestinians to recognize the Jewishness of the State of Israel;
 - The difference in the application of regulations and laws to Israeli and Palestinian citizens;
12. *Reject* the land and sea blockade imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip, causing the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation there and request that all restrictions imposed on the Gaza Strip be lifted immediately;
13. *Reiterate* the need to ensure international protection of the land and people of the State of Palestine in order to put an end to the occupation and to preserve the possibility of a two-State solution, pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolutions 605 (1987), 672 and 673 (1990) and 904 (1994) based on the Geneva Conventions and reaffirm their applicability to the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967;
14. *Support* the Palestinian position in its vision of a final solution to the conflict based on the principle of a two-State solution, while rejecting any fragmented and incomplete solution and provisional temporary State, and refusing to recognize the Jewishness of the State of Israel;
15. *Reiterate* that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories to the June 1967 borders, including the Syrian Golan Heights and territories still under occupation in Southern Lebanon.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XXX)

Declaration on the Centenary of Nelson Mandela

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 28 to 29 January 2018,

Recalling and recommitting ourselves to the noble ideals and values of Nelson Mandela,

Recalling also our decision at the Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU Heads of State and Government, declaring 2014 to 2024 as the Madiba Nelson Mandela Decade of Reconciliation in Africa,

Reaffirming our collective resolve to spare no effort in our efforts to bring about lasting peace in Africa,

Recognizing the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela,

Hereby:

1. *Observe* the year 2018 as the Nelson Mandela Centenary;
2. *Decide* to convene a meeting in honour of Nelson Mandela at our Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly to be held in Nouakchott Mauritania, from 1 to 2 July 2018;

3. *Express our full support* for the holding of a Peace Summit under the theme “Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion and maintenance of international peace: Building on Mandela’s Legacy” on the margins of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly on 17 September 2018;
4. *Also support* the proposal to have a declaration as an outcome of the Peace Summit and call on the Commission and the African Group in New York to work closely with the relevant stakeholders in the process of drafting and negotiating the outcome;
5. *Request* the Commission and the Republic of South Africa to carry out necessary consultations with the United Nations and other relevant parties to ensure the success of the proposed Peace Summit;
6. *Urge* all AU Member States to support and observe the Nelson Mandela Centenary and recommit themselves to the ideals and values espoused by Nelson Mandela.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XXX)

Declaration on Internet Governance and the Development of Africa’s Digital Economy

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 28 to 29 January 2018,

Acknowledging that the Internet is an essential tool and a dynamic force for economic, social and cultural development, and recalling in that regard resolution 26/13 of the Human Rights Council,

Also acknowledging that Africa’s voice in Internet Governance is critical to the development of Africa’s economy and enabling Africa to contribute more effectively to the global economy (and that Africa’s economy needs to be significantly extended),

Recalling the commitments made during the Geneva and Tunis World Summits on the Information Society in respect of a shared vision of Internet Governance (IG), which led to the adoption of a Declaration of Principles and a working definition of IG,

Taking into account the concerns raised by allegations of mass surveillance and violations of the right to privacy in the digital environment and reaffirming the commitments made in United Nations General Assembly resolutions 68/167 and 69/166 to respect and protect the right to privacy, including in the context of digital communication,

Noting with concern that less than 20 per cent of Africans are online, that the majority of those not connected are in the rural areas, notably women and the poor, and that the average cost of fixed line and mobile internet exceeds 50 per cent of average per capita income,

Reaffirming our commitment to the need for stability, for the safety of citizens and enterprises, confidentiality of online data security, through the AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection, and taking into account the scalability of Africa’s Internet infrastructure,

Recalling the commitment of Member States to promote and protect fundamental freedoms, especially the right to freedom of expression and access to information (on and offline), and human and peoples’ rights enunciated in instruments of the African Union and of the United Nations and recognizing that these rights must be upheld online as well as offline,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the AU, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and civil society organizations, to strengthen the participation of African countries in global Internet

Governance and related public policy discussions, which led to the creation of the African Internet Governance Forum,

Acknowledging the need for localizing Internet Governance discussions and related public policy matters to enable, develop and support local Internet/Digital economy,

Noting with satisfaction the renewal, on 16 December 2015, of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), by the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly which had, in addition, welcomed the Internet Governance Forum's role, as a multiparty forum for discussions on these issues and called for the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group established for the purpose of proposing improvements to the forum (Document A/67/65-E/2012/48 and Corr.1) and the implementation of the texts of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recognizing that multi-stakeholder processes have become an essential and unique approach to engagement in addressing Internet and other policy development processes and to tackling complex issues,

Conscious that Internet Governance principles should exemplify and uphold the basic tenets of an open, accessible, resilient, interoperable Internet, which led to its remarkable success today, and that they should also form the foundation for any future engagements of all stakeholders in national, regional and international Internet-related policymaking efforts,

We hereby:

On Internet Governance Principles

1. *Reaffirm* that Internet Governance should be inclusive, transparent and accessible to all;
2. *Invite* all stakeholders to harness the potential of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to help in achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as adopted by the United Nations on 25 September 2015;
3. *Acknowledge* the importance of maintaining an open Internet based on open standards development processes, as key enablers for inclusive knowledge and information societies;
4. *Remain* committed to facilitating a resilient, unique, universal and interoperable Internet that is accessible to all and will strive to ensure universal and affordable Internet access for all African citizens, including people with specific needs;
5. *Uphold* the spirit of multi-stakeholder Internet Governance in the Tunis Agenda and commit to advance multi-stakeholder approaches that are open, participatory, inclusive, transparent, collaborative, consensus-driven, and that respect cultural, gender and linguistic diversity and which seek to promote accountability and full participation of governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical community and users; and further recognize that the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders can vary depending on the issue under consideration;
6. *Request* the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), regional and international organizations involved in Internet and ICT development and the regional offices of the ECA to play a leading role in, and facilitate, national and regional IGFs in their respective regions;
7. *Invite* the Commission to reach out to all stakeholders and provide a framework to ensure the active participation of governments, the private sector, civil society, and the technical community on a shared footing to Internet public policy and governance related processes/discussions for decision-making;

On Africa's Participation in Internet Governance

8. *Request* the Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and the ECA to increase the participation of Member States, specialized institutions and RECs in Internet Governance discussions and related public policy processes, including but not limited to those taking place at the United Nations, AU, ITU, ICANN, IETF, HRC, AFRINIC, ISOC, AfTLD, IGF, Africa IGF, regional and national IGFs;
9. *Request* Member States, specialized institutions and RECs to develop, in cooperation with NPCA and the Commission, mechanisms and channels that allow global debate on Internet Governance to be translated and interpreted into local context and encourage active and open local and subregional contributions from all stakeholders;
10. *Also request* the Commission and NPCA to develop coordination mechanisms with relevant continental institutions such as AFRINIC, AfNOG, AfREN, AfriSPA on matters related to Internet Governance and cyberspace;
11. *Encourage* Member States to support and encourage the participation of all stakeholders in national and regional IGFs, which form the foundation stones of the African IGF;
12. *Urge* the Commission and the ECA to support the establishment of an Africa Internet Development and Governance Observatory and to put in place mechanisms to track and follow up on recommendations from the regional and global IGFs and to provide periodic reports to Member States;
13. *Urge* Member States to contribute effectively and take the lead in the establishment of national and regional IGFs and to fully participate in regional IGFs as well as in the African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF);

On Development of Africa's Digital Economy

14. *Undertake* to ensure legal and regulatory environments that will enable growth of Africa's digital economy through innovative applications and services, making the Internet central to Africa's development agenda;
15. *Promote* local content and put in place the necessary mechanisms to ensure equitable distribution of Internet revenues;
16. *Foster* partnerships to stimulate investment in ICT and Internet infrastructure;
17. *Undertake* to ratify the Malabo Convention to combat cybercrimes while promoting personal data protection and respecting human rights within appropriate legal frameworks. In so doing, we will preserve the integrity and reliability of the regional Internet infrastructure as well as local users' trust and reliance on the Internet for secure electronic transactions;
18. *Request* the Commission and the NPCA, in collaboration with other key stakeholders, to assess Africa's digital economy to determine areas that need strengthening or development of new policies in line with stimulating the growth of Africa's digital economy;
19. *Pledge* to work together in the fight against the inappropriate use of ICTs in a bid to reach a consensus, in the medium term, on the best cyber security mechanisms and practices in Africa;
20. *Request* the Commission to work with Member States, partners and stakeholders to enhance Africa's future participation in new gTLDs rounds by examining the factors hampering participation, facilitating the development of business models relevant to Africa and engaging ICANN to lower the barriers to entry for African stakeholders;

21. *Also request* the Commission to work with Member States, the private sector, and other partners to ensure that Africa develops a robust infrastructure to enable effective participation in the global Internet, particularly DNS, the hosting industry, and ensure that Africans are custodians of their data and information;

22. *Further request* the Commission to work with relevant stakeholders to develop a common African programme of action on Internet Governance, which will ensure that the rights of Africans on the Internet are promoted and upheld, and that African concerns are recognized in the global Internet Governance regime;

On Management of Domain Names

23. *Undertake* to promote the use of country code top level domains (ccTLDs) as elements of national and continental branding and to ensure that ccTLD registries are operated as public-benefit institutions that can create, nurture and support local critical infrastructure and a local community able to attract investments;

24. *Undertake* to continue promoting the adoption of IPv6 and to lead by example through its adoption and deployment of IPv6 by ccTLD registries, as well as public departments and agencies' network infrastructures;

25. *Request* the Commission to work in collaboration with concerned institutions to reach agreements with ccTLD registries operated by private individuals or operated by entities outside of national jurisdiction to transfer the registries and enable them to operate as public benefit bodies;

26. *Further request* the Commission to act as a clearing house for best practices in the management of ccTLD registries in Africa, and to encourage and facilitate the sharing of lessons learned by Member States in securing national ownership of the operation of their ccTLD registries;

On Global Internet Governance

27. *Urge* the international community to transform the non-global institutions into more inclusive global institutions that represent all citizens of the world, taking into account the concerns and needs of Africa and other developing countries, while advocating for their continued role as the core of the global Internet governance ecosystem;

28. *Request* the Commission, working through Member States GAC representatives and other stakeholders, to monitor the process of improving the IANA adopted in Marrakesh in March 2016;

29. *Reaffirm* our commitment to work with these organizations and with all partners so that these institutions become more global in their nature.

Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXX)

Declaration on the Commemoration of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the African Peer Review Mechanism

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 28 to 29 January 2018,

Recalling the Assembly Decision on the Revitalization of the African Peer Review Mechanism Assembly/AU/Dec.631 (XXVIII), which among others looked “forward to the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the APRM in 2018, and directs the AU Commission to prepare a draft declaration in this regard for the consideration of the Assembly at its ordinary session in January 2018”,

Further recalling our commitment to the fundamental principles and objectives of the African Union, as enshrined in the Constitutive Act, the founding instrument of the African Union and comprising, inter alia, the promotion of democratic principles and institutions, popular participation, good governance, human and peoples’ rights; the

promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent; and the acceleration of the political and socio-economic integration of Africa,

Reaffirming that the principles and objectives of the APRM are themselves intrinsic to the aforementioned principles and objectives of the African Union,

Recalling that at the Inaugural Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in July 2002, in Durban, South Africa, we adopted a Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance, in which we articulated the same said principles and objectives of the APRM, as well as declared that the AU Member States had separately agreed to establish the APRM on the basis of voluntary accession,

Inspired by the vision of the APRM as an African-owned and African-led platform for self-assessment, peer-learning, and experience-sharing in the pursuit of the highest possible standards of good political, economic and corporate governance as well as broad-based and sustainable socio-economic development,

Recognizing that the primary purpose of the 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,

Recalling that the mandate of the APRM is to encourage participating States in ensuring that their policies and practices 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,

Reaffirming the commitment to the APRM Base Document AHG/235 (XXXVIII) annex II of July 2002 in which the APRM is described as an instrument voluntarily acceded to by Member States of the African Union and as an African self-monitoring mechanism, and convinced of the imperative need for the APRM to consolidate itself as the authoritative institution on governance within the African Union,

Reaffirming our commitment to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance of January 2007, and particularly its principal objective to promote adherence to the universal values and principles of democracy and respect for human rights, thus building on the core principles of the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance,

Recalling that the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance stipulates that the States Parties shall promote and deepen democratic governance by implementing, inter alia, the principles and core values of the APRM,

Acknowledging that the adoption of the APRM Statute at the meeting of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government of 26 August 2016 marked a historic step to put the Mechanism on solid legal basis and secure its future as an institution central to our enduring pursuit of transformative governance on the continent,

Stressing that this celebration provides an opportunity for the APRM to take stock of its achievements and the challenges that it has encountered over the past 15 years in the promotion of good governance in Africa,

Reiterating that the APRM remains the premier homegrown, African good governance tool conceived in 2003 and voluntarily acceded to by 37 Member States representing 67 per cent of AU Member States, more than half of whom (21) have undergone the review,

Encouraged by the progress on the operationalization of the APRM expanded mandate emanating from the institutional reforms led by H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, and the Assembly decision on the revitalization of the APRM,

Welcoming steps undertaken to position the APRM as an early warning tool for conflict prevention on the continent, in the context of harmony and synergy between the APRM, the African Peace and Security Architecture, and the African Governance Architecture,

Guided by the vision of our Union and affirming our determination to build an Africa of good governance, we:

1. *Welcome* the accession of Gambia and Comoros as new members of the Mechanism;
2. *Rededicate* ourselves to the cause of good governance in all its four manifestations of good political governance, sound economic governance and management and corporate governance and inclusive and broad-based socio-economic development;
3. *Call upon* all members of the APRM to enhance their participation, pay their annual contributions, safeguard the APRM and maintain its African ownership and leadership, and make the fullest possible use of its services in the spirit of self and peer assessment;
4. *Call upon* non-members of the APRM to join the Mechanism in the pursuit of universal participation by all AU Member States;
5. *Call upon* the AU itself to make full use of the APRM, build on its recently expanded mandate, avoid institutional duplication and ensure those institutions already in existence are streamlined;
6. *Encourage* APRM Members that have undertaken their peer review to continue to implement their national plans of action;
7. *Call upon* all AU Member States to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the APRM at the national level;
8. *Also call upon* the strategic partners of the APRM to continue and further intensify their support to the APRM; and
9. *Further call upon* the APRM Secretariat to continue to build its capacity and establish a world-class institution in the service of APRM members.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXX)

**Resolution on the Lifting of the Economic, Commercial and Financial Blockade
Imposed on the Republic of Cuba by the United States of America**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the ongoing illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Government and people of the Republic of Cuba;
2. *Reaffirms* its full support for the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, “Necessity of ending the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”;
3. *Regrets* the setback in the bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States, and once again urges the Government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing and unjustifiable economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Cuban people;
4. *Reaffirms* its solidarity with the people of Cuba.

TENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

**Kigali, Rwanda
21 March 2018**

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

**Decision on the Draft Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
(Doc. Ext/Assembly/AU/2 (X))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, the Leader of the AfCFTA, and the recommendations thereof on the progress achieved on the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA);
2. *Takes note* of the recommendations in the decision of the Executive Council on the draft Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, the Protocol on Trade in Goods, the Protocol on Trade in Services and the Protocol on Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes;
3. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.394 (XVIII) adopted in January 2012, which mandated the Commission to fast track the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.666 (XXX) adopted in January 2018 on the Continental Free Trade Area;
4. *Commends* the African Union Ministers of Trade (AMOT), the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Justice and Legal Affairs and the African Union Commission for their efforts to conclude and finalize the AfCFTA legal instruments;
5. *Adopts* the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, the Protocol on Trade in Goods, the Protocol on Trade in Services and the Protocol on Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes, with amendment to Article 13 of the Agreement related to the Secretariat;
6. *Launches* the African Continental Free Trade Area;
7. *Strongly urges* all Member States of the African Union to sign and ratify the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA in order to usher its entry into force as expeditiously as possible;
8. *Requests* the Commission to submit any annexes of the Agreement to an Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Justice and Legal Affairs for consideration and submit the same to the Assembly through the Executive Council scheduled on January 2019, for consideration;
9. *Reaffirms* its commitment to implement the Action Plan on Boosting Intra-African Trade, and Fast Tracking the Establishment of the AfCFTA, in accordance with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec 394 (XVIII)) and in order to realize the vision of Africa's economic emancipation, structural transformation and the meaningful participation of all its citizens, especially women and the youth, in the continental and global trading system;
10. *Welcomes* the presence of African business leaders in this historic Summit, and undertakes to establish with them an enduring partnership with a view to garner their active involvement and relevant contribution in the implementation of the legal instruments establishing the AfCFTA;
11. *Further commits* to undertake broad-based national awareness campaigns so that all stakeholders, such as ordinary citizens and business people across Africa, own the AfCFTA;
12. *Directs* the AU Ministers responsible for Trade to:
 - (i) Submit the Annexes to the Protocol on Trade in Goods, the Annexes to the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes, and the List of Priority Sectors on Trade in Services to the July 2018 session of the Assembly for adoption;

(ii) Submit the Schedules of Tariff Concessions, and Schedules of Specific Commitments on Trade in Services in line with agreed modalities to the January 2019 Assembly for adoption;

(iii) Conclude the negotiations on competition policy, investment and intellectual property rights, and submit the draft legal texts to the January 2020 session of the Assembly for adoption through the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs;

13. *Requests* the Commission to facilitate the conclusion of the outstanding issues (Built-In Agenda) in Phase I, and to continue to support Phase II of the negotiations on investment, intellectual property rights and competition policy to be undertaken under the institutional framework which was adopted by the Assembly in June 2015;

14. *Requests* the AfCFTA Leader, H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, to submit a progress report on the AfCFTA at its July 2018 Summit.

THIRTY-FIRST ORDINARY SESSION

**Nouakchott, Mauritania
1 to 2 July 2018**

Assembly/AU/Dec.690 (XXXI)

**Decision on the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Institutional Reform of the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (XXXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Article 9, paragraph 1 (a), of the Constitutive Act of the African Union on the powers and functions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Union to determine the common policies of the African Union;
2. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) of January 2017 on the Outcome of the Retreat of the Assembly of the African Union on the Institutional Reform of the African Union and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.687 (XXX) of January 2018 on the progress report on the implementation of institutional reform of the Union;
3. *Welcomes* the July 2018 Progress Report on the Implementation of the Institutional Reform of the African Union;
4. *Commends* H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and Leader on the Institutional Reform of the African Union, and the Bureau of the Assembly for their leadership in the supervision of the AU reform process, as well as the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, for the progress made in operationalizing the institutional reform;
5. *Welcomes* the progress made in deepening the consultation process in line with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.687 (XXX) January 2018; and commends the Group of Fifteen Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Chief Executives of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and the heads of AU organs and institutions for their active participation in the consultations;
6. *Also welcomes* the progress made in implementing the budgetary and financial reforms and commends the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15) and its experts, and the Subcommittee of the Permanent Representatives Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters for the excellent work on the 2019 budget;
7. *Also commends* Professor Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo, Head of the Institutional Reform Implementation Unit, for the excellent work undertaken in coordinating the reform implementation process and Dr Donald Kaberuka, AU High Representative for Financing the Union, for the excellent progress made on financing of the Union and Peace Fund agenda;
8. *Requests* the Commission to finalize proposals and recommendations based on the initial findings on the Pan-African Parliament, the Peace and Security Council, the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Peer Review Mechanism and the Advisory Board on Corruption;
9. *Reiterates* the crucial importance of the reform of the Commission as well as the need for strong Member State and independent expert involvement in the process and endorses the proposal that a retreat of the Executive Council be convened to review draft proposals and recommendations;
10. *Requests* the Commission to implement the reform of the Commission in line with the process and timelines set out in the July 2018 Progress Report, with a view to strengthening the overall administrative, operational and procedural effectiveness of the Commission;
11. *Further requests* the implementation of the road map on the clarification of the division of labour between the AU, the RECs, the Member States and continental organizations;

12. *Decides* to expand the membership of the Group of Fifteen Ministers of Foreign Affairs from 15 to 20 Member States, four per region, including the Kingdom of Morocco following the acceptance of its request for membership;
13. *Also decides* to convene an extraordinary session of the Assembly on the AU institutional reform process on 17 and 18 November 2018 at the AU Headquarters.

Assembly/AU/Dec.691 (XXXI)

**Decision on the Transformation of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA)
into the African Union Development Agency (AUDA)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (XXXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) on the Institutional Reform of the African Union of January 2017, which proposes the transformation of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) into an African Union Development Agency (AUDA);
2. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.685 (XXX) of January 2018 on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which reasserts the essential role played by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) in the provision of political leadership and strategic direction to the NEPAD programme;
3. *Welcomes* favourably the reform process implemented and reinforces that the principle of ownership is crucial in attaining the desired goals;
4. *Decides* as follows:
 - (i) On the statute of AUDA:

Approves the establishment of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA) as the technical body of the African Union with its own legal personality defined by its statute. In this regard, requests the Commission, in consultation with NPCA, to develop a statute for AUDA and submit it for adoption at the February 2019 summit;

- (ii) On the mandate of AUDA:

Notes that the mandate of AUDA shall be finalized after consultation with the African Union Commission due to its own ongoing reform, and NPCA for adoption by the Assembly of the Union in February 2019;

- (iii) On the governance structures of AUDA:

Emphasizes the importance of the governance structures of AUDA and the need to render them more inclusive;

5. *Further decides* that the structures of AUDA comprise:

- (i) A Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) that provides political leadership and strategic guidance on the AUDA and reports to the Assembly. It will be constituted as follows:
 - (a) To ensure inclusivity, the HSGOC shall be expanded from 20 to 33 Member States as follows: eight Member States chairing the Regional Economic Communities and five Member States per region;

- (b) The Principle of rotation shall be applied to the membership after a term of two years;
 - (c) The rotation of the Chairperson of the HSGOC, after a single term of two years, shall alternate between initiating members and non-initiating members;
 - (d) The Steering Committee is established as an intermediary body to interface between the HSGOC and the AUDA. It consists of the personal representatives of the Heads of State and Government, members of the HSGOC. The Steering Committee shall be co-chaired by the Member State chairing the HSGOC and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission;
 - (ii) The Chairperson of the African Union Commission exercises supervisory authority over the AUDA;
6. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission and the Chief Executive Officer of the NPCA to take all necessary measures for the implementation of this Decision and to present at the February 2019 summit the revised Rules of Procedure of the AUDA Governance Structures;
7. *Also requests* the Chairperson of the Commission, in coordination with the Permanent Representatives Committee, to undertake the necessary consultations to elect the new Member States of the HSGOC as well as the Chairperson of that Orientation Committee;
8. *Commends* the leadership of President Macky Sall that reinforced the credibility of NEPAD, that has been acknowledged within the international community, most particularly the African Union partners including the G20 and the G7;
9. *Congratulates* President Macky Sall and extends its gratitude for his commitment and the efficiency that he demonstrated during the four years of his tenure.

Assembly/AU/Dec.692 (XXXI)

**Decision on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XXXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger and Leader of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and the recommendations thereof on the progress achieved on the establishment of the AfCFTA;
2. *Recalls* Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (X) adopted in Kigali, Rwanda, in March 2018, which requested the African Union Ministers of Trade to submit the Annexes to the Protocol on Trade in Goods, the Annexes to the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes, and the List of Priority Sectors on Trade in Services to the July 2018 session of the Assembly for adoption;
3. *Adopts* the five services priority sectors: transport, communication, tourism, financial and business services;
4. *Endorses* the recommendations of the African Union Ministers of Trade to undertake national and regional consultations on the lists of sensitive products and exclusion and requests them to come up with a conclusive recommendation on this matter for consideration by the February 2019 summit;
5. *Commends* the African Union Ministers of Trade (AMOT), the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Justice and Legal Affairs and the Commission for their efforts to conclude Annexes to the Protocol on Trade in Goods and Annexes to the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes;

6. *Welcomes* the signatures and ratifications of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area and its Protocols and strongly urges all other Member States who have not done so to sign and ratify the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA before its first anniversary;
7. *Decides* to celebrate the entry into force of the AfCFTA during the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to be held in Niamey, Niger, in June/July 2019;
8. *Commits* to undertake broad-based national awareness campaigns so that all stakeholders, such as ordinary citizens and business people across Africa, embrace the AfCFTA;
9. *Further commits* to engage external partners as one block speaking with one voice and urges Member States to abstain from entering into bilateral trading arrangements until the entry into force of the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA;
10. *Mandates* the Commission to organize a Civil Society Forum and a Private Sector Forum preceding the June/July 2019 Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in Niamey, Niger, in order to enhance stakeholder engagement on the implementation of the AfCFTA;
11. *Further commits* to establish national committees on AfCFTA to ensure meaningful participation of all stakeholders and come up with national AfCFTA and boosting intra-African trade strategies;
12. *Requests* the Commission to:
 - (i) Develop a template on the operation of national AfCFTA committees by January 2019;
 - (ii) Develop regulatory cooperation in all services sectors in collaboration with national and regional regulators and building on continental and global experiences;
13. *Reiterates* its directive to the AU Ministers responsible for Trade to:
 - (i) Submit the Schedules of Tariff Concessions, and Schedules of Specific Commitments on Trade in Services in line with agreed modalities to the February 2019 Assembly for adoption;
 - (ii) Conclude the negotiations on competition policy, investment and intellectual property rights, and submit the draft legal texts to the January 2020 session of the Assembly for adoption through the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs;
14. *Requests* the AfCFTA Leader, H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, to submit a progress report on the AfCFTA to the February 2019 summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.693 (XXXI)

**Decision on the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission of the
African Union on the Issue of Western Sahara
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the issue of Western Sahara;

2. *Commends* the Chairperson of the Commission for the steps he has taken in pursuance of the mandate entrusted to him by the Assembly of the Union in paragraph 6 of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.653 (XXIX) adopted at its Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3 to 4 July 2018, including consultations with the Moroccan and Sahrawi authorities, as well as with other stakeholders, including the neighbouring countries and the United Nations, and expresses its appreciation to the Chairperson of the Union, President Paul Kagame, for the consultations he undertook on the issue of Western Sahara;
3. *Reiterates* its deep concern at the continued stalemate in the conflict in Western Sahara and the resulting consequences on the ground and in the region, as well as its impact on the functioning of the AU and the implementation of its priorities;
4. *Stresses* the need for renewed efforts to overcome the current impasse in the negotiation process and to find a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in line with the relevant AU decisions and United Nations Security Council resolutions. In this respect, the Assembly appeals to the parties to the conflict to urgently resume negotiations without preconditions and in good faith, under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, whose Security Council is seized of the matter;
5. *Agrees* on the need for the AU to actively contribute to the search for a solution, through renewed support to the efforts led by the United Nations Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy. In this respect, the Assembly:
 - (a) Decides to establish an African mechanism comprising the AU Troika, namely the outgoing, the current and the incoming Chairpersons, as well as the Chairperson of the Commission, to extend effective support to the United Nations-led efforts, by encouraging the parties to demonstrate flexibility, mobilizing as large support as possible for the United Nations led-efforts, and reflecting, in close consultation with the United Nations, on the substance of the desired compromise. This mechanism shall report regularly on the implementation of its mandate to the Assembly of the Union and, as necessary, to the Peace and Security Council at the level of the Heads of State and Government. The Assembly decides that the issue of Western Sahara will only be raised within this framework and at this level;
 - (b) Requests the Chairperson of the Commission to initiate the required consultations for the reactivation of the AU Office in Laayoune to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, in order to facilitate operational coordination with the United Nations;
 - (c) Appeals to all AU Member States, in particular the neighbouring countries, to support the United Nations-led efforts;
6. *Expresses its determination*, while efforts are underway to find a solution to the conflict, to ensure that the implementation of the AU agenda, in particular the integration process and related partnerships, is not hampered in any way by the prevailing state of affairs with respect to Western Sahara;
7. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit this decision to the parties, as well as to the United Nations and other stakeholders;
8. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Assembly/AU/Dec.694 (XXXI)

**Decision on a New Agreement on Post-Cotonou Cooperation with the European Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (XXXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* decision Ext/EX.CL/Dec.2 (XVIII) on the African Common Position for the Negotiation of a New Post-2020 Cooperation Agreement with the European Union (EU), adopted at the Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 19 March 2018, as a single framework of continent-to-continent cooperation between the African Union (AU) and the EU. The Assembly also recalls the Declaration issued by the AU/EU Summit held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in November 2017, emphasizing the AU and EU common interest in moving towards a paradigm shift to an even stronger, mutually beneficial partnership, and expressing support for regional unity and integration;
2. *Affirms* the importance of speaking with one voice and acting as one to effectively promote Africa's interests on the global stage and, in particular, ensure that Africa's partnership with the EU fully supports and facilitates the process of regional and continental integration and development;
3. *Reaffirms* the need to move forward on an AU-EU post-Cotonou agreement that treats Africa as a united continent that speaks with one voice, while preserving the common interests, specificities, diversities and *acquis* of each African region and country, as well as their existing legal frameworks and financial and political instruments with Europe;
4. *Recognizes* the need for further consultations in order to consolidate Africa's Common Position on its Post-Cotonou relations with the EU. The Assembly, acknowledging the existence of ongoing processes to launch negotiations with the EU, calls for the postponement of the commencement of these negotiations until after the conclusion of the consultations referred to above to consolidate the African Common Position. To this end, the Assembly requests the Chairperson of the Commission to communicate this call to the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), as well as to the EU and other stakeholders, and urges AU Member States to support the postponement of the commencement of these negotiations;
5. *Decides* to hold, by September 2018, a meeting of the Executive Council enlarged to include Ministers in charge of ACP and/or Ministers in charge of the negotiations with the EU, on the Post-Cotonou 2020 agreement, in order to consolidate consensus on the African Common Position, negotiating strategy and agreement elements;
6. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Chairperson of the Commission of Mr. Carlos Lopes, former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, as his High Representative to support Member States in the negotiation of a new agreement with the EU Post-2020.

Assembly/AU/Dec.695 (XXXI)

**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 (XXXI))**

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. *Urges* the parties in Madagascar, under the auspices of the AU and in collaboration with the SADC, the United Nations and EU, to pursue their efforts towards a negotiated and consensual solution to the current political crisis in their country with a view to creating conditions conducive for the holding of peaceful, credible and transparent elections. The Assembly commends the High Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Silencing the Guns, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, for building consensus between the Malagasy parties that resulted in the designation of the Prime Minister and the formation of the Government of National Consensus. Furthermore, the Assembly appeals to the bilateral and multilateral partners of Madagascar to provide effective support to the electoral process in that country;

3. *Recalls* the peaceful environment enjoyed by the Comorian people following the adoption of the Fomboni Agreement of February 2001 and the Comorian Constitution thereafter and strongly underlines the necessity of their continued respect. The Assembly urges the stakeholders to engage in dialogue, without delay, and an inclusive consultation on constitutional reforms, under the auspices of the AU. In this context, the Assembly requests the Peace and Security Council to continue following closely the situation in the Comoros;
4. *Commends* the efforts of IGAD to revitalize the process of implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) with a view to assisting the parties to further reconciliation and achieve durable peace. The Assembly urges the parties to abide by their commitments, accept in good faith the bridging proposal. The Assembly commends the work done by the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) and the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangement Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM) to ensure compliance with the signed Agreements. In this respect, the Assembly calls on the Government of South Sudan and the armed movements to fully cooperate with CTSAMM in the discharge of its mandate and underscores that any obstruction of the work of CTSAMM shall be deemed as a violation of the ARCSS, and in this regard, punitive measures shall be taken accordingly;
5. *Underscores* the importance of continued close coordination among the AU, IGAD and the United Nations, and calls for consultations between the AU Ad Hoc Committee and IGAD in order to further enhance the support to IGAD efforts. The Assembly takes note of the communiqué of the Thirty-second Extraordinary Summit of IGAD held on 21 June 2018, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Assembly endorses the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council meeting, held on 30 June 2018, at the level of Heads of State and Government, and encourages the AU High-Level Ad Hoc Committee on South Sudan, through the AU High Representative for South Sudan, Alpha Oumar Konare, as well as the Chair of the JMEC, Mr. Festus Mogae, to continue their efforts in support to IGAD towards the early ending of the bloody conflict ravaging South Sudan. The Assembly welcomes the face-to-face talks held on 20 June 2018 between President Salva Kiir Mayardit and Dr. Riek Machar Teny under the auspices of the IGAD Chairperson, H.E Dr Abiy Ahmed Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
6. *Welcomes* the communiqué of the Thirty-second Extraordinary Session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government on South Sudan held on 21 June 2018, in Addis Ababa, which, among other aspects, decided that the face-to-face meetings should continue in Khartoum and Nairobi. The Assembly also welcomes the subsequent meeting held under the auspices of President Hassan Al Basher of Republic of Sudan and attended by President Yoweri Museveni of the Republic of Uganda, which culminated with the Khartoum Declaration Agreement on 27 June 2018. Furthermore, the Assembly welcomes the continued efforts of Presidents Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt to support the process of SPLM reunification;
7. *Commends* the Government of Sudan and UNAMID for their collaborative efforts to address the Darfur crisis and underscores the need for a gradual draw down process, to be informed by the recommendations of the Special Report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Strategic Review of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and PSC communiqué (PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCLXXVIII)) adopted at its 778th meeting held on 11 June 2018. The Assembly urges the Government to continue, through the residual committees of the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA), to intensify efforts towards addressing land issues, return of internally displaced persons, reconciliation, peacebuilding and addressing the root causes of the conflict in Darfur, in the framework of post-conflict reconstruction and development. The Assembly calls on the armed groups that are still out of the DDP, to immediately enter into genuine dialogue with the Government in order to expedite the implementation of this peace agreement;
8. *Urges* the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to implement their commitments as outlined in the 2012 Cooperation Agreement and the subsequent decisions of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism and requests the AU Commission, through the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan, to continue its engagements with the two Governments, to assist them in building two viable States living side by side in peace;

9. *Commends* the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for its recent expression of commitment to the implementation of the Algiers Peace Agreement signed with Eritrea, on 12 December 2000, and to fully accept the decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC). The Assembly also commends the State of Eritrea for positively responding to this offer and the step taken towards opening a new chapter of cooperation, including the dispatch of its delegation to Addis Ababa, in the spirit of upholding good neighbourliness. The Assembly reaffirms its commitment to accompany the two Governments in their efforts to normalize relations for the good their people, who share a common history and destiny;

10. *Emphasizes* the need for all countries in the Horn of Africa to engage towards maximizing possibilities for achieving lasting peace in the entire region and calls for continued efforts to facilitate the normalization of the relations between Djibouti and Eritrea in line with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.583 (XXV) adopted by the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 14 and 15 June 2015;

11. *Welcomes* the Somalia Transition Plan, as a sound basis for the country to realize durable peace. The Assembly reaffirms the AU's support to the FGS in its transition implementation activities. The Assembly commends the joint efforts by the Chairperson of the Commission and the United Nations Secretary-General in exploring options for predictable and sustainable funding for AMISOM, through the respective Special Envoys, namely Ramtane Lamamra and Jean-Marie Guéhenno. The Assembly requests the United Nations Security Council to endorse the recommendations of the report of the AU-United Nations Envoys for predictable and sustainable funding for AMISOM and Somali Security Forces during the transition period and reiterates its call on the United Nations for AMISOM and Somali Security Forces to be funded predictably and sustainably from the United Nations assessed contributions;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts by the authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as well as by the National Independent Elections Commission (CENI), with the support of the AU Commission, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and other AU Member States, and the United Nations in the preparations, organization and holding of the upcoming general elections scheduled for December 2018. In this regard, the Assembly reiterates its call for the mobilization of the necessary support from AU Member States for the successful organization of the presidential, legislative and provincial elections. Furthermore, the Assembly encourages the Congolese political and social actors to make the necessary compromises, with a view to preserving continuous dialogue and a spirit of consensus, as the only way to the conduct of peaceful elections. In this regard, the Assembly urges the CENI to take all necessary measures to enlist the services of the team of electoral experts dispatched by the AU and international partners, in order for the team to provide the assistance and the assurances required regarding the use of the voting machine. The Assembly further urges the Congolese authorities to continue fully cooperating with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) and of its Intervention Brigade with regard to operations aimed at neutralizing armed groups in Eastern DRC. The Assembly expresses solidarity with the Congolese people in the face of the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak and commends the efforts deployed by the AU Commission and the DRC that resulted in the containment of the epidemic;

13. *Reiterates* its full support to the Central African authorities in their efforts to restore order and authority throughout the territory, including in the overall reconstruction of the country. The Assembly also reiterates its call to the armed groups to put a definitive end to the use of violence, respect the elected and decentralized authorities and unconditionally join the political process for the resolution of the current crisis, under the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR. The Assembly commends the efforts of the Member States of the Facilitation Panel and encourages other AU Member States to support the implementation of the African Initiative. The Assembly also commends the efforts of the international partners of the CAR, including the EU, and encourages them to pursue their efforts. The Assembly further commends the United Nations Integrated Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA), and underscores the need to strengthen the Mission as

announced in November 2017. The Assembly calls on the countries of the region to continue assisting the CAR in its efforts towards stabilization and socio-economic recovery;

14. *Takes note* of the statement made by H.E President Pierre Nkurunziza of Burundi not to stand for the presidential elections in 2020, and calls upon the Government and all other political actors to work together in pursuance of an all-inclusive and consensual dialogue to enhance cohesion and peace in the country. The Assembly commends H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and Mediator of the East African Community, as well as H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, the Facilitator, for their leadership of the Inter-Burundian Dialogue process. The Assembly requests the Commission to accompany Burundi during this phase and contribute, together with the East African Community, to its efforts towards an all-inclusive dialogue and the strengthening of democracy and respect for human rights in the country. The Assembly further calls for the lifting of sanctions imposed by the European Union on Burundi in order to create the opportunity for socio-economic recovery in the country;

15. *Welcomes* the progress achieved thus far in Guinea-Bissau and commends the stakeholders for adhering to and implementing the 2016 Conakry Agreement, demonstrating commitment to, and respect for the country's Constitution, in enabling the functioning of the country's institutions. The Assembly underscores the imperative for the Bissau-Guinean stakeholders to consolidate the gains made thus far by acting in unity for the good of the country. In this context, the Assembly reiterates its appreciation for the efforts deployed by the AU, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), the EU and the United Nations in addressing the situation in Guinea-Bissau and finding a lasting solution to the crisis in that country. The Assembly looks forward to the consolidation of measures that will allow the holding of free and fair elections following the calendar announced by the Government and endorsed by the People's National Assembly;

16. *Welcomes* the gains made in the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali and urges for speedy progress, as the only way to durable peace and security in the country. The Assembly looks forward to the holding of peaceful, free and fair elections at the end of July 2018, that will consolidate peace and stability in Mali. The Assembly expresses its concern, once again, at the deterioration of the security situation in Mali, with its spillover effect to the central regions of the country and the neighbouring Burkina Faso and Niger. The Assembly welcomes the progress made in operationalizing the G5 Sahel Joint Force and underscores the commitment of the AU to assist in articulating a regionally-coordinated response within the framework of the Nouakchott Process, as well as other Regional Economic Communities (RECs), on the Enhancement of Security Cooperation in the Sahelo-Saharan region. The Assembly reiterates its appeal to the international community, in particular, the United Nations Security Council, to take appropriate steps in order to ensure sustainable and predictable funding for the Joint Force and enhance its capacities in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. In the same context, the Assembly calls upon the international partners to honour the pledges they made during the Brussels Conference and, once again, underlines the importance of a holistic approach in order to more effectively address the security, governance and development challenges facing the region;

17. *Welcomes* the progress being made in the fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group and, in this regard, commends the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) for the relentless fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group. The Assembly also commends the AU partners for their continued support and appeals for additional support for the MNJTF, in order to fill its capability gaps, particularly with respect to amphibious equipment and counter-improvised explosive devices (C-IED) equipment, as well as resources for stabilization efforts;

18. *Expresses, once again, its deep concern* over the persistent security situation in Libya, which continues to prolong the suffering of the Libyan people. The Assembly takes note of the efforts being deployed at the regional, continental and international levels to find a lasting solution to the situation with a view to promoting national reconciliation and successfully completing the ongoing transition in Libya. In this regard, the Assembly welcomes the organization of meetings on Libya by neighbouring countries, the Quartet, the United Nations and other partners. The Assembly endorses the conclusions of the Ministerial Meeting, held in Addis Ababa, on 17 April 2018, and welcomes the outcomes of the International Conference on Libya that was convened under the auspices of

the United Nations, on 29 May 2018, in Paris. The Assembly takes note of the commitment of the Libyan leaders to the establishment of a constitutional basis, the adoption of electoral laws, the organization of legislative and presidential elections, as well as to an all-inclusive political conference. The Assembly calls for the organization of an inclusive Inter-Libyan National Reconciliation Forum, under the auspices of the United Nations and the AU, in August 2018, with a view to establishing conducive conditions for the successful organization of credible and peaceful elections. The Assembly expresses its appreciation to H.E Denis Sassou N'Guesso, President of the Republic of the Congo and Chairman of the AU High-Level Committee on Libya, for his relentless efforts towards the restoration of lasting peace in Libya;

19. *Takes note* of the efforts being deployed towards the full operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF). In this regard, the Assembly requests the Commission to provide quarterly briefings to the PSC on the harmonization of ACIRC within the framework of ASF. The Assembly calls for the holding of regular exchanges between the PSC and the relevant organs of the RECs/RMs, on the enhancement of the ASF and its Rapid Deployment Capability and implementation of other joint initiatives, most notably, the MNJTF, RCI-LRA, G5 Sahel Joint Force, in support of the realization of the full operationalization of the ASF. The Assembly directs that, in line with the implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.679 (XXX) and PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCLXVII), quarterly briefings by RECs/RMs be made to the PSC on conflict and crisis situations in their regions, in line with Article 16 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC of the AU so as to ensure joint AU-RECs/RMs strategic and political agreement, decision-making and engagement on key issues in managing and resolving conflicts;

20. *Commends* the Commission for scaling up the implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in post-conflict countries. In this context, the Assembly reaffirms its support to the ongoing reforms in Gambia and commends the efforts of the AU Commission and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) to stabilize the areas affected by the Boko Haram terrorist group through the development of a Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy. The Assembly calls on AU Member States and international partners to extend the necessary financial and technical assistance to support the implementation of the Strategy. The Assembly also calls on Member States and RECs/RMs to increase their support to the AU's PCRD efforts to stabilize countries emerging from conflict or undergoing difficult transitions;

21. *Underlines* the need, once again, for Africa to continue building on the ongoing efforts to revitalize the AU Peace Fund, which is a strategic asset in the continent's efforts to lead and control its peace and security agenda by availing predictable and sustainable funding. In this context, the Assembly, reiterates its encouragement to all Member States to continue deploying efforts towards the revitalization of the AU Peace Fund and expresses its appreciation to those who have already made contributions to the Fund;

22. *Underlines* the importance of preventing conflicts in Africa and reaffirms the need to prevent the ideology of hate, genocide and hate crimes in Africa. The Assembly endorses the decision of the PSC of its 761st session held on 5 April 2018 in Addis Ababa to designate 7 April of each year as the African Union Day of Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda. The Assembly further endorses the decision of the same PSC that corrected the nomenclature of the Genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda, to be: "The 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda";

23. *Reiterates* its concern on the migration situation in Africa, and endorses the decision of the PSC at its 771st meeting held on 11 May 2018, which agreed to the establishment of the African Migration Observatory in Morocco following the proposal of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco and AU Champion for Migration;

24. *Reaffirms* its commitment, once again, to promoting greater participation of women in peace efforts in Africa. In this regard, the Assembly welcomes the adoption on 16 May 2018, by the Peace and Security Council, of the Continental Results Framework for Monitoring and Reporting on Delivery by Member States on commitments and implementation progress on women, peace and security. The Assembly commends the Commission for the efforts to fully operationalize FEMWISE, including the organization of capacity-building training programmes with a view to ensuring active participation of women in AU-led peace efforts on the continent.

Assembly/AU/Dec.696 (XXXI)

Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on the Implementation of the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020 (Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XXXI))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on the Implementation of the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by Year 2020;
2. *Recalls* the Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted on 25 May 2013, in Addis Ababa, in which the Assembly of the Union pledged not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020, as well as Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII) by which the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 to 31 January 2017, adopted, following submission by the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020;
3. *Expresses deep concern* over the persistence of old conflicts and the outbreak of fresh ones, as well as the continued proliferation of threats, especially terrorism and violent extremism, to peace and security in Africa. The Assembly reiterates its readiness to effectively put an end to wars and reaffirms its determination to take all necessary measures to uproot the underlying causes of conflicts and crises which continue to undermine the continent's social-economic transformation and development;
4. *Commends* the efforts deployed by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) in championing and steering forward the implementation of the African Union Master Road Map (AURM) on Practical Steps to Silence the Guns and encourages all Member States to continue their engagement in this endeavour for a conflict-free continent. The Assembly reiterates its call to the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), civil society organizations, the private sector and the international community as a whole to ensure that, beyond slogans, they collectively contribute in a practical manner towards the realization of a conflict-free continent;
5. *Further commends* the Republics of Zambia and Zimbabwe, respectively, for being the first Member States to submit their written reports on their efforts in implementation of the AUMR and calls on other Member States to emulate this commendable example;
6. *Encourages* all Member States to continue demonstrating more political commitment and stronger engagement to ensure the creation of the requisite conditions, particularly in taking actions to address root causes of conflicts, for ending wars in Africa. In this respect, the Assembly emphasizes that the remaining period to the deadline of 2020 to silence the guns should be put to a maximum effective use by all stakeholders in the implementation of the AUMR;
7. *Commends* the RECs/RMs, particularly the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the East African Community (EAC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for submitting their reports and for their sustained efforts in implementation of the AUMR. The Assembly further commends the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) and the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) for also providing updates on the AUMR implementation. In this regard, the Assembly appeals to those who have not yet done so, to ensure that they work towards submitting reports for the PSC on the AUMR to the February 2019 AU Summit. The Assembly requests the RECs/RMs to each appoint a Special Envoy on the implementation of the AUMR, with a view to boosting and complement the efforts of the AU High Representative on Silencing the Guns, to accelerate the implementation of the AUMR;

8. *Endorses* the efforts of the PSC for initiating the development of the draft resolution on Silencing the Guns in Africa and for the steps that it has taken, particularly those aimed at having it adopted on by the United Nations Security Council;
9. *Strongly appeals* to all Member States to start planning for activities to mark the Africa Amnesty Month, during the upcoming September 2018, and ensure that all citizens are made aware of this exercise. In this context, the Assembly further appeals to the Member States to widely publicize the observance and execution of the Africa Amnesty Month, with the view to mobilizing civilians/citizens to voluntarily surrender illegally owned weapons and inspire them on the positive effects in the society. The Assembly commends the support provided by the AU Commission to Member States towards the conduct of activities during the observance of the Africa Amnesty Month for collection of illegal owned arms/weapons;
10. *Endorses* the proposal of the PSC to include studies relating to peace in Africa with a view to promoting the culture of peace, unity and tolerance in the communities in the Member States national education curricula, within the context of the implementation of the AUMR. In this regard, the Assembly requests all Member States to incorporate studies related to peace in their respective national education curricula;
11. As part of efforts to stem out root causes of conflict, the Assembly emphasizes the importance of Member States undertaking targeted interventions to prevent cross-border trafficking, including strengthening inter-State security cooperation and community policing to combat movement of terrorists, arms trafficking, human and drug trafficking, illicit financial flows, and other contraband goods that contribute to fuelling conflicts in Africa. The Assembly stresses the need to capitalize on and strengthen existing regional and international police and intelligence cooperation mechanisms, particularly through the services of African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL). In this regard, the Assembly commends the Government of Algeria for its support provided, namely training on the use of the African Police Communication System (AFSECOM) and provision of the communication equipment for the operationalization of AFSECOM to all Member States;
12. *Commends* the Commission for its efforts to enhance regional security cooperation and welcomes the establishment of the Eastern Africa Fusion and Liaison Unit (EA-FLU) in Uganda for strengthening counter-terrorism capability in Eastern Africa, as part of the Djibouti Process. In this regard, the Assembly calls on all Member States of the Djibouti Process to expedite the deployment of their officers to the EA-FLU;
13. *Underscores* the need for putting in place the measures and capacities required to effectively manage stockpiles of all armed security institutions, including establishing accounting and accountability frameworks, enhancing physical structures, and improving arms procurement and disposal practices to prevent excessive accumulation;
14. *Encourages* all Member States to promote civilian disarmament by addressing the various factors, particularly poverty, exclusion, marginalization, unemployment and insecurity, which drive the demand for possessing and uses of arms among civilians, in line with the Africa Amnesty Month. In this regard, the Assembly urges all Member States to consider a range of interventions including job creation projects, climate change mitigation, strengthening formal and traditional justice and reconciliation mechanisms, providing economic alternatives to criminal activities, and alter cultural values that condone violence. The Assembly underlines the importance of pursuing efforts to implement effective and nationally owned disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) interventions as part of post-conflict stabilization and development efforts;
15. *Emphasizes* the imperative and absolute need for Member States to enhance preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention in the efforts to silence the guns and promote peace and security on the continent;
16. *Stresses* the importance of the participation of women and youth in the full cycle of peace processes on the continent with a view to ensuring that the need for women and youth is fully included in the implementation of the AUMR. The Assembly welcomes the validation of the Continental Results Framework for Monitoring and Reporting on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa by Member States and Regional Economic

Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), that have put already in place national and regional action plans, as a tool to enhance delivery by Member States and other stakeholders on commitments on women, peace and security in Africa and in addressing issues of impunity;

17. *Appeals* to all Member States to provide reports to the PSC, through the AU Commission, on the implementation of the AUMR and to pay due attention to all the five key aspects as integrated in the AUMR, namely, political, social, economic, environmental and legal aspects, with the view to enabling Africa and its people to see the actual trends in the AUMR implementation process and address timeously gaps whenever and wherever they appear.

Assembly/AU/Dec.697 (XXXI)

**Decision on the Report on the Hosting of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XXXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.667 (XXX) of January 2018 wherein it was decided that further consultations on the hosting of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) be undertaken and report to the June/July 2018 Assembly session;
2. *Appreciates* the transition of the AMDC from UNECA to the Commission of the African Union and the efforts of the latter to mobilize resources for the sustainability of the AMDC;
3. *Commends* the Commission for mobilizing through cooperating partners funds amounting to US\$ 2 million to support the African Mining Vision (AMV) implementation and AMDC Interim Secretariat pending the conclusion of the hosting arrangements and the operationalization of the AMDC including setting up the AMDC governance structures for a period of two years;
4. *Decides* that the AMDC shall be hosted by the Republic of Guinea;
5. *Further decides* that the AMDC Secretariat will move to the Commission by the end of September 2018 for the interim period of not more than one year to allow the Commission to finalize the hosting arrangements, setting up of the governance structures as well as facilitate the ratification process;
6. *Urges* Member States to expedite the ratification of the AMDC Statute;
7. *Directs* the Commission to present a comprehensive report to the February 2019 summit on the progress made in the transfer of the AMDC to the Commission, the operationalization of the AMDC governance structures as well as the status of ratification of the AMDC Statute;
8. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to commission an independent forensic audit of the scoring of the bids for the Member States to host the AMDC with a view to establishing what went wrong and take remedial measures to ensure that this does not recur in the future;
9. *Further requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to submit the results of the forensic audit with appropriate recommendations to the February 2019 summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.698 (XXXI)

**Decision on the Draft Legal Instruments
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XXXI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Recommendations of the Executive Council on the draft Annexes to the Protocols on Trade in Goods, and the Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA);
2. *Recalls* Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (X) adopted during the Tenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly held on 21 March 2018, in Kigali, Rwanda, that adopted the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and called for an Extraordinary Session of the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs to consider the Annexes to the Protocol on Trade in Goods, and the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes for submission to the Assembly in July 2018 for adoption;
3. *Commends* the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Justice and Legal Affairs and the Commission for their efforts to conclude and finalize the Annexes to the Protocols to the AfCFTA Agreement;
4. *Adopts* the following annexes:
 - (a) Protocol on Trade in Goods:
 - (i) Annex 1: Schedule of Tariff Concessions;
 - (ii) Annex 2: Rules of Origin;
 - (iii) Annex 3: Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance;
 - (iv) Annex 4: Trade Facilitation;
 - (v) Annex 5: Non-Tariff Barriers;
 - (vi) Annex 6: Technical Barriers to Trade;
 - (vii) Annex 7: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures;
 - (viii) Annex 8: Transit, and
 - (ix) Annex 9: Trade Remedies;
 - (b) Protocol on Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes:
 - (i) Annex 1: The Working Procedures of the Panel;
 - (ii) Annex 2: Expert Review Groups; and
 - (iii) Annex 3: The Code of Conduct for Arbitrators and Panelists;
5. *Congratulates* the Member States who signed and/or ratified the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA and strongly urges all other Member States to sign and ratify in order to expedite its entry into force.

Assembly/AU/Dec.699 (XXXI)

Decision on the 2019 African Union Budget and the 2018 Supplementary Budget

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the 2019 African Union budget;
2. *Adopts* a supplementary budget of the African Union for the 2018 financial year for a total of US\$ 5,042,440 as follows:
 - (i) Conference Management and Publications for online translation fee with an amount of US\$ 71,280;
 - (ii) Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC): activities related to Ebola with a total amount of US\$ 4,181,160;

(iii) Programming, Budgeting, Finance and Accounting: Consultancy services for assessment of property, plant and equipment of the African Union with an amount of US\$ 790,000;

3. *Also adopts* a total budget of US\$ 681,485,337 for the African Union for the 2019 financial year divided as follows:

(i) Operating budget: US\$ 158,459,118 to be financed by Member States;

(ii) Programme budget: US\$ 249,757,079 to be financed as follows:

(a) US\$ 110,257,890 assessed on Member States;

(b) US\$ 139,499,189 to be solicited from international partners;

(iii) Peace Support Operations: US\$ 273,269,140 to be financed as follows:

(a) US\$ 11,328,753 assessed on Member States;

(b) US\$ 261, 940,387, to be solicited from international partners.

THIRTY-FIRST ORDINARY SESSION (2018)

Organs	Member States			Partners			Total Budget 2019		
	Operating Budget	Programs	Total Assessment	Operating	Programs	Total	Operating	Programs	Total
AUC	107,611,392	55,137,644	162,749,036		120,043,895	120,043,895	107,611,392	175,181,539	282,792,931
PAP	11,749,132	6,290,983	18,040,115		470,000	470,000	11,749,132	6,760,983	18,510,115
AfCHR (The Court)	7,987,200	5,058,246	13,045,446		947,446	947,446	7,987,200	6,005,691	13,992,891
ACHPR (The Commission)	4,778,973	1,539,000	6,317,973		707,138	707,138	4,778,973	2,246,138	7,025,111
ECOSOCC	2,246,004	1,771,000	4,017,004		-	-	2,246,004	1,771,000	4,017,004
NEPAD	10,633,354	17,590,000	28,223,354	-	7,310,000	7,310,000	10,633,354	24,900,000	35,533,354
AUCIL Advisory Board on Corruption	465,149	-	465,149		341,731	341,731	465,149	341,731	806,880
Peace & Security Council	1,627,858	1,433,797	3,061,655		-	-	1,627,858	1,433,797	3,061,655
	-	1,421,594	1,421,594		-	-	-	1,421,594	1,421,594
ACERWC	291,821	86,494	378,315		502,787	502,787	291,821	589,281	881,102
SPECIALIZED OFFICES									
AFREC	1,275,699	-	1,275,699		-	-	1,275,699	-	1,275,699
IPED	681,891	-	681,891		-	-	681,891	-	681,891
CIEFFA	716,656	-	716,656		-	-	716,656	-	716,656
PAU	2,821,977	12,380,180	15,202,157	-	1,007,000	1,007,000	2,821,977	13,387,180	16,209,157
AIR	874,978	-	874,978		1,352,708	1,352,708	874,978	1,352,708	2,227,686
ACDC	-	6,562,642	6,562,642		6,816,484	6,816,484	-	13,379,126	13,379,126
AOSTI	916,272	-	916,272		-	-	916,272	-	916,272
AFRIPOL	948,450	-	948,450		-	-	948,450	-	948,450
APRM	1,149,199	986,311	2,135,510		-	-	1,149,199	986,311	2,135,510
SPORT COUNCIL	1,683,113	-	1,683,113		-	-	1,683,113	-	1,683,113

TOTAL before Peace Support Operations (PSO)		158,459,118	110,257,890	268,717,008	-	139,499,189	139,499,189	158,459,118	249,757,079	408,216,197
EXCLUDING PSO										
Ratio operational & programs	5%		4%	100%	0%	100%	100%	39%	6%	100%
Funding on total budget			66%			34%			10%	
PEACE OPERATIONS										
AMISOM			9,727,500	9,727,500	243,430,467	4,070,000	247,500,467	243,430,467	13,797,500	257,227,967
MINJTF			716,140	716,140	6,445,260		6,445,260	6,445,260	716,140	7,161,400
LRA				-	73,265		73,265	73,265	-	73,265
HRMOM			885,112.80	885,113	7,921,395		7,921,395	7,921,395	885,113	8,806,508
Total Peace Support		-	11,328,753	11,328,753	257,870,387	4,070,000	261,940,387	257,870,387	15,398,753	273,269,140
TOTAL		158,459,118	121,586,643	280,045,761	257,870,387	143,569,189	401,439,575	416,329,505	265,155,832	681,485,337
INCLUDING PSO										
Ratio operational & programs	5%		4%	10%	6%	3%	100%	61%	3%	10%
Funding on total budget			42%			58%			10%	

Assembly/AU/Dec.700 (XXXI)**Decision on the Election of Four Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
(Doc. EX.CL/1100 (XXXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of four judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights;
2. *Appoints* the following three judges for a term of six years:

NO.	NAME	GENDER	COUNTRY	REGION
1.	Blaise Tchikaya	Male	Congo	Central
2.	Ben Kioko	Male	Kenya	East
3.	Stella Isibhakhomen Anukam	Female	Nigeria	West

3. *Further appoints* Imani D. Aboud (female, Tanzania, East) for a term of two years, being the remainder of the term for Judge Solomy Balungi Bossa (female, Uganda, East).

Assembly/AU/Dec.701 (XXXI)**Decision on the Election of Five Members of the African Union Commission on International Law
(Doc. EX.CL/1101 (XXXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of five members of the African Union Commission on International Law;
2. *Appoints* the following members for a term of five years:

NO.	NAME	GENDER	COUNTRY	REGION
1.	Kevin Ferdinand Ndjimba	Male	Gabon	Central
2.	Narindra Arivelo Ramananarivo ¹	Female	Madagascar	East
3.	Hajer Gueldich	Female	Tunisia	North
4.	Sindiso H. Sichone	Female	Zambia	South

3. *Decides* that the election of one female member of the African Union Commission on International Law from the Central Region shall take place in February 2019 during the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

¹ Floating Seat.

Assembly/AU/Dec.702 (XXXI)

**Decision on the Election of Four Members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
(Doc. EX.CL/1102 (XXXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of four members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

2. *Appoints* the following Members for a term of five years:

NO.	NAME	GENDER	COUNTRY	REGION
1.	Joseph Ndayisenga	Male	Burundi	Central
2.	Azza Al Ashmawy	Female	Egypt	North
3.	Alassane Aissatou Sidikou ²	Female	Niger	West

3. *Decides* that the election of one female member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child from the Central Region shall take place in February 2019 during the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.703 (XXXI)

**Decision on the Election of the Vice-President of the Pan-African University (PAU) Council
(Doc. EX.CL/1103 (XXXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of the Vice-President of the Pan-African University (PAU) Council by the Executive Council;

2. *Appoints* Audrey Nthabiseng Ogude (female, South Africa, South) as the Vice-President of the PAU Council for a three-year term.

Assembly/AU/Dec.704 (XXXI)

Decision on the Appointment of the Members of the AU Board of External Auditors

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposals of appointment as per Article 77 of the Financial Rules and Regulations, submitted by the Regional Deans following consultations within their respective regions;

² Floating Seat.

2. *Endorses* the appointment, in addition to members of the first tier, of the following Heads of Supreme Audit Institutions to serve on the AU Board of External Auditors for the Financial Years 2018 and 2019:

REGION	REPRESENTATIVE
Central	Republic of Congo
Eastern	Republic of Madagascar
Northern	Republic of Tunisia
Southern	Republic of Namibia
Western	Republic of Ghana

Assembly/AU/Dec.705 (XXXI)

Decision on the Dates and Venue of the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the dates of the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly, which will be held at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme “The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa”, shall be as follows:

- (i) Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC): 21 to 22 January 2019;
- (ii) Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 7 to 8 February 2019;
- (iii) Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 10 to 11 February 2019;

2. *Requests* the Commission to put in place all the necessary measures in order to organize the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly as well as the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC according to the aforementioned dates.

Assembly/AU/Dec.706 (XXXI)

Decision on the Dates and Venues of the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (Recs), the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the Thirty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC)

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.687 (XXX) adopted in January 2017 and January 2018, respectively, regarding the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting and the delegation of budget adoption powers to the Executive Council;

2. *Decides* that the date and venue of the First Mid-year Coordination Meeting shall be from 30 June to 1 July 2019, in Niamey, Niger, respectively;

3. *Also decides* that the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council shall be held from 27 to 28 June 2019 in Niamey, Niger, preceded by the Thirty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) from 6 to 7 June 2019 at the AU Headquarters;

4. *Requests* the Commission to put in place all the necessary measures in order to organize the First Mid-year Coordination Meeting as well as the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the Thirty-eighth Ordinary Session of the PRC according to the aforementioned dates.

Assembly/AU/Dec.707 (XXXI)

**Decision on the 2019 Theme of The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons:
towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.968 (XXXI) on the theme of 2019;
2. *Decides* to declare 2019 as “The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa”;
3. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the PRC and other stakeholders, to prepare a concept note and road map for the implementation of the 2019 theme.

Assembly/AU/Dec.708 (XXXI)

Decision on the Candidature of H.E. Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and the East African Community of the Republic of Rwanda, on the Post of Secretary-General of La Francophonie

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Decision of the Executive Council, which endorses the candidature of H.E. Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and East African Community of the Republic of Rwanda, on the post of Secretary-General of La Francophonie;
2. *Welcomes* the motion of support proposed by H.E. Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, in keeping with the usual practice within the African Union aiming at bringing a collective support to African candidatures for strategic posts in the international system;
3. *Also takes note* of the upcoming selection process in Erevan, Armenia, in October 2018, in order to fulfil the above-mentioned position;
4. *Urges* all AU Member States to support the candidature of H.E. Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and East African Community of the Republic of Rwanda, on the post of Secretary-General of La Francophonie, in the spirit of African solidarity and Pan-Africanism;
5. *Requests* especially AU Member States which are members of La Francophonie to mobilize the necessary support for H.E. Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and East African Community of the Republic of Rwanda, and cast the vote in her favour, if need be, on the post of Secretary-General of La Francophonie;
6. *Underlines* the need for Africa to speak with one voice to ensure the success of its candidate as unity is a key to success.

Assembly/AU/Dec.709 (XXXI)

Decision on the Report of AIDS Watch Africa (AWA)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the 2018 AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) Report and endorses the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Notes* the continued efforts of AU Member States and partners in the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria and urges them to redouble efforts to end these three diseases as public health threats by 2030 in line with the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria targets;
3. *Commends:*
 - (i) The African Union for the significant milestones towards the establishment of the Africa Medicines Agency that will support regulatory harmonization, facilitate medical product registration and urges Member States and partners to accelerate efforts to implement the PMPA business plan;
 - (ii) The Commission and partners for producing the 2018 Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health and urges Member States to further increase domestic resources allocated to health in the context of Africa's increasing gross domestic product and plateauing international support;
4. *Requests* AU Member States and the international community to support the next Global Fund Replenishment for its role in life-saving interventions in AIDS, TB and malaria, the three biggest diseases in Africa;
5. *Commends* the Commission for undertaking wide consultations on the Common African Position to the High-Level Meeting on TB and endorses the Common African Position on TB and requests Member States to attend the United Nations HLM on TB;
6. *Endorses:*
 - (i) The African Continental End TB Accountability Framework for Action and the End TB Scorecard initiative and requests the Commission working with WHO to produce the scorecard annually;
 - (ii) The "Zero Malaria Starts With Me" campaign and requests the Commission and the partnership "Roll Back Malaria" (RBM) to coordinate with Member States and facilitate the launch and roll-out of the "Zero Malaria Starts with Me" campaign;
7. *Concerned* with the rising threat of viral hepatitis in Africa, requests the Commission and partners to organize in November/December 2018 a Special Ministerial Session on Viral Hepatitis to take stock of the status of viral hepatitis and provide a future continental direction;
8. *Requests* the Chairperson of AWA to report on the progress made to the February 2019 ordinary session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.710 (XXXI)

Decision on the Hosting of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.351 (XVI) of January 2011 on the establishment of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AUCPCRD), upon the proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt;

2. *Also recalls* Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.840 (XXV) of June 2014 requesting the Commission to continue consulting with the Governments of Egypt and Uganda with a view to reaching an amicable solution on the location of the Centre;
3. *Expresses sincere appreciation* to the Republic of Uganda for withdrawing its offer to host the AUCPCRD in favour of the Arab Republic of Egypt;
4. *Accepts* the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and decides that the Arab Republic of Egypt will host the AUCPCRD. In this respect, the Assembly extends its sincere appreciation to the commitment demonstrated by Egypt, and requests that consultations start immediately with the AU Commission towards early establishment of the AUCPCRD;
5. *Further requests* the Commission to:
 - (i) Initiate and finalize the host country agreement with the Arab Republic of Egypt, in accordance with the AU Rules and Regulations;
 - (ii) Develop the structure of the AUCPCRD and prepare a comprehensive report on the financial and technical needs of the AUCPCRD for consideration by the relevant AU policy organs, prior to its submission to the ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council, scheduled for February 2019.

Assembly/AU/Dec.711 (XXXI)

Decision on the Dates of the TICAD VII Ministerial Meeting and the Summit

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1028 (XXXIII) on the dates of TICAD VII Ministerial Meeting and the Summit;
2. *Endorses* the dates of 28 to 30 August 2019 for the TICAD VII Summit preceded by the Ministerial Preparatory Meeting on 27 August 2019 in Yokohama, Japan;
3. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the PRC, to commence the relevant preparations of the said Summit and the Ministerial meeting in accordance with the relevant Assembly and Executive Council decisions on the organization of the partnership meetings.

Assembly/AU/Dec.712 (XXXI)

**Decision on the Successful Hosting of the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly
in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.658 (XXIX) adopted at the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
2. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.688 (XXX) adopted in January 2018 where the Assembly of the Union confirmed and decided that the Thirty-first Ordinary Session Assembly of the Union be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the impressive planning, organization and hosting of the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in the Nouakchott Almurabitun Palace Conference Centre from 25 June to 2 July 2018;
4. *Congratulates* H.E. President Mohamed Abdel-Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, his Government and the people of Mauritania for the efforts and facilities put in place which led to a successful African Union Summit;
5. *Commends* the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for the warm hospitality extended to all delegations and participants and also commends the Government of Mauritania for the successful results of the AU Summit in particular the efforts done by the Mauritanian National Preparatory Committee for the organization of the African Union Summit.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXXI)

Declaration on the African Anti-Corruption Year

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Thirty-first Ordinary Session in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, following our debate on the 2018 theme of the year: "Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation",

Recalling Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.657 (XXIX) taken at the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the African Union, that declared 2018 as the African Anti-Corruption Year,

Establishing the scope of the phenomenon of corruption, its universal nature and its specificity in Africa as one of the pressing governance and development challenges confronting the continent given its harmful and corrosive effect on progress, stability and development while impeding economic growth by discouraging foreign investments, promoting inequality, creating distortions in resource allocation, increasing the cost of doing business and reducing the net value of public spending,

Recognizing that corruption seriously gets in the way of the normal functioning of economic and social activities, reduces the volume of public income, promotes the misappropriation and misallocation of scarce resources, undermines the rule of law and weakens government institutions,

Recalling the Special Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.5.(XXIV) on Illicit Financial Flows which pointed out that illicit capital flight is exacerbated by corrupt tendencies of government agencies, lack of or weak African institutions and lack of capacity to monitor and curb such criminal activities,

Further acknowledging that the African continent has made significant strides to combat corruption by putting in place legal and policy frameworks, notably the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) while further noting that adoption of the legal and policy frameworks have not had the desired success in effectively tackling corruption in many Member States and that adoption and implementation of the AUCPCC has been uneven across the continent,

Bearing in mind that the fight against corruption is a collective responsibility of Africa as a whole,

Hereby:

1. *Exhort* all African Union Member States to empower national anti-corruption agencies, financial intelligence units, audit firms and relevant bodies by strengthening their independence and adequately financing and capacitating them to be able to perform their duties in a hitch-free manner;

2. *Appeal* to Member States to strengthen South-South cooperation through voluntary information exchange, mutual legal assistance and sharing of best practices among national anti-corruption agencies, audit institutions or relevant bodies devoted thereto;
3. *Decide* to combat illicit financial flows through measures such as the establishment of effective ownership registers, country-by-country reporting of financial information, participation in automatic exchange of tax information agreements, and support in strengthening tax authorities through the work of the African Tax Administration Forum;
4. *Undertake* to implement inclusive development planning and policymaking that includes open, participatory and transparent budgeting processes to allow citizens to participate in budget development and monitor the implementation thereof;
5. *Recognize* the imperative of investing in the demographic dividend through anti-corruption education and sensitization campaigns targeting young people as a means of catalyzing attitude change;
6. *Stress* the need to address detection of corruption in defence contracting and procurement, exploitation of natural resource and in all transactions in the extractive industries sector, as well as in the private sector and the education sector as priority areas;
7. *Request* the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption, the Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), together with other stakeholders, to work to speed up implementation of the recommendations of the High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa;
8. *Call upon* our international partners and allies to agree on a transparent and efficient timetable for the recovery and return of stolen assets to Africa with due respect for the sovereignty of States and their national interests;
9. *Undertake* to adopt measures to ensure that public personalities declare their assets and that such assets are verified;
10. *Undertake* to progressively abolish bank secrecy jurisdictions and tax havens on the continent;
11. *Request* the Advisory Board on Corruption to make appropriate recommendations on amendment of the Convention to strengthen the Board and its mandate;
12. *Express satisfaction* to H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Champion of the theme of the year, for his stewardship and commitment towards the commemoration of this theme;
13. *Instruct* the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Declaration.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XXXI)

**Declaration on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East
(Doc. EX.CL/1080 (XXXIII))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, from 1 to 2 July 2018,

Taking note of the Report on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East and recalling all previous resolutions of the Organization of African Unity/African Union on the situation in Palestine for the maintenance of a lasting peace and security in the Middle East,

Reaffirming our total support for the Palestinian people in their just struggle against Israeli occupation, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, for the restoration of their legitimate right to establish an independent Palestinian State peacefully coexisting with the State of Israel,

Also reaffirming our willingness to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions calling for the establishment of a Palestinian State on the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital,

Reiterating our call for the resumption of negotiations between the two parties with a view to achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East,

Expressing our support for all initiatives aimed at finding a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through peaceful means, including negotiations,

Reaffirming our position in support of the Palestinian cause and the Union's continued search for a just and comprehensive peace for the Palestinian people,

Further reaffirming that all settlements built in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights are null and void,

Hereby declare as follows:

1. *Request* Member States and countries of the world to work towards finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the relevant resolutions of international law and the Arab Peace Initiative for the establishment of two States: an independent Palestinian State with the 4 June 1967 borders and El-Quds-East as capital, peacefully coexisting with the State of Israel;
2. *Exhort* Member States that have recognized and are maintaining relations with the State of Israel to premise their recognition basis on the 1967 borders, and refrain from any action that could undermine the basis of the final two-State solution, including the relocation of their embassies or diplomatic missions represented in Israel to El-Quds-East which is an occupied Palestinian territory;
3. *Renew* our call to Member States to take into account, in any cooperation with the State of Israel, that such cooperation does not support the Israeli occupation at the expense of African support for the Palestinian cause, in line with the noble ideals of the African Union, particularly the right of people to freedom and self-determination in the interests of peace and security in the Middle East;
4. *Urge* Member States to support the State of Palestine in the pursuit of its sovereign right to become a full-fledged member of the United Nations and support the efforts made by Palestinians to join international agencies and adhere to international conventions and protocols;
5. *Support* the just peace plan proposed by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in his speech to the Security Council, based on Security Council resolutions on international legitimacy and the international consensus for the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the principle of the two-State solution;
6. *Call upon* the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council, to hasten the implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 of 24 December 2016 and to immediately end the Israeli offensive to colonize El Quds and other Palestinian territories in order to impose a de facto policy likely to undermine the chance of the two-State solution;
7. *Strongly register* our objection to the United States decision of 6 December 2017 which considers El-Quds as the capital of Israel including the relocation of the United States embassy to Israel from Tel-Aviv to El-Quds, a decision that constitutes a major obstacle to peace;

8. *Reaffirm* that El Quds East within the borders of 4 June 1967 is the capital of the State of Palestine, in conformity with the resolutions of international legitimacy and previous decisions of the African Union in this regard;
9. *Condemn* the policy of Judaizing the city of El Quds conducted by the Hebrew State which continues to illegally annex parts of the city and to change its historical, legal and demographic character and the continuing attacks against sacred Muslim and Christian sites;
10. *Deplore* Israel's segregationist and racist policies and practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as an affront to international human rights and humanitarian law and calls on the international community to intervene immediately to put an end to this situation;
11. *Commend* the decision taken by the United Nations Human Rights Commission in its special session of 19 May 2018 on Palestine, to send an independent international commission to investigate promptly all violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in occupied Palestine, including El-Quds- East and the occupied Gaza Strip;
12. *Deplore* the land and sea blockade imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip, causing the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation there and call for restrictions imposed on the Gaza Strip to be lifted immediately;
13. *Reaffirm* the need to ensure international protection of the land and people of the State of Palestine, particularly in the current circumstances in which the violence of the occupation authorities against defenceless civilians is intensifying, as a prelude to the end of the occupation and to preserve the possibility of the two-State solution, pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolutions 605 (1987), 672 and 673 (1990) and 904 (1994), based on the Geneva Conventions and reaffirm their applicability to the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967;
14. *Request* the United Nations and the Quartet to move immediately to shoulder their responsibilities and pressure Israel to commit to the process of serious peace negotiations;
15. *Reiterate* that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories to the June 1967 borders, including the Syrian Golan Heights and territories still under occupation in Southern Lebanon;
16. *Demand* that Israel refrains from using acts of terrorism against the Palestinian's civilian populations as well as arbitrary arrests of Palestinians, including children, women, the elderly and sick people, which is an act of violation of international law and human rights norms including the Geneva Convention on the rights of women and children;
17. *Implore* Member States to boycott goods and products that are produced and exported from the settlements in the Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem;
18. *Encourage* Member States that have not yet done so, to recognize the State of Palestine.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XXXI)

Declaration on the Centenary of Nelson Mandela

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Nouakchott, Mauritania, from 1 to 2 July 2018,

Recalling the Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XXX) adopted at the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, held from 28 to 29 January 2018, on the above-mentioned subject,

1. *Commend* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for hosting the Thirty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and for convening a side event on the margins of the Summit to celebrate the Centenary of Nelson Mandela;
2. *Reaffirm* our full support for the holding of a Peace Summit under the theme “Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion and maintenance of international peace: Building on Mandela’s Legacy” on the margins of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly on 17 September 2018;
3. *Support* the proposal to have a declaration as an outcome of the Peace Summit and call on the Commission and the African Group in New York to work closely with the relevant stakeholders in the process of drafting and negotiating the outcome;
4. *Request* the Commission and the AU Permanent Mission to the United Nations to carry out necessary consultations with the United Nations and other relevant parties to ensure the success of the proposed Peace Summit;
5. *Urge* all AU Member States to support and observe the Nelson Mandela Centenary and recommit themselves to the ideals and values espoused by Nelson Mandela.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXXI)

Resolution on the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in Life Sciences

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.389 (XVII) on the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in Life Sciences;
2. *Takes note* of the renaming of the Prize which remains dedicated to the financing of scientific research, particularly in the screening and treatment of neglected poverty-related diseases;
3. *Also takes note* of the communication by the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea regarding the renewal of the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in Life Sciences;
4. *Welcomes* this African initiative which, between 2012 and 2018, has made it possible to reward researchers and institutions from all continents, particularly African researchers, who have contributed to improving the quality of human life in several fields including health and food security;
5. *Emphasizes* that the awards are made by a UNESCO Scientific Committee;
6. *Recognizes* that this Prize lends support to the development of scientific processes geared towards increasing agricultural production with a view to greater food security in the face of the devastating effects of climate change;
7. *Supports* the renewal of this Prize, which contributes to promoting research in life sciences;
8. *Urges* UNESCO to take all necessary steps to ensure the sustainability of the Prize.

ELEVENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
17 to 18 November 2018**

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

Decision on the Institutional Reform

The Assembly,

I. On the Reform of the Commission

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Reform of the AU Commission, based on the outcomes of the sixth retreat of the Executive Council held on 12 and 13 September 2018 at the AU Headquarters;
2. *Further takes note* of the Twentieth Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council and its deliberations on the reform of the Commission;

II. On the Structure and Portfolios of the Senior Leadership of the AU Commission

3. *Decides* as follows:
 - (i) That the new structure of the AU Commission shall be composed of eight members as follows: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and six Commissioners;
 - (ii) That the portfolios of the Commissioners shall be as follows:
 - (a) Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment;
 - (b) Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining;
 - (c) Education, Science, Technology and Innovation;
 - (d) Infrastructure and Energy;
 - (e) Political Affairs, Peace and Security;
 - (f) Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development;
4. *Decides* to create a non-elected post of Director General, at the D2 level, to lead the operational coordination of the Commission's departments and non-elected staff. The position shall be filled through a competitive and transparent process taking into account gender and equitable regional representation and rotation;
5. *Decides* that the title of the current post of the Secretary-General shall revert to the Secretary to the Commission;
6. *Requests* the Commission to propose distinct terms of reference specifying the roles of each position within the framework of the new departmental structure of the Commission;
7. *Mandates* the Chairperson of the Commission to develop a new departmental structure that is lean and performance-oriented, taking into account the division of labour between the African Union, the RECs and Regional Mechanisms, Member States and continental organizations;

8. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to submit, through the established procedures, a detailed leaner departmental structure, together with its financial implications, for consideration by the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled from 27 to 28 June 2019 in Niamey, Niger;
9. *Delegates* the Executive Council to adopt the new departmental structure at its Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session;
10. *Decides* that the structure and portfolios of the senior leadership of the Commission shall come into effect at the end of the current tenure of the Commission in 2021;
11. *Decides* that the relevant articles of the Statute of the Commission shall be amended according to this decision and directs the Commission to align all relevant legal instruments by February 2019;

III. On the Selection of the Senior Leadership of the Commission

12. *Decides* as follows:
 - (i) The following key principles shall guide the selection process of the senior leadership of the Commission:
 - (a) Equitable regional representation and gender parity;
 - (b) Predictable inter and intra-regional rotation following the English alphabetical order to be applied to each senior leadership position¹;
 - (c) Attracting and retaining Africa's top talent;
 - (d) Accountable and effective leadership and management;
 - (e) Transparent and merit-based selection;
 - (ii) The principle of rotational gender parity shall be applied to the posts of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson ensuring that if the Chairperson is male then the Deputy Chairperson shall be a female and vice versa;
 - (iii) The six Commissioner level posts shall be equally distributed by gender and across the three regions that are not represented at the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson level;
 - (iv) The regions with candidates that are elected to the position of the Chairperson or the Deputy Chairperson shall not be eligible for consideration for the six remaining Commissioner posts;
13. *Hereby establishes* a Panel of Eminent Africans, composed of five eminent personalities, one per region, to oversee the preselection of candidatures of the senior leadership of the Commission;
14. *Requests* Member States to propose their regional nominations for the Panel of Eminent Africans to the Commission by January 2019. The Commission shall present such nominations to the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly from 10 to 11 February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
15. *Decides* that the Panel of Eminent Africans shall be technically assisted by an independent African consultancy firm, to be selected by the Panel;

¹ Reservation entered by the Kingdom of Morocco on the use of the English alphabetical order on the intra-regional rotation of each senior leadership position. For the Kingdom of Morocco the intra-regional rotation shall be through regional consultations.

16. *Further decides* that job profiles and competency requirements for the senior leadership of the Commission shall be developed by the Panel of Eminent Africans. These shall include generic leadership skills and competencies as well as expert and thematic skills in relation to specific portfolios. In addition to the key principles referred to above, the assessment process for all candidates shall be based on the skills and competencies identified for each senior leadership position;

IV. On the Election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission

17. *Decides* that Rule 38 of the Rules of Procedure of the AU Assembly shall be amended to read as follows and directs the Commission to align all relevant legal instruments by February 2019:

“Rule 38

Election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

1. The Assembly shall elect the Chairperson of the Commission and his/her Deputy by secret ballot and two-thirds majority of Member States eligible to vote.
2. The Chairperson of the Commission and his/her Deputy shall be competent women or men with proven experience in the relevant field, commensurate leadership qualities and a good track record in government, parliament, international organizations or other relevant sectors of society.
3. Candidatures for the Office of the Chairperson of the Commission and his/her Deputy shall be circulated to Member States at least **ten (10)** months before the election.
4. The Chairperson of the Commission and his/her Deputy shall not be from the same region.
5. **The selection process should ensure the appointment of the best possible candidate who embodies the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity as well as demonstrating a firm commitment to Pan-Africanism and the objectives, principles and values of the AU, proven managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations and strong diplomatic and communications skills.”;**

18. *Decides* to enhance the transparency and meritocracy of the current selection process as follows:

- (a) All the candidates shall provide a curriculum vitae, along with vision statements outlining how they intend to address the most pressing issues facing the AU. These shall be posted on a dedicated webpage on the AU website;
- (b) All candidates for the position of the Chairperson of the Commission shall participate, at least six months before the election, in a public debate which shall be broadcasted live on the AU website during which they shall present their visions and ideas on the implementation of Agenda 2063. AU Member States shall be encouraged to broadcast this on their national outlets; and
- (c) Prior to election, each candidate shall make a formal presentation to the AU Assembly outlining their vision and the proposed priorities for their term of office;

V. On the Election of the Commissioners of the AU Commission

19. *Decides* that Article 13 of the Statute of the Commission shall be amended to read as follows and directs the Commission to align all relevant legal instruments by February 2019:

- (a) A skills and competency based assessment and shortlisting of candidates shall be undertaken by a High-Level Panel of Eminent Africans (one per region) assisted by an independent African firm to generate a ranked pool

of pre-qualified candidates nominated by the relevant AU regions from which Commissioners shall be elected and appointed by the Executive Council;

(b) Candidates shall be assessed through an initial review of applications and CVs. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for assessment against the skills and competency criteria established for the leadership posts;

VI. On Election Timelines

20. *Decides* that the following assessment and election timelines shall be applied for the senior leadership of the Commission:

(a) The announcement of the candidatures for the senior leadership posts shall start in March of the year preceding the election of the new Commission;

(b) The independent assessment of candidates for Commissioner posts from August to December;

(c) The election and appointment of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson in January/February by the AU Assembly;

(d) The election and appointment of the Commissioners in January/February by the Executive Council;

21. *Decides* that the above selection process shall come into effect at the end of the current tenure of the Commission in January 2021;

VII. On the Termination of Appointment of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and Commissioners of the AU Commission

22. *Decides* that Rule 41 of the Rules of Procedure of the AU Assembly shall be amended to read as follows and directs the Commission to align all relevant legal instruments by February 2019:

**"RULE 41
Termination of Appointment**

1. The Assembly may, by two-thirds majority and following due process conducted by the Executive Council, terminate the appointment of the Chairperson of the Commission, his/her Deputy and the Commissioners on grounds of incompetence, gross misbehaviour or inability to perform the functions of his/her office for reason of permanent incapacity certified by a medical board.

2. The procedure for the termination for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall take place as follows:

(a) In order to initiate termination procedures, a group of Member States, constituting at least four, one per region, excluding the region from which the official being recommended for termination is from, may recommend to the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, through written notification, the termination of appointment with respect to the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson of the Commission based on the provisions outlined below;

(b) The Bureau of the Assembly shall communicate the written notification to the Assembly;

(c) The Bureau of the Assembly shall review the recommendation in order to assess whether there are sufficient grounds for the termination of appointment within three to six months;

(d) **The Bureau of the Assembly may consider proposing to the Assembly the suspension of the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson pending their investigation if the claims, prima facie, prove serious and grave in nature;**

(e) **In conducting this review, the Bureau may call upon any resources required to ensure a transparent and fair process;**

(f) **The Bureau of the Assembly shall make its recommendation to the AU Assembly;**

(g) **The AU Assembly shall consider the matter and take a decision;**

3. The procedure for termination of the appointment of Commissioners shall take place as follows:

(a) **The Chairperson of the Commission, may recommend to the Executive Council, through written notification to the Bureau of the Executive Council, the termination of appointment with respect to Commissioners based on the provisions below;**

(b) **The Bureau of the Executive Council shall communicate the written notification to the Executive Council;**

(c) **The Bureau of the Executive Council shall review the recommendation in order to assess whether there are sufficient grounds for the termination of appointment within three to six months;**

(d) **The Bureau of the Executive Council may consider proposing to the Executive Council the suspension of the Commissioner pending their investigation if the claims, prima facie, prove serious and grave in nature;**

(e) **In conducting this review, the Bureau may call upon any resources required to ensure a transparent and fair process;**

(f) **The Bureau of the Executive Council shall make its recommendation to the Executive Council;**

(g) **The Executive Council shall consider the matter and take a decision on that recommendation.”;**

23. *Decides* that the above termination process shall come into effect at the end of the current tenure of the Commission in 2021;

VIII. On Enhancing Performance Management at the Level of the Senior Leadership of the AU Commission

24. *Decides* that a results-based effective performance management system shall be embedded as a matter of urgency in order to ensure proper accountability for performance and delivery. This shall be applied to all elected and non-elected staff. Administrative and disciplinary measures that ensure accountability should be applied for misconduct, abuse of office, poor performance and non-delivery of assigned responsibilities;

25. *Requests* the Commission to prepare the annual goals and targets of the AU Commission and present them, through the Executive Council, to the AU Assembly each year, starting from February 2020. These goals and targets shall be cascaded to all staff and shall serve as the basis for performance agreements with the elected leadership, management and staff;

26. *Further requests* that the Chairperson of the Commission shall submit an annual performance report to the Executive Council reporting on progress against these targets;

27. *Mandates* the Executive Council to undertake a performance assessment of the Commission against the goals and targets and submit a performance evaluation report for the Assembly’s consideration each year;

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28. *Further requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to submit, through the Executive Council, at its February 2019 ordinary session, specific proposals on delegation of authority to the Commission in matters pertaining to the internal management of the Commission, in order to ensure greater flexibility and responsiveness in the pursuit of the mandate of the Commission;

IX. On Administrative and Financial Reform

29. *Commends* the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) for its contributions to the reform of the Union as it relates to Finance and Human Resource Matters;

30. *Approves* the net impaired assets balance of US\$ 617,004.14 for write off and write back and endorses the recommendations of the Executive Council relating to the reserve fund, the 2018 supplementary budget, the balances proposed for write off and write back, the 2018 AUC Mid-Term Performance Report, staffing status, AU performance management, recruitment system, staffing quota system, salary arrears, travel administration, procurement, and information technology;

31. *Requests* the Executive Council, in collaboration with the Commission, to submit annual reports on the implementation of this Decision;

32. *Requests* the Commission to elaborate a road map on implementation of administrative and financial reforms to be presented at the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled from 7 to 8 February 2019 at the AU Headquarters;

X. On the Mandate of the African Union Development Agency

33. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) on the Reform of the African Union of January 2017, which proposes the transformation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) into the African Union Development Agency (AUDA);

34. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.685 (XXX) of January 2018 on the NEPAD which reasserts the essential role played by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) and the Steering Committee in the provision of political leadership and strategic direction to the NEPAD programme;

35. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.691 (XXXI) of July 2018 on the transformation of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) into the AUDA;

36. *Welcomes* the consultation process carried out with all the stakeholders to define the roles and attributions of the African Union Development Agency;

37. *Takes note* of the evolutionary trajectory of the NEPAD and the rationale behind the establishment of the AUDA as a vehicle for the better execution of the African Union Agenda 2063 and decides that the NEPAD shall henceforth be renamed AUDA/NEPAD;

38. *Hereby approves* the mandate of the AUDA/NEPAD as follows:

(i) To coordinate and execute priority regional and continental projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realization of Agenda 2063;

(ii) To strengthen capacity of African Union Member States and regional bodies, advance knowledge-based advisory support, undertake the full range of resource mobilization, and serve as the continent's technical interface with all Africa's development stakeholders and development partners;

39. *Calls for* the conclusion of a permanent host country agreement for the AUDA/NEPAD with the Government of the Republic of South Africa;
40. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission and the CEO of NPCA to take all necessary practical measures for the implementation of this Decision by July 2019 and inform the AU policy organs accordingly;
41. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States, the Chairperson of the Commission and other stakeholders for their invaluable contribution towards the definition of the mandate of AUDA/NEPAD and encourages them to continue to lend their support to the AU institutional reform process, in general, and the transformation of NPCA into AUDA/NEPAD, in particular;

XI. On the Institutional Reform of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

42. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on African Union Institutional Reform (Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XXX)), presented to the Eleventh Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union and, in particular, on the review of the APRM;
43. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) adopted by the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, on the Outcome of the Retreat of the Assembly of the African Union on the Institutional Reform of the AU, which stated that the APRM should be strengthened to track implementation and oversee monitoring and evaluation in key governance areas on the continent;
44. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.631 (XXVIII) adopted by the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, on the revitalization of the APRM in order to play a monitoring and evaluation role for the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030;
45. *Stresses* in line with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) adopted by the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Addis Ababa, on the holding of one ordinary summit per year and in place of the June/July ordinary summit of the Assembly the convening of a Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union, the need for the APR Forum to hold its ordinary sessions on the margins of the AU ordinary summit;
46. *Requests* the Commission to ensure that the APRM Forum is allocated and afforded adequate and sufficient time to fully address its agenda;
47. *Decides* to integrate the APRM budget in the statutory Union budget funded by Member States; and requests the Chairperson of the Commission to propose concrete implementation modalities to the February 2019 summit;
48. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen the capacity of the APRM to deliver on its extended mandate, and enhance its functional autonomy, including developing a report on the state of governance in Africa in collaboration with the African Governance Architecture (AGA);
49. *Reiterates* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.686 (XXX) on the Report of the APRM and urges the remaining 18 Member States to accelerate accession to the APRM in order to achieve universality by 2023, as envisaged in the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063;
50. *Requests* the APRM to present an update on the State of Governance in Africa Report to the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled to take place in February 2019;

XII. On Establishing an Effective Division of Labour between the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and Continental Organizations

51. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.690 (XXXI) of July 2018 which requested the implementation of the road map on the clarification of the division of labour among the AU, RECs, Member States and continental organizations;
52. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) of January 2017 which called for a clear division of labour and effective collaboration among the AU, the RECs, the Regional Mechanisms (RMs), the Member States, and other continental institutions, in line with the principles of subsidiarity and comparative advantage;
53. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.112 (VII) of July 2006 which urges RECs to coordinate and harmonize their policies among themselves and with the Commission with a view to accelerating Africa's integration process;
54. *Mandates* the AU Commission, in collaboration with the RECs, AU organs, and relevant continental organizations, to develop a proposal on an effective division of labour among the AU, the RECs, the Member States, and other continental institutions, in line with the principle of subsidiarity, for submission to the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in June/July 2019, based on the following technical work:
- (i) Review of the level of alignment and coherence of continental and regional medium-term plans and development of proposals with a view to developing harmonized continental and regional medium-term plans;
 - (ii) Review of overall financing arrangements for continental and regional medium-term plans with a view to developing a joint mobilization and financing strategy for the implementation of the division of labour;
 - (iii) Development of proposals and recommendations on how to establish a coherent partnerships strategy between the AU, RECs and RMs on one hand and external parties on the other;
 - (iv) Review and assessment of existing coordination and working arrangements with a view to establishing new AU-REC-COs coordination arrangements that ensure an effective division of labour;
 - (v) Review of existing overall monitoring and review arrangements with a view to establishing an effective monitoring and evaluation system; and
 - (vi) Assessment of the implementation of the "Protocol on Relations between the African Union (AU) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)" and "Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Peace and Security between the AU, RECs and the Coordinating Mechanisms of Eastern and Northern Africa";
55. *Encourages* RECs to harmonize their policies and strengthen their horizontal collaboration by holding regular meetings;
56. *Urges* RECs to hold their annual statutory meetings prior to the June/July AU-RECs Coordination Meeting;
57. *Requests* the RECs to prepare reports on the status of integration within their respective regions and report to the July 2019 Coordination Meeting; also requests the Chairperson of the Commission to report to the AU Coordination Meeting in July 2019 on the progress made on the implementation of the road map on the division of labour among the AU, RECs, RMs, Member States and continental organizations.

Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.2 (XI)

Decision on the African Union Scale of Assessment and Contributions

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) of January 2017 on the institutional reform of the AU which emphasizes the need for the Union to be financially independent;
2. *Takes note* of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.578 (XXV) which approved the current scale of assessment to be implemented till 2020;
3. *Also takes note* of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1020 (XXXIII) which extended the current scale of assessment to the Year 2019 until a new scale of assessment is approved latest by February 2019, for application starting 2020;
4. *Cognizant* of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1022 (XXXIII) of June 2018, Nouakchott, Mauritania, which requested the Commission to:
 - (i) Circulate the documents on the new scale of assessment and contributions and the sanctions regime to all Member States by 15 July 2018 for their inputs by 15 October 2018;
 - (ii) Convene in November 2018, a Joint Sitting of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), including experts from capitals, and the Committee of Fifteen Finance Ministers' Technical Experts (F15) to review all the documents pertaining to the new scale of assessment and contributions and the sanctions regimes;
 - (iii) Convene a Joint Sitting of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions and the F15 Ministerial Committee to consider the recommendations of the Joint Sitting of the PRC and F15 Experts prior to submission to the Thirty-fourth Ordinary session of the Executive Council scheduled for February 2019;
5. *Further takes note* of the proposals on the new scale of assessment and contributions and the sanctions regime circulated to all Member States by 15 July 2018 for their inputs by an extended deadline of 30 October 2018. In this regard, the Assembly notes that the Commission to this date has received inputs from 24 Member States;
6. *Appreciates* the technical support provided by the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15) to the work of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions;
7. *Directs* the Joint Sitting of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions and the Committee of F15 to conclude by January 2019 the work on the new scale of assessment recommended by the experts level meeting from 27 to 28 November 2018 and to report to the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for 7 to 8 February 2019 at the AU Headquarters, and decides that should the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions fail to fill its leadership vacancy, in the spirit of continuity, the Committee of F15 should drive the process.

Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.3 (XI)

Decision on the New African Union Sanctions Regime for the Non-Payment of Contributions

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) of January 2017 which states that the current sanctions mechanism should be strengthened and enforced;
2. *Takes note* of both reports of the Chairperson of the Commission on the AU Institutional Reform of January 2018 (Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XXX)) and of November 2018 (Doc. Ext/Assembly/AU/2 (XI)) on the strengthening of the sanctions regime for the non-payment of assessed contributions and commends the Executive Council for its extensive and constructive discussions on this issue during its Twentieth Extraordinary Session held at the AU Headquarters on 14 and 15 November 2018;

3. *Decides* the following:

(a) Those Member States which fail to meet their obligations and have not settled at least 50 per cent of their current assessed contributions after the second quarter (six months) of each financial year in which the contribution is due shall be deemed to be in arrears taking into account the budget cycles of Member States;

(b) The short-term period for Member States to be in arrears shall be six months, the intermediate period for Member States to be in arrears shall be one year and the long-term period for Member States to be in arrears shall be two years;

(c) Sanctions shall be applied in three parts, namely, the cautionary sanctions for the short-term arrears, intermediate sanctions for the intermediate arrears and comprehensive sanctions for the long-term arrears;

(d) Cautionary sanction, which deprives Member States of their rights to speak at meetings of the African Union, shall be applied to those in short-term arrears;

(e) Intermediate sanctions shall include all sanctions outlined in the Constitutive Act (Article 23, paragraph 1), the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly (Rules 5, 26, and 35, paragraph 2 (a)), the AU Financial Rules and Regulations (Article 78, paragraph 6) and the Statutes of the Commission (Article 18, paragraph 8) plus the suspension of the Member's right to:

(i) Be a member of a bureau of any organ of the Union;

(ii) Host any organ, institution or office of the Union;

(iii) Have its nationals participate in electoral observation missions, human rights observation missions; or be invited for any meeting organized by the Union;

(iv) Have its nationals appointed as elected and non-elected staff including consultants, volunteers, interns etc.;

(f) Comprehensive sanctions shall include all the sanctions in paragraphs (c) and (d) above, those outlined under Assembly Rules of Procedure (Article 35, paragraph 2 (b)) plus suspension of the Member State's right to participate in meetings of the Union;

4. *Decides* that the Assembly may consider requests from Member States experiencing force majeure circumstances making them temporarily unable to pay their assessed contributions. Member States shall notify the Assembly in writing. The Assembly may consider such requests and take a decision;

5. *Requests* the Commission to align the relevant provisions of the Assembly Rules of Procedure, the AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the Statutes of the Commission to this decision accordingly;

6. *Mandates* the Commission to implement this Decision as of July 2019 taking into account that the discussions and modalities of the new scale of assessment have not been finalized.

Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.4 (XI)

Decision on the Post-Cotonou Negotiations

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.694 (XXXI) on a new agreement on Post-Cotonou Cooperation with the European Union (EU), adopted by the Assembly of the Union at its Thirty-first Ordinary Session held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, from 1 to 2 July 2018;
2. *Takes note* of the report presented by the Chairperson of the Executive Council and the Chairperson of the Commission on the proceedings of the Nineteenth Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council enlarged to Ministers in charge of the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States and/or Ministers in charge of the negotiations with the EU, on the Post-Cotonou 2020 agreement, held in the AU Headquarters on 14 September 2018;
3. *Decides* as follows:
 - (a) That the ACP-EU Post-Cotonou negotiations should proceed within the mandate agreed to by the parties. The Assembly requests the African Union (AU) Commission to extend technical support to the African Members of the ACP negotiating team, as may be requested;
 - (b) That the AU-EU continent-to-continent partnership should continue post-2020, building on the Joint Africa-EU Strategy adopted in Lisbon in December 2007 and the Declaration of the AU-EU Summit held in Abidjan in November 2017, in order to advance Agenda 2063 and its priorities with respect to peace and security, development, the African Continental Free Trade Area, migration and climate, among others. The Assembly underscores that the continent-to-continent partnership will preserve the interests, specificities, diversities, acquis of each African region and country as well as their legal frameworks and financial and political instruments with the European Union;
4. *Stresses* the need to ensure that Africa speaks with one voice in the various platforms of partnership with the EU, so that this partnership can be leveraged to help achieve the objectives set in Agenda 2063;
5. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to follow up on implementation of this Decision, and to submit a comprehensive report to the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, scheduled to take place at the AU Headquarters on 10 and 11 February 2019.

THIRTY-SECOND ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
10 to 11 February 2019**

Assembly/AU/Dec.713 (XXXII)

Decision on the Institutional Reform of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work conducted by H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and the Leader on the Institutional Reform of the AU;
2. *Takes note* of the Report of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and the Leader on the Institutional Reform of the AU, and the Report of H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the Commission, on the Implementation of the Institutional Reform of the African Union;
3. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.691 (XXXI), adopted at the Thirty-first Ordinary Session held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in July 2018, which approved the establishment of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA/NEPAD) and also recalls Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XI), adopted at the Eleventh Extraordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November 2018 which outlined the mandate of AUDA/NEPAD;
4. *Recalls* Decision Ex.CL/1108 (XXXIV), adopted at the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2019, to hold an Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, prior to the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Niamey, Niger, July 2019;
5. *Delegates* to the Executive Council, the authority to consider and approve the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Governance Structures of the AUDA/NEPAD during the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Niamey, Niger, July 2019;
6. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the AUDA/NEPAD, to report on the implementation of this Decision at the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in February 2020.

Assembly/AU/Dec.714 (XXXII)

**Decision on the African Union Continental Free Trade Area
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Report of H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger and the Leader of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and the recommendations therein on the progress achieved on the establishment of the AfCFTA;
2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.647 (XXIX), adopted at the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2017, which approved the modalities for trade in services negotiations as well as the modalities for tariff negotiations with a level of ambition of 90 per cent, in line with the adopted modalities, and urges the Ministers of Trade to conclude negotiations on the Sensitive Products and Exclusion Lists;
3. *Endorses* the recommendations of African Union Ministers of Trade on:
 - (i) The Template on Tariff Liberalization to be used by Member States in preparing the AfCFTA Schedules of Tariff Concessions; and

(ii) The designation of the Sensitive Products and Exclusion List, on the basis of the following criteria: food security, national security, fiscal revenue, livelihood and industrialization;

4. *Agrees* that the percentage for Sensitive Products will be 7 per cent of the total tariff lines and the Exclusion List will not exceed 3 per cent of the total tariff lines and further agrees that the application of these percentages will be subjected to double qualification and anti-concentration clauses, where the excluded products shall not exceed 10 per cent of the total import value from other State Parties. Thus, products to be excluded from liberalization will represent no more than 3 per cent of the tariff lines, accounting for no more than 10 per cent of the value of imports from other African countries;

5. *Endorses* the recommendations of the African Union Ministers of Trade, that a transitional period of 5 years or less, be used for countries which require this flexibility before the start of liberalization of sensitive products, thereby allowing for tariffs applicable to sensitive products to be maintained, provided that tariffs are eliminated by the end of the phase-down period outlined under the adopted modalities (10 years for developing countries and 13 years for the least developed countries);

6. *Adopts* the Guidelines for the Development of the Schedules of Specific Commitments and the Regulatory Cooperation Framework for Trade in Services and the new Road Map for the finalization of AfCFTA negotiations with a new deadline of June 2020;

7. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.692 (XXXI), adopted at the Thirty-first Ordinary Session, held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in July 2018, to engage external partners as one block speaking with one voice, and decides that Member States wishing to enter into partnerships with third parties should inform the Assembly with assurance that those efforts will not undermine the African Union vision of creating one African market;

8. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with technical partners, to undertake an assessment of the requirements and challenges for the establishment of a future common market, including their implications, for consideration by the African Union Ministers of Trade;

9. *Decides* to hold an extraordinary summit in July 2019, a day before the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union and the RECs, in Niamey, Niger, in order to celebrate the first anniversary of the signing of the AfCFTA, launch the operational phase of the African Internal Market and decide on the location and structure of the AfCFTA Secretariat;

10. *Commends* the African Union Ministers of Trade (AMOT), the Senior Trade Officials, the Chief Negotiators, the Technical Working Groups (TWG), the Continental Task Force and the Commission for their efforts to conclude outstanding issues on the AfCFTA negotiations;

11. *Welcomes* the signatures of the AfCFTA and its Protocols by 52 countries, namely Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and strongly urges other Member States who have not done so to sign the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA before the first anniversary;

12. *Further welcomes* the deposit of instruments of ratification of the AfCFTA and its Protocols by 15 countries, namely Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Djibouti, Eswatini, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, and equally urges other countries to ratify it, as soon as possible, before the first anniversary;

13. *Requests* the African Union Ministers of Trade to:

- (i) Submit the Schedules of Tariff Concessions and the Schedules of Specific Commitments on Trade in Services, in line with agreed modalities, to the Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2019 and the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly in February 2020, respectively, for adoption; and
 - (ii) Conclude the negotiations on the Protocols on Investment, Competition Policy and Intellectual Property Rights, Trade in Services on the other seven sectors beyond the five priority service sectors, and submit the draft legal texts to the January 2021 session of the Assembly for adoption, through the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs;
14. *Requests* the AfCFTA Leader, H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, to submit a progress report on the AfCFTA, to the Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2019.

Assembly/AU/Dec.715 (XXXII)

**Decision on the Post-2020 Partnership with the European Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission entitled, "Towards an Enhanced Continent-to-Continent Partnership with the European Union Post-2020," and commends him, and his High Representative for AU-EU Partnership Post-2020, on the steps taken to implement the relevant Assembly decisions within an appropriate timeframe;
2. *Recalls* Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.4 (XI), adopted at the Eleventh Extraordinary Session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November 2018, on Post-Cotonou Negotiations, which stressed the need to ensure that Africa speaks with one voice in the various platforms of partnership with the EU;
3. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the First AU-EU Ministerial Follow-up Meeting, held in Brussels from 21 to 22 January 2019, as indicated in the joint communiqué on the meeting, and requests the Chairperson of the Commission, in collaboration with the PRC, to pursue efforts towards the conclusion of an enhanced continent-to-continent partnership in time for the African side to engage the EU on it at the second AU-EU Ministerial Meeting, to be held in Africa by the end of 2019, and the EU-AU Summit in 2020;
4. *Requests* the Commission to ensure cohesion between the Post-Cotonou Agreement and the Post-2020 Continent-to-Continent Partnership, in order to reflect the continental priorities, as articulated in Agenda 2063 and other related instruments, to be consistent in both tracks;
5. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to report to the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly in February 2020 on the implementation of this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.716 (XXXII)

Decision on the Election of the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union for 2019

The Assembly,

1. *Elects* the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union for 2019, as follows:
 - (i) Chairperson: Arab Republic of Egypt;

- (ii) First Vice-Chairperson: Republic of South Africa;
- (iii) Second Vice-Chairperson: Democratic Republic of Congo;
- (iv) Third Vice-Chairperson: Republic of Niger; and
- (v) Rapporteur: Republic of Rwanda.

Assembly/AU/Dec.717 (XXXII)

Decision on the Election of the Chairperson of the African Union for 2020

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII), adopted at the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2017, which stated that in order to ensure continuity and effective implementation of Assembly decisions, a troika arrangement between the outgoing, the current and the incoming African Union Chairperson shall be established, and that in this regard, the incoming Chairperson shall be selected one year in advance;
2. *Also recalls* the principle of rotation for Chairpersonship of the African Union, and takes into account that 2020 will be the turn of the Southern Region;
3. *Takes note* of the outcome of the consultations by the Southern Region as reported by the Republic of South Africa, Dean of the latter;
4. *Decides* that the incoming Chairperson of the African Union for 2020 will be the Republic of South Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.718 (XXXII)

**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 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the continued efforts made towards finding a lasting solution to the crisis in Libya, including those of the neighbouring countries and the AU High-Level Committee on Libya, as well as the Conference held in Palermo, Sicily, in November 2018. The Assembly requests the Chairperson of the Commission to expedite efforts aimed at convening in Addis Ababa, in 2019, an international conference on reconciliation in Libya under the auspices of the AU and the United Nations. The Assembly takes note of the efforts exerted towards finding a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Libya, in line with provisions of the Agreement signed by the Libyan parties in 2015, in Skhirat, Morocco. The Assembly also takes note of the conclusions of the Ministerial Meeting of the neighbouring countries of Libya held in Khartoum on 29 November 2018. The Assembly reiterates the AU's continued commitment to continue to work with Libyan stakeholders, neighboring countries, regional and international organizations with a view to bringing lasting peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Libya;
2. *Commends* the Malagasy people and stakeholders for the smooth and peaceful conduct and conclusion of the presidential election process. The Assembly congratulates President Andry Rajoelina for his election and reaffirms to him the commitment of the AU to continue accompanying Madagascar in its journey towards enhancing democracy and development. The Assembly pays tribute to the AU Commission, in particular the High Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Silencing the Guns in Africa, Ambassador Ramtane

Lamamra, for his tireless efforts towards stability and reconciliation in Madagascar, as well as the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Madagascar, Madame Hawa Ahmed Yousouf;

3. *Reaffirms* its commitment to peace and stability in Comoros, recalling that the AU is the Guarantor of the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in Comoros, signed in Fomboni, on 17 February 2001. In this regard, the Assembly takes note of the positive evolution in the political situation in Comoros and commends the Comorian stakeholders for the promotion of the much needed peaceful political climate between the Government and the opposition. The Assembly expresses gratitude to the Chairperson of the Commission for his relentless efforts and engagement with a view to bringing together the two parties to a frank and constructive dialogue. Furthermore, the Assembly urges the parties to demonstrate restraint through dialogue and consultation, in particular with regard to the upcoming elections. The Assembly also commends the Union of the Comoros for having invited all bilateral and multilateral partners, including the AU Commission, to be on the ground in Comoros before and during the planned election, in order to ensure a credible, free and transparent process;

4. *Commends* the Federal Government of Somalia for the continued progress made in implementing the Somali Transition Plan (STP). The Assembly also commends the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for its critical role in degrading the capacities of Al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups in Somalia, as well as in the implementation of the STP. The Assembly, once again, pays tribute to the AMISOM troop and police contributing countries (T/PCCs), for the immense sacrifices made in the promotion of peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Somalia. The Assembly further commends the Federal Government and the Federal Member States for their efforts in promoting durable solutions, in a peaceful manner, to challenges facing their country, which will facilitate the enhancement of the federal system, as well as the implementation of the National Security Architecture and the electoral processes, in 2020 to 2021, particularly the need for universal suffrage that will allow the Somali people to express its will on the future of their country;

5. *Commends* the Government of Sudan and United Nations-African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for their collaborative efforts that facilitated the continued implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 2429 on the drawdown of the Mission. The Assembly underscores the need for durable peace in Darfur through investment in sustainable development projects. In this regard, the Assembly encourages the Commission, together with the United Nations, to undertake appropriate initiatives with a view to ensuring mobilization of adequate funds for post-conflict reconstruction and development in Darfur. The Assembly urges the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-N, with the support of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel for Sudan and South Sudan (AUHIP), to continue working towards finding a lasting solution to the issue of the Two Areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, including creating conducive conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the population in need, and commends the continued engagement of the Government of Sudan in this regard;

6. *Welcomes* the commitment of Presidents Omar Hassan Al Bashir and Salva Kiir Mayardit to secure peace between their two countries through the Cooperation Agreements of 2012 and 2013, and encourages the two countries to sustain their efforts towards promoting good neighbourliness that will contribute in ensuring the building of two viable States, living side by side in peace and harmony. The Assembly calls on the two countries to address the final status of Abyei in order to further enhance their common border security and encourages them to also continue cooperating with the AUHIP to resolve the outstanding issues as outlined in the Cooperation Agreement relating to their common border, including Abyei and other disputed areas;

7. *Welcomes* the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) on 12 September 2018. The Assembly commends the South Sudanese stakeholders for the leadership demonstrated since the signing of the R-ARCSS and calls on the opposition groups that have not yet done so to join the Agreement without any preconditions. The Assembly also calls on the South Sudanese parties to faithfully implement the R-ARCSS, in order to give a chance to this renewed peace process and encourages the international community to provide both political and financial support to the peace process, especially the implementation of the security arrangements. The Assembly pays tribute to the Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for their tireless efforts aimed at bringing lasting peace, security and stability in South Sudan. The Assembly encourages the African Union High-Level Ad Hoc Committee to

sustain its support to the peace process, including through supporting the Independent Boundary Commission (IBC). The Assembly calls on AU Member States, as well as the international community to support the AU Mission in South Sudan, with a view to ensuring the AU's effective support to the peace process. The Assembly pays tribute to H.E. Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana, for his illustrious leadership of the JMEC since its inception, and calls on the IGAD to expedite the designation of his successor;

8. *Commends* the leaders of the Horn of Africa region for the positive developments witnessed in the region, which are critical steps towards consolidating peace and stability in this part of the continent. The Assembly reiterates the AU's commitment to support the ongoing process between Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as the Joint Declaration between Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia, the Process between Eritrea and Djibouti, and encourages the AU Member States to support the region's efforts to consolidate peace and facilitate effective regional integration as part of the overall continental integration effort. The Assembly also commends Presidents H.E. Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti and H.E. Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea for their efforts and commitments to normalize the relations between the two countries, in the framework of relevant PSC communiqués and United Nations resolution 2444 (2018). The Assembly encourages the PSC, with the support of the Commission, including through the AUHIP, to continuously engage on the changing dynamics in the Horn of Africa. In this regard, the Assembly underscores the need for intensified consultations at various levels for the early convening of the Conference on Peace, Security, Stability Cooperation and Development in the Horn of Africa (CPHA), pursuant to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.472 (XX) adopted at its Twentieth Ordinary Session held on 27 and 28 January 2013;

9. *Welcomes* the peaceful organization of the elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and commends the people and the leadership of the DRC for a landmark peaceful transition. The Assembly congratulates H.E. Felix Antoine Tshilombo Tshisekedi for his election as President of the DRC and reaffirms the AU's commitment to continue working with the DRC Government and all other Congolese stakeholders towards peace, security, stability and socio-economic development in the DRC. In this respect, the Assembly encourages all Congolese stakeholders to uphold their country's supreme interests above all other considerations and work together. The Assembly appeals to AU Member States and the international community to support the new authorities in the DRC in their efforts to consolidate peace, security and stability in their country and the region. The Assembly reiterates its request to the European Union to immediately lift the targeted sanctions imposed against some of the Congolese political actors;

10. *Welcomes* the signing on 6 February 2019 of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic between the Government and the armed groups of the Central African Republic, under the auspices of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR. The Assembly commends the Chairperson of the Commission and the Commissioner for Peace and Security, working together with countries of the region and the United Nations, for their renewed efforts and initiatives that made it possible to conclude this Agreement negotiated during the direct Political Dialogue in Khartoum, Sudan. The Assembly urges all CAR stakeholders to place the interests of their country above all other consideration and uphold their commitment and work together, in good faith, in the implementation of the Agreement. The Assembly encourages the Commission, the countries of the region and the partners to provide the necessary support to the effective implementation of the Agreement that should go a long way in contributing to the restoration of sustainable peace, security, stability and reconciliation in CAR. The Assembly recognizes the efforts of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, and particularly the Kingdom of Morocco, Chair of the United Nations Configuration of the CAR, in its efforts and commitment as it continues to mobilize support for the peace efforts in the CAR. The Assembly calls on AU Member States and the international community to support and strengthen the Central African Republic National Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme;

11. *Congratulates* the Government of Burundi on initiating the preparatory process for the elections, especially the establishment, on 31 August 2018, of an Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), according to the Burundian Electoral Code, as well as a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), in line with the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, signed on 28 August 2000. In this regard, the Assembly, once again, welcomes the statement made by President Pierre Nkurunziza not to stand as candidate for the presidential election in 2020, and urges the Government and the political parties to work together for the smooth conduct of

the next elections. The Assembly expresses appreciation to the East African Community, in particular, to President Yoweri K. Museveni of Uganda, the Mediator, as well as to the Facilitator, former President Benjamin Mkapa, and stresses the need for renewed initiatives, with the support of the AU, to accompany Burundians in their efforts for consolidating peace and security in their country. The Assembly reiterates its request to the European Union to immediately lift the unilateral sanctions imposed on the Republic of Burundi;

12. *Expresses full support* to the ongoing efforts in Guinea-Bissau, under the leadership of ECOWAS and ensures all stakeholders of the AU's readiness and determination to continue supporting Bissau Guineans to overcome the challenges they are currently facing, while preparing for the legislative elections to be held in March 2019. The Assembly encourages the Government and parties in Guinea-Bissau to develop and ensure the adoption of a code of conduct, in line with the shared values and relevant instruments of the AU, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. The Assembly commends all multilateral and bilateral partners for their support for the organization of the planned elections and calls on all AU Member States and the larger international community to continue extending the necessary logistical and financial support to Guinea-Bissau in this crucial phase of its democratic construction. The Assembly also commends the important role being played by ECOMIB in consolidating peace in Guinea-Bissau, despite the operational and financial challenges, and underscores the need for continued financial support for the maintenance of ECOMIB operations, until the necessary capacitation of the Guinea-Bissau national security forces is accomplished;

13. *Congratulates* H.E. Boubacar Keita, for his election as President of the Republic of Mali, and encourages the Malian parties to the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers Process, to redouble efforts towards more effective and expedited implementation of their commitments. The Assembly reaffirms, once again, the centrality of the Algiers Agreement in stabilization efforts with the support of MINUSMA and the fight against terrorist groups that will be more and more isolated through a better implementation of the Agreement. The Assembly encourages all Malian stakeholders to faithfully engage in dialogue and build the largest consensus possible around the institutional and constitutional reforms envisaged in line with the Agreement and the deepening of democracy in the country. The Assembly strongly condemns all terrorist attacks in Mali and stresses the need for efforts to stop the spillover of terrorist attacks in central Mali. The Assembly also strongly condemns the recent terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso and encourages the Commission to continue its efforts aimed at addressing the fragility of the security situation in the Sahel, in close collaboration with countries of the region, through the Nouakchott Process, and the partners, including through effectively addressing the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism. The Assembly reiterates its appeal to the international community to lend the necessary support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force, including appropriate, predictable and durable funding that will allow the Force to conduct its heavy mandate consisting in fighting terrorism and transnational organized crime and calls for the scaling up of strategic support by the AU Member States and the Commission towards the full operationalization of the G5 Sahel force in order to effectively combat terrorism and violent extremism in the region. The Assembly welcomes the outcome of the G5 Sahel Summit held in Ouagadougou, on 5 February 2019;

14. *Takes note* of continued efforts by the countries of the Lake Chad Basin to neutralize the Boko Haram terrorist group, through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and calls on the Commission to continue and intensify the AU's support to the countries of the region in their fight against Boko Haram. The Assembly welcomes the outcome of the Ministerial Conference of the Lake Chad Basin Member States in collaboration with the Commission and the UNDP held on 30 August 2018, in Abuja, Nigeria, which validated and adopted the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the region, in line with the United Nations Security Council resolution 2349. The Assembly calls upon the Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission to support the development of a clear road map and a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy for the implementation of the Strategy. The Assembly also calls on the newly established African Union Development Agency (AUDA/NEPAD) to play a leading role in the implementation of the Strategy by, among other things, contributing to the elaboration of the implementation road map and resource mobilization plan. The Assembly reiterates its call on all AU Member States, RECs/RMs and the larger international community to extend the necessary financial and technical assistance to support the implementation of the Strategy, including additional support for the MNJTF so as to consolidate the security gains thus far made. The Assembly commends the convening of the International Conference on Saving the Lake Chad by Nigeria, in collaboration with LCBC and

UNESCO, from 26 to 28 February 2018, which drew attention to the multifaceted socio-economic crisis and increased insecurity caused by the shrinkage of the Lake over the last three decades, underscoring the need for concerted efforts to resuscitate the Lake, as called for by the PSC in the communiqué PSC/PR/BR. (DCCLXXIV) of its 774th meeting held on 21 May 2018. In this regard, the Assembly endorses the outcome of the Conference (Abuja Declaration), in particular the Inter-Basin Water Transfer (IBWT) Initiative as a Pan-African project to restore the Lake Chad and to promote navigation, industrial and economic development;

15. *Commends* the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Commission for their active role in efforts to operationalize the AU PCRDCentre, and calls for the expeditious conclusion of the host country agreement for the Centre. In this context, the Assembly expresses appreciation to Egypt for availing land and other facilities for the Centre. The Assembly encourages Member States to provide the necessary resources, particularly funding, to support the full operationalization of the Centre. The Assembly encourages the ongoing consultations between ECCAS and the Commission for the process of finalizing the ECCAS Policy and Strategy on PCRDCentre, and urges the Commission to ensure the finalization of these documents in a timely manner, in order to facilitate implementation of PCRDCentre initiatives in the region;

16. *Reaffirms* its determination to reinforce its efforts towards better and more effective conflict prevention action in Africa. In this respect, the Assembly encourages Member States to take full advantage of the structural conflict prevention tools developed by the Commission, including the Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) and the Country Structural Vulnerability Mitigation Strategy (CSVMS), and to enhance the capacities of youth to meaningfully participate in peace and security issues at the national, regional and continental levels. The Assembly also encourages Member States to continue supporting the work of the Panel of the Wise in its contribution to peace efforts within the continent, and underscores the need for Member States to enhance the capacities of women to participate in conflict prevention and mediation efforts at the national, regional and continental levels;

17. *Commends* the PSC for its continued efforts in the further enhancement of the African Standby Force (ASF), including the ongoing steps to facilitate the harmonization of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) within the ASF Framework and to ensure that the Continental Logistic Base, in Douala, Cameroon, is fully operational and that the ASF Regional Logistic Depots are established. In this context, the Assembly requests the Commission to expedite the implementation of the provisions of the PSC communiqué (PSC/PR/COMM.(DCCCXXI)), including the matrix adopted at the 821st PSC meeting held on 9 January 2019 with regard to the harmonization of ACIRC within the ASF Framework;

18. *Expresses deep concern* at the increasing terrorist attacks in parts of the continent and reiterates its condemnation of all acts of terrorism committed on the continent by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes and also reiterates the AU's determination to rid Africa of the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, which cannot be justified under any circumstances. The Assembly expresses the AU's full solidarity with the affected countries and the victims of terrorism. The Assembly welcomes the efforts made by Member States to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism, through enhanced legislation, operational capability and coordination among relevant national structures and acknowledges the contribution of African institutions dedicated to support Member States in their fight against terrorism, namely CISSA, ACSRT and AFRIPOL, particularly in the provision of counterterrorism early warning, analysis and capacity-building. The Assembly expresses concern that, despite the progress made in developing a comprehensive normative and operational counterterrorism framework, serious gaps continue to exist in terms of implementation and follow-up, thus undermining the effectiveness of Africa's response to the threat of terrorism and violent extremism. In this respect, the Assembly stresses the urgent need for an action-oriented approach to give concrete expression to the commitment made by the Member States to combat terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations and encourages them to develop comprehensive national counterterrorism strategies covering prevention, response, reconstruction and socio-economic development. The Assembly calls on the Member States to promote exchange of experience in the field of countering violent extremism and hate speech;

19. *Endorses* the decision of the PSC to request the Commission, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to explore ways to strengthen the existing AU and RECs/RMs mechanism on child protection and on that basis develop a child protection architecture for the continent as a sub-aspect of APSA, to be considered and adopted by the PSC. In addition, the Assembly calls upon the RECs/REMs to designate focal points on protection of children affected by armed conflicts to facilitate effective coordination with and efficient functioning of the existing mechanisms for child protection. In this context, the Assembly endorses the PSC request for the Chairperson of the Commission to appoint a Special Envoy on Children in Situations of Conflict, to serve as a high-level political interface between children in Africa and the AU. The Assembly further endorses the decision of the PSC for the establishment of a continental reporting and monitoring framework to provide the AU with accurate, reliable and up-to-date data on the plight of children in situations of violent conflict and crisis;

20. *Requests* the AU Commission to mainstream responses to the effects of climate change in its policies on refugees and IDPs. The Assembly recalls communiqué PSC/PR/BR. (DCCLXXV) adopted by the PSC at its 775th meeting held on 22 May 2018, and underlines the importance for Member States to protect IDPs and refugee camps, against any form of militarization and to maintain the civilian character of these camps. The Assembly endorses the PSC decision and requests the AU Chairperson to appoint an AU special envoy for climate change and peace and security in Africa. The Assembly calls on the AU Commission, in close coordination with international organizations (UNHCR, OCHA, PAM) as well as the hosting countries, to proceed to the census and registration of refugees and IDPs, taking in consideration the figures submitted by the relevant international organizations;

21. *Commends* the efforts of the PSC in convening, in Cairo, Egypt, from 29 to 31 October 2018, a retreat dedicated to assessing the status of implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA), with a view to laying a solid foundation for the reform of the PSC, as called for in Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 adopted in January 2017. In this regard, the Assembly encourages the PSC, working with the RECs/RMs, to continue its efforts and looks forward to receiving the final outcomes of the ongoing efforts, particularly concrete proposals on the reform of the PSC;

22. *Endorses* the Conclusions of the Sixth High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 13 to 14 December 2018. The Assembly commends the efforts made by the African members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) in promoting and defending African common positions and concerns, decided by AU policy organs, within the Security Council. In this respect the Assembly pays tribute to Ethiopia for its invaluable contribution, in particular, with regard to efforts aimed at advancing the AU position on the Financing of the African Peace and Security Agenda through predictable and sustainable funding to be secured from United Nations assessed contributions. The Assembly welcomes the election of the Republic of South Africa as a non-permanent member of the Security Council and looks forward to South Africa's contribution in advancing the African Peace and Security Agenda in the Security Council. The Assembly commends Côte d'Ivoire for having tabled a draft resolution, following its endorsement by the PSC, to the Security Council and requests the A3 to continue to effectively articulate, defend and promote the African position on this issue. The Assembly also commends Equatorial Guinea for having tabled a draft resolution on Silencing the Guns by 2020, and calls on all the A3 and the African Group in New York to work together, with a view to facilitating the adoption of this landmark resolution. The Assembly takes note of all challenges facing the A3 in their efforts to defend and promote African common positions within the Security Council and requests the PSC, working with the Commission, to find the best ways and means for further enhancing support to the work of the A3 in New York.

Assembly/AU/Dec.719 (XXXII)

Decision on the Fourth Report of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the Implementation of the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Fourth Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) on the Implementation of the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020;
2. *Recalls* the Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted on 25 May 2013, in Addis Ababa, in which the Assembly of the Union pledged not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020, as well as Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII) by which the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 and 31 January 2017, adopted, following submission by the PSC, the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020;
3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress made, so far, on the implementation of the AU Master Road Map, in all its aspect, namely, political, economic, social, environmental and legal. In this context, the Assembly commends all AU Member States, the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict, Management and Resolution(RECs/RMs), civil society organizations and the private sector, as well as the United Nations and other partners for their unwavering engagements towards implementation of the AU Master Road Map, which contributes to creating conditions for the realization of a conflict-free Africa;
4. *Commends* the efforts deployed by the PSC in championing and steering forward the implementation of the AU Master Road Map. The Assembly further commends the RECs/RMs, particularly the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), for providing inputs on their activities in implementing the AU Master Road Map. In this regard, the Assembly appeals to all the stakeholders to deploy the required efforts to ensure that there is full coverage on the efforts being deployed in the implementation of the AU Master Road Map and looks forward to the more detailed report to be submitted to the ordinary session of the Assembly in January/February 2020. In the same vein, the Assembly commends the AU Commission for the support that it continues to provide to the Member States in undertaking national programmes and initiatives in line with the objectives of the AU Master Road Map;
5. *Expresses deep concern* over the slow pace in the implementation of the AU Master Road Map, given the impending December 2020 deadline for ending wars in Africa. While calling for the acceleration of the implementation of the AU Master Road Map, the Assembly further expresses deep concern over the persistence of threats to peace and security on the continent, especially election-related crises; the existence of ungoverned spaces which leave room for illegal activities; continued inflow of weapons into the continent and their illicit circulation and use in some parts of Africa; weak mechanisms, or their absence in some cases, as needed in curbing illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons; inadequate border monitoring and control; persistence of corruption and high rate of unemployment, particularly among the youth; illicit financial flows which facilitate funding for illicit weapons and conflicts; illegal exploitation of natural resources which contributes to funding insurgencies and rebellions; the effects of climate change and increase in desertification; and slow processes in the ratification of AU instruments and policies. In the context, the Assembly appeals to all AU Member States, RECs/RMs and civil society, as well as the United Nations, and other partners to redouble their efforts to ensure that the AU flagship project of silencing the guns is effectively implemented;
6. *While commending* those countries which undertook activities in observance of the Africa Amnesty Month, namely, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Mali, Sudan and Zambia, for their commitments towards the goal of silencing the guns in Africa, the Assembly urges all other Member States to emulate these efforts and give more visibility to the Africa Amnesty Month, September each year. The Assembly further stresses the need for Member States and other stakeholders to contribute to the sensitization of its citizens with regard to the Africa Amnesty Month, in order to facilitate the voluntary surrender the illegally owned weapons;
7. *Given the significant potential* of the observance of the Africa Amnesty month to contribute to curbing illicit circulation and use of weapons, the Assembly endorses the PSC decision to the effect that the

marking/commemoration of the Africa Amnesty Month is conducted on a rotational basis in the five geographic regions, with the RECs/RMs leading the process, with the full participation of local civil society and institutions/organizations, with the view of publicizing the month and bringing the initiative closer to those concerned;

8. *Welcomes* the development of the technical and operational guidelines by the Commission aimed at informing national and regional efforts in conducting activities under the Africa Amnesty Month and a compendium of African experiences and good practices in implementing voluntary disarmament programmes. The Assembly requests the AU Commission to speedily finalize these products and avail them to all AU Member States to strengthen their implementation efforts in the implementation of the AU Master Road Map;

9. *Welcomes* the initiatives of Equatorial Guinea, in its capacity as the President of the United Nations Security Council for the month of February 2019, in including in the Council's agenda for February 2019 an open debate on the "AU initiative on silencing the guns in Africa". In this context, the Assembly appeals to the African members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) and the entire membership of this Council to provide their full support to Equatorial Guinea and accelerate efforts towards adoption of the envisaged outcome;

10. *Further welcomes* the development of an integrated framework to guide the handling of persons associated with terrorist groups in the Lake Chad Basin and calls upon the concerned Member States to spare no effort in executing the procedures and principles outlined therein as part of the overall stabilization efforts in the region. The Assembly encourages Member States to take ownership of the operational guidance notes developed by the Commission in response to growing complexities in the field of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR);

11. *Commends* the Commission for convening the Second Africa Forum on Security Sector Reform (SSR) as an important platform to reflect on progress and challenges to the implementation of the AU Policy Framework on SSR, and welcomes the efforts deployed by the Commission to support Member States in articulating and executing SSR processes, and to promote active and constructive engagement of civil society in these processes. In this context, the Assembly underscores the need to streamline SSR in the AU's conflict prevention and resolution efforts, as well as in post-conflict reconstruction and development initiatives, in accordance with the relevant practical steps outlined in the AU Master Road Map;

12. *Welcomes* the development of the draft AU Policy for the Management of Recovered Arms and Ammunition in peace support operations (PSOs) by the AU Commission and looks forward to its timely adoption by the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS). Furthermore, the Assembly calls upon Member States to intensify their efforts, to prevent the diversion, illicit circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, including through ratifying and effectively implementing the relevant African, regional and international instruments;

13. *Recalls* Decision AHG/Dec.135 (XXXV) of the Thirty-fifth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU, and calls on Member States with outstanding clearance obligations, pursuant to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, to consolidate their engagements in line with the Maputo 2025 Commitment. The Assembly welcomes the dialogue initiated by the Commission among Member States and partners, towards developing coherent and coordinated approaches to countering the growing threat of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and to promote institutional capacity-building to mitigate the risk. The Assembly looks forward to the holding of the Fourth Review Conference of the Mine Ban Convention in Oslo, in November 2019, and requests the Commission, with the guidance of the PSC, to review the existing continental frameworks and develop an African common position ahead of the review conference;

14. *Expresses its concern* over the global challenges to the multilateral regimes against weapons of mass destruction (WMD), yet such regimes constitute a critical pillar of the global peace and security architecture. In this regard, the Assembly urges Member States that have not yet done so, to ratify the Pelindaba Treaty, as well as the biological and chemical weapons conventions. The Assembly welcomes the steps taken by the Commission to

support the development of institutional capacities for the full and effective implementation of the regional and international instruments against WMD. Furthermore, the Assembly requests the AU Commission and the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) to provide annual briefings to the PSC on the status of implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty and the activities of the AFCONE;

15. *Underscores* the imperative for Member States, RECs/RMs and the Commission to enhance preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention, as part of the efforts to silence the guns with a view to realizing a conflict-free continent. The Assembly stresses the importance of participation of women and youth in the full cycle of peace processes on the continent with a view to ensuring that the need for women and youth are fully included in the implementation of the AU Master Road Map;

16. *Encourages* all AU Member States to submit, in a timely manner, their reports on their implementation of the AU Master Road Map in its five key dimensions, namely political, social, economic, environmental and legal aspects, to enable the PSC and the Assembly to have a comprehensive sight into the actual trends in the implementation of the AU Master Road Map;

17. *Encourages* Member States to volunteer resources, within their means, to facilitate the work of the High Representative, whose role complements that of the PSC in enhancing coordination of activities aimed at silencing the guns within Africa;

18. *Requests* the PSC, with the support of the Commission, to take steps for the elaboration of a comprehensive report on the status of implementation of the AU Master Road Map, in close coordination with the involved stakeholders, which will be submitted to the ordinary session of the Assembly in January/February 2020, with a view to take stock of the progress and the challenges in view of the December 2020 deadline for silencing the guns in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.720 (XXXII)

**Decision on the State of Governance in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Africa Governance Report presented by H.E. Idriss Déby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad and Chairperson of the Forum of Heads of State and Government, of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM);

2. *Commends* H.E. President Idriss Déby Itno for his sterling leadership of the APRM Forum and his excellent presentation of the Africa Governance Report on behalf of the Mechanism;

3. *Recalls* Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XI), adopted at the Eleventh Extraordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November 2018, whereby the Assembly reaffirmed the need to strengthen the APRM capacity to deliver on the Expanded Mandate, enhance the Mechanism's functional autonomy, develop a report on the State of Governance in Africa, in collaboration with the African Governance Architecture (AGA), and requested the APRM to present an update on the report to the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly in February 2019;

4. *Commends* the APRM for developing the Africa Governance Report, in collaboration with AGA, pursuant to Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XI), and for presenting the Report to the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly;

5. *Welcomes* the Africa Governance Report and urges Member States to consider the recommendations contained in the Report, with a view to enhancing good governance and sharing best practices at both the country and continental levels;
6. *Urges* Member States to develop national governance reports as a self-assessment tool, for promoting good governance, in line with the recommendations of the Report;
7. *Requests* the APRM Secretariat to provide technical support to Member States in developing Country Self-Assessment Reports (CSAR) on Governance;
8. *Also requests* the APRM to launch the Report officially in collaboration with AGA, and urges all AGA members to incorporate the Report in their annual work plans;
9. *Decides* that the Africa Governance Report shall be developed by APRM, in collaboration with AGA, and shall be presented every two years for consideration by the Assembly at its ordinary sessions.

Assembly/AU/Dec.721 (XXXII)

Decision on the Report of the Twenty-eighth Summit of the Forum of the African Peer Review Mechanism

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Report of the Twenty-eighth Summit of the Forum of Heads of State and Government of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) held on 9 February 2019, presented by H.E. Idriss Déby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad and Chairperson of the APRM Forum;
2. *Commends* H.E. President Idriss Déby Itno for his sterling leadership of the APRM Forum and for his excellent presentation of the Report;
3. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.198 (XI) adopted at the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in June/July 2008, which decided that the APRM structures, namely, the APRM Forum, the APR Panel and the APRM Secretariat, shall be part of the processes and structures of the African Union;
4. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.527 (XXIII) adopted at the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014, on the integration of the APRM into the AU system as an autonomous entity;
5. *Reaffirms* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.631 (XXVIII) adopted at the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2017, and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.686 (XXX) of the Thirtieth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2018, which conferred to the APRM an expanded mandate that covers all Member States of the African Union;
6. *Reiterates* Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XI) adopted at the Eleventh Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November 2018, integrating the APRM budget into the statutory Union budget funded by Member States;
7. *Reaffirms* that the APRM remains the premier home-grown, African good governance tool conceived in 2003 and voluntarily acceded to by 37 Member States, representing 69 per cent of AU Member States, more than half of whom (21) have undergone the review;

8. *Rededicates* ourselves to the cause of good governance in all its four manifestations of good political governance, sound economic governance and management, corporate governance and inclusive and broad-based socio- economic development;
9. *Welcomes* the peer review reports of Côte d'Ivoire and Mozambique and congratulates H.E Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and H.E Filipe Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, for their steadfast and sustained leadership in the promotion of good governance in their countries and on the continent;
10. *Further congratulates* the Panel of Eminent Persons that led the review work and appreciates its resilience and commitment to the process;
11. *Encourages* both Côte d'Ivoire and Mozambique to take into account the observations of Member States during the presentation of the review reports to the APR Forum as well as the recommendations contained in reports in the development and implementation of their national programme of action as a necessary step in furthering the goal of the APRM;
12. *Congratulates* the Republic of Botswana for its accession as a new member of the APRM, and encourages more Member States to accede to the APRM, in line with Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXX) adopted at the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2018, as well as Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XI), adopted at the Eleventh Extraordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November 2018, wherein the Assembly urged the remaining Member States to accelerate accession to the APRM in order to achieve universality by 2023, as envisaged in the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063;
13. *Commends* the APRM for developing the Africa Governance Report, in collaboration with AGA, pursuant to Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XI);
14. *Welcomes with appreciation* the appointment by the APR Forum of new APR Panel Members, H.E Haile Mariam Desalegn, former Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and Dr. Ali Abderahman Haggar from Chad, and expresses appreciation to the retiring APR Panel Members, for their unwavering commitment to the realization of the mandate of the APRM;
15. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the extension of the tenure of Professor Edward Maloka, as the Chief Executive Officer of the APRM Secretariat, for another three years; congratulates and wishes him the very best in carrying out his mandate and assures him of continued support;
16. *Decides* in line with Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XI) that the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the APRM Forum shall be held on the margins of the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled to be held in February 2020.

Assembly/AU/Dec.722 (XXXII)

**Decision on the Report of the High-Level Committee on Libya
(Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 10 February 2019;
2. *Expresses, once again,* its concern over the gravity of the situation in Libya;

3. *Reiterates* the need for Africa to speak with one voice on the Libyan issue and to improve synergy of action and joint efforts between the African Union and the United Nations on the initiatives to be taken to reach a final settlement;
4. *Stresses* the key role of the Libyans themselves in the search for a lasting solution to the situation and the need for them to take ownership of the process to end the crisis;
5. *Requests* the Commission to take the necessary measures, jointly with the United Nations, with a view to organizing during the first half of July 2019, the Inclusive Libyan National Peace and Reconciliation Forum;
6. *Also requests* the Commission to take, jointly with the United Nations and the Libyan Government, all the necessary measures for the organization of presidential and legislative elections in October 2019;
7. *Requests* the Commission to initiate the necessary contacts with the United Nations, with a view to establishing a framework for ongoing, regular consultations between the United Nations and the African Union;
8. *Invites*, the High-Level Committee to pursue its contacts with all the Libyan stakeholders, in order to reach a broad consensus on the modalities for the organization of the National Reconciliation Forum;
9. *Urgently calls for* the cessation of all external interference in Libya;
10. *Commends* the efforts made by H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, Chair of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya, as well as those of the neighbouring countries, towards finding a lasting solution to the crisis in Libya.

Assembly/AU/Dec.723 (XXXII)

**Decision on the Katowice Climate Conference (UNFCCC COP 24) and Africa's Engagements at the
Global Climate Change Conference at COP 25/CMP 15
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation of:*
 - (a) The Report by H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of Gabon, and the Coordinator of the Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), on the outcomes of the Twenty-fourth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Fourteenth Meeting of the Parties serving as the Conference of the Parties to Its Kyoto Protocol (COP 24/CMP 14); and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA1.3) and endorses the recommendations therein;
 - (b) The successful operationalization by H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo, of the Climate Commission for the Congo Basin and its Blue Fund;
 - (c) The successful operationalization by H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, the President of the Republic of Niger, of the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region;
 - (d) The commitment of H.E. Denny Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles, in expediting the operationalization of the Climate Commission for Island States and ocean economies;

2. *Further acknowledges* the crucial role of Gabon as chair of CAHOSCC and AMCEN, and Egypt as chair of the G77 and China, during the negotiations building up to COP 24 in Poland, and commends the two countries for their dedication and support for the African cause in climate change;
3. *Further takes note with appreciation* of the two preparatory meetings convened by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the several meetings of the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN) in preparation for the COP;
4. *Acknowledges* the utmost commitment of CAHOSCC in the provision of the political directive and guidance that has been facilitating Africa to be stronger, bonded together in the spirit of Pan-Africanism and to continue to speak with one voice in the global climate change negotiations, highlighting the African commitment to fully implement the Convention, the Paris Agreement, in line with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;
5. *Congratulates* the Commission, AUDA/NEPAD, AfDB; UNECA, in collaboration with the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of Gabon, and in partnership with the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and the African Risk Capacity (ARC), for organizing the Africa Day events at COP 24 on 3 December 2018 on the theme: "The Africa NDC Hub: Going further and faster with NDC implementation in support of Agenda 2063";
6. *Congratulates* Poland for successfully hosting COP 24/CMP 14 and for the adoption of the Katowice Climate Package; and welcomes the offer by Chile to host COP 25/CMP 15/CMA2, in December 2019;
7. *Acknowledges*, the efforts and commitment of the African Ministers, who participated in facilitating the final days of the negotiations, towards the promotion of the African positions, and the work undertaken by the AGN, in the preparation and the negotiations leading to COP 24 outcomes and in securing African priorities in the negotiations;
8. *Reiterates* the need for the multilateral approach of addressing the global challenge of climate change, through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and reaffirms Africa's commitment to implement the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, in the best interest of African countries, which are particularly vulnerable to climate change and already adversely affected by the impacts of this phenomenon, while ensuring that African countries are accorded the policy space needed to achieve sustainable development;
9. *Urges* parties to the Paris Agreement to recognize the special circumstances and needs of African countries, in line with the relevant and previous decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties and calls upon the incoming presidency of the Conference of the Parties to continue with the consultations, with a view to reaching a decision in that regard, by the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference of the Parties, scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile, from 2 to 13 December 2019, and requests the AGN to continue pursuing the issue;
10. *Urges* developed countries to continue to scale up mobilized climate finance towards achieving the 2020 finance goal, through private and public funds, to deliver on the US\$ 100 billion annually building on the needs of developing countries and enhancing the country ownership of developing countries, and further enhance the provisions of predictable and sustainable finance building on the floor of the US\$ 100 billion annually;
11. *Welcomes* the role of the GCF in supporting African countries implementing their climate actions and projects, while concerned with the shortfalls of some pledges of the IRM, and commends the work achieved by the outgoing African board members and their positions defending Africa interests in the board and, in this regard, urges developed countries to enhance their contributions to the GCF to ensure a timely, successful, first Replenishment process of the GCF, that reflects the commitment to tackle climate change both on mitigation and adaptation;
12. *Highlights* the importance of reaching an ambitious outcome of the GCF first Replenishment of at least double the provisions of finance pledged during the initial resource mobilization 'IRM', taking into consideration

the capacity of the GCF secretariat to programme between US\$ 3 to 5 billion annually; while stressing the importance of ensuring allocation of an adequate share of GCF resources for Africa, in particular for adaptation through grant instruments;

13. *Further urges* the Parties and the COP 24 and COP 25 Presidencies to expedite action on consultations on the specific needs and special circumstances of Africa, as contained in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as mandated at COP 22;

14. *Notes with concern* that current levels of global warming have induced unprecedented and widespread insecurities, especially to the poor and vulnerable groups in the African communities, resulting in food insecurity, displacement of human and livestock populations, health challenges, and other negative impacts on livelihoods and economies;

15. *Also notes* the warning by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in its Special Report on the Implications of 1.5 degree Celsius warming, which recognizes that most of Africa has already surpassed 1 degree Celsius warming and could rapidly exceed 2 degrees in the absence of drastic action;

16. *Calls upon* the global leaders to implement radical policy measures as recommended by the IPCC, to ensure the integrity of the climate system and requests that such policies have a stronger focus on building the resilience of vulnerable groups in society;

17. *Also calls upon* developed countries to enhance provisions of support, both financial and transfer of technology, and facilitate access by African countries to this support, which should be provided on a concessional and preferential basis;

18. *Requests* the Commission, Pan-African institutions, and climate commissions, in collaboration with the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), to embark on programmes to document climate impacts on Africa's economies and ecosystems and propose appropriate policy and other interventions to guide African States' climate response;

19. *Implores* all Parties to work together for the effective operationalization of the Paris Agreement and completion of the pending work on the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP), beyond COP 24 outcomes, in order to support developing countries, especially Africa, in the implementation of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs);

20. *Encourages* the African countries to ratify the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol as a vehicle to strengthen efforts to tackle climate change;

21. *Requests* the AGN to continue its efforts in relation to promoting and supporting Africa's priorities in the UNFCCC negotiations and other related fora, building on the African common position document and relevant AMCEN and CAHOSCC decisions;

22. *Encourages* African and international stakeholders, especially those working on cities and local governments, including the United Nations organizations like UNHABITAT, UNEP, and as appropriate, other stakeholders like UCLGA, to enhance their support to African countries, to the extent possible, through coordination and cooperation with the AU Commission, the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), through the Subcommittee on Environment and the AGN, for the successful implementation of the African NDCs at the local level, in line with the national rules and regulations;

23. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the AGN relevant initiatives such as AAI, Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and Climate Commissions, with the support of relevant partners and stakeholders, to coordinate, support, monitor and report on the implementation of the nationally determined contributions of Member States;

24. *Also requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the AGN, the Climate Commissions, AAI and AREI, to continue its efforts and support for Africa's preparations for COP 25, and facilitate the continent's showcase of Africa's efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change and ongoing efforts to mitigate climate change;
25. *Urges* the Commission, in collaboration with Pan-African agencies, to organize an African Summit on Climate Change in 2020, prior to COP 26, as the year 2020 is critical in the global climate change calendar;
26. *Welcomes* the Leaders' participation and notes the Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration;
27. *Notes with appreciation* the support provided by different African institutions and development partners, in particular AFDB, UNDP, UNEP, the European Union and Germany, for the AGN and the Commission to enhance their engagement in the negotiations and other related processes;
28. *Requests* the Commission to develop, in consultation with AMCEN, as appropriate, the rules of procedure for CAHOSCC to enhance effective operations of this high-level committee for the consideration of the CAHOSCC at its next session;
29. *Requests* partners to support the Commission and the African Group of Negotiators at all levels in the implementation of this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.724 (XXXII)

**Decision on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Twentieth Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
2. *Reiterates* the need to reform the United Nations to conform to the present geopolitical realities, in particular, the need to address Africa's non-representation in the permanent category, and its under-representation in the non-permanent category of the Security Council;
3. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the progress made by the Committee of Ten in advocating and canvassing support for the Common African Position as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 2005 Sirte Declaration on the Security Council Reform;
4. *Welcomes* in that regard, the growing acceptance of the legitimacy of the Common African Position on the reform of the Security Council, in particular, the full endorsement for the Common African Position as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration by a number of interest groups and Member States from across all regions, during the intergovernmental negotiations at the United Nations in 2018;
5. *Also welcomes and appreciates* the endorsement of the Common African Position by the Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM);
6. *Reaffirms* its firm commitment to the Common African Position espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration as the only viable option for Africa's full representation at the Security Council;
7. *Reiterates* that full representation of Africa in the Security Council means:
 - (i) A minimum of two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership, including the right of veto;

- (ii) Five non-permanent seats; and
- (iii) That the African Union reserves the right to select its representatives for election to the Security Council, to act in its name and on its behalf;

8. *Requests:*

- (i) The Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government to continue to reach out at the highest political levels, including with the five permanent members of the Security Council, with a view to advancing the Common African Position on the reform of the Security Council;
- (ii) The Committee of Ten to also continue to intensify its engagement with other interest and regional groups and stakeholders with a view to building on progress made in advancing the Common African Position on the reform of Security Council; in this regard, encourages the Committee of Ten to continue holding its high-level meetings outside the margins of the summit of the African Union;
- (iii) All African Union Member States to reflect in their respective national statements at the opening of the seventy-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019, the concise common language to advance the Common African Position, and to reiterate the call for a comprehensive reform of the Security Council;
- (iv) 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, the need to correct, without further delay, the historical injustice that the African continent continues to endure;
- (v) The Chairperson of the Commission to include the item “Reform of the Security Council” in the agenda of the closed segment of the next ordinary session of the Assembly;

9. *Reiterates* the firm commitment to preserve Africa’s unity and solidarity on all aspects of the Security Council reform process, including participation within and outside the intergovernmental negotiations, and to continue to speak cohesively with one voice in unity of purpose on all aspects of the reform process;

10. *Also reiterates* that the C-10 continues to liaise with other African Union Member States in New York and Addis Ababa, through regular briefings on updates on matters related to the intergovernmental negotiations on the reform of the Security Council, including the activities of the C-10;

11. *Further reiterates* that the African Union Member States in New York with dual membership should consider withdrawal of such membership from all other interest groups, in order to further consolidate the Common African Position as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;

12. *Decides* that the Common African Position on the reform of the Security Council shall be a strategic item on the Assembly’s agenda and work plan, and requests the Commission to continue to facilitate the work of the Committee of Ten;

13. *Also decides* that the Committee of Ten remains seized of its mandate until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the Security Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.725 (XXXII)

**Decision on the Report on Malaria
(Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recognizes* the “Progress Report of the African Union on Malaria” and the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Further recognizes* the high-level African leaders’ political commitment, national ownership and global solidarity;
3. *Reiterates* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.619 (XXVII), adopted at the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session, held in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016, which supported the Replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria;
4. *Expresses concern* that progress towards malaria elimination is stalling and calls on Member States to increase domestic resources necessary to achieve elimination by 2030;
5. *Commends* Member States that have launched the Zero Malaria Starts With Me campaign and requests the Commission, RBM Partnership to end Malaria and African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), to further support additional roll-out and implementation including the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework;
6. *Requests* Member States, with support of the Commission, RECs, RBM Partnership to End Malaria, ALMA and partners, to accelerate the establishment of national end malaria councils and malaria funds, to galvanize political commitment and increased domestic investments from the public and private sector;
7. *Encourages* increased utilization and uptake of national malaria control and elimination scorecards, and action trackers by Member States to drive action and accountability;
8. *Requests* Member States, with the support of the Commission, RBM Partnership to End Malaria, ALMA and partners, to work towards an enabling environment and ensure the availability of affordable, effective, safe, next-generation malaria commodities, through regulatory harmonization and support for local production, including innovative initiatives to increase availability and scalability;
9. *Also requests* Member States to fully utilize the right to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions contained in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and subsequent declarations and articles to promote access to medicines for all;
10. *Further requests* the Chairperson of ALMA to report to the Assembly annually on progress in responding to malaria in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.726 (XXXII)

**Decision on the Report on Combatting Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* H.E Abdelaziz Bouteflika’s Report on the Issue of Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa;
2. *Expresses grave concern* over the worsening scourge of terrorism and violent extremism in Africa, and the growing linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime, notably drug and human trafficking, money laundering, illicit trafficking in arms, and the threat this situation poses to the promotion and consolidation of peace and security on the continent and the realization of the goal of Silencing the Guns by 2020 in Africa, in line with AU Agenda 2063;

3. *Reiterates* its strong condemnation of all acts of terrorism committed on the continent by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, and expresses full solidarity with the affected countries and the victims of terrorism;
4. *Reiterates* its determination to rid Africa of the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, which cannot be justified under any circumstances, noting that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or group;
5. *Commends* Member States for having developed and strengthened their legislative and operational capacities to combat the scourges of terrorism and violent extremism; and commends the AU institutions and mechanisms providing support to Member States in this respect, including the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the AU Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), and the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA);
6. *Emphasizes* the need to address all conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism, including political exclusion, prolonged unresolved conflicts, deficits in the rule of law, violations of human rights, discrimination, socio-economic marginalization and poor governance, and stresses, however, that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism. In this respect, the Assembly reaffirms the urgent need to fully implement all aspects outlined in the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa;
7. *Commends* the work of H.E Abdelaziz Bouteflika and expresses support to the Memorandum on the Pillars for joint AU action against the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, presented by himself, as the Champion on this issue, to inform and guide the updating of the AU Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, adopted by Decision EX.CL/Dec.13 (II) of the Second Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held in March 2003, in N'Djamena;
8. *Requests* the Commission to continue supporting H.E Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in his capacity as the Champion on the Issue of Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa, including by facilitating consultations among Member States, with a view to updating the AU Plan of Action and submit it for validation by an AU Ministerial Conference before submission for consideration by the Assembly in January 2020;
9. *Reiterates* its appeal to all Member States to volunteer resources to the AU Special Fund for Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa, in line with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.614 (XXVII), adopted at the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016.

Assembly/AU/Dec.727 (XXXII)

**Decision on the African Union Campaign on Ending Child Marriage in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/24 (XXXII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of H.E. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia and Leader of Combating Early Marriage of Young Girls in Africa, and the recommendations contained therein; and decides to change the above title to Leader of Ending Child Marriage in Africa;
2. *Commends* Member States that have launched, nationally, the AU Campaign on Ending Child Marriage as well as those that have costed national strategies and action plans towards ending child marriage and calls upon other Member States which are yet to launch and implement the campaign to do so;

3. *Recognizes* that child marriage is a complex issue which adversely impacts the personal development and future opportunities, health and well-being of children, with detrimental consequences on children, women, families, communities and affects a nation's sustainable development;
4. *Also recognizes* that all children, both girls and boys, have fundamental human rights, especially the right to non-discrimination, survival, development, education, health and welfare, and the freedom to take advantage of opportunities available in harnessing their potential, and that child marriage is a serious violation of these rights;
5. *Reaffirms* our commitment towards the implementation of the Common African Position on Ending Child Marriage in Africa and the recommendations of the First African Girls Summit held in Lusaka, Zambia, in November 2015, and all the recommendations from the Second African Girls Summit on Ending Child Marriage held in Accra, Ghana, in November 2018;
6. *Commits* to keeping the fight to end child marriage in Africa, on national, regional and continental agendas; and ensuring accountability for results and targets to be reported back to the AU Assembly annually;
7. *Further commits* to take concrete actions to end child marriage in all its forms and manifestations, with firm commitment to article 21, paragraph 2, of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
8. *Requests* a comprehensive report on the progress of ending child marriage in Africa to be submitted through the reporting channels of the policy organs.

Assembly/AU/Dec.728 (XXXII)

**Decision on the Establishment of the Continental Operational Centre
in Khartoum for Combating Irregular Migration
(Doc. EX.CL/1122 (XXXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.6 (XXV) adopted at the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2015, endorsing the initiative on migration on the continent, especially combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling;
2. *Endorses* the Executive Council's proposal on the establishment of the Continental Operational Centre in Sudan, for combating irregular migration, as a specialized technical office of the Union, with particular focus on human trafficking and migrant smuggling on the continent;
3. *Requests* the Commission to expedite the elaboration of the structural, financial and legal implications, as well as, the Statute Establishing the Continental Operational Centre in Sudan for combating irregular migration for consideration by the relevant policy organs of the Union.

Assembly/AU/Dec.729 (XXXII)

Decision on Revitalizing and Operationalizing the African Union Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development: Practical Policy Options and Adaptive Measures for Sustainable Solutions to Address the Root Causes of Forced Displacement Challenges in Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* the proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt to launch a process to revitalize and operationalize the AU Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), while aligning it with the evolving

international discourse on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and the actual needs of countries emerging from conflict in Africa;

2. *Also commends* the proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt to launch substantive discussions at the AU and with the RECs/RMs in order to formulate a common African position on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, to be presented at the upcoming review process of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture in 2020;

3. *Expresses its deep appreciation* for the workshop hosted by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in Cairo, on 15 and 16 October 2018, on “Operationalizing the African Union PCRD Policy in the Sahel: Charting the Way Forward”, and endorses the recommendations of the said workshop;

4. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.710 (XXXI), adopted at the Thirty-first Ordinary Session in July 2018, on accepting the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the AUC-PCRD and requests the Commission to fast track the functioning of the centre in 2019, as a continental platform for strengthening the African ownership of PCRD activities;

5. *Requests* the Commission, to work closely with the Arab Republic of Egypt, in taking forward the aforementioned proposals and to report on progress made in this regard to the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council to be held in Niamey, Niger, in July 2019;

6. *Stresses* the need for practical policy options and adaptive measures to address, inter alia, the root causes resulting in the protracted challenges of forced displacement in Africa, with a view to reaching effective sustainable solutions;

7. *Mandates* H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to be Leader of the revitalization and operationalization of the African Union Policy on PCRD.

Assembly/AU/Dec.730 (XXXII)

Decision on the Follow-up on the Establishment of the African Migration Observatory in Morocco

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.695 (XXXII), adopted at the Thirty-first Ordinary Session held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in July 2018, on the establishment of the African Migration Observatory (AMO) in the Kingdom of Morocco;

2. *Commends* the Kingdom of Morocco for its central role in hosting the Intergovernmental Conference, from 10 to 11 December 2018, which adopted the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), and the important role the Observatory will undertake to implement the Marrakech Compact on Migration;

3. *Takes note* of the efforts deployed by the Commission and the Kingdom of Morocco in the operationalization of the African Migration Observatory (AMO);

4. *Welcomes* the signing, on 10 December 2018 in Marrakech, of the Host Agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Commission on the operationalization of the AMO;

5. *Expresses gratitude* to the Kingdom of Morocco for offering to host the headquarters of the Observatory as specified by the Host Agreement;

6. *Highlights* the important role of the AMO in, inter alia, the support of existing continental initiatives on migration, through the collection, exchange, analysis and sharing of data with a view to efficiently address migration challenges;

7. *Invites* Member States and development partners to provide the necessary technical and financial support for the AMO and its programmes;
8. *Requests* the Commission to expedite the elaboration of the legal, structural and financial implications, as well as the Statute Establishing the African Migration Observatory for consideration and adoption by the relevant AU policy organs by February 2020;
9. *Also requests* the Commission to report on the operationalization of the AMO to the policy organs during the February 2020 ordinary session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.731 (XXXII)

**Decision on the Debt Cancellation as a Means towards Enhancing Peace, Security,
Development and Durable Solutions for Displaced Somalis
(Doc. EX.CL/1133 (XXXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report;
2. *Mindful* of the critical role and stake that the African Union has, through the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), in seeing a peaceful, stable, and financially self-sufficient Somalia;
3. *Recognizes* that in re-emerging from decades of conflict, the Federal Republic of Somalia must undertake the immense task of reconstruction and development to establish the foundations of lasting peace and stability, thereby establishing favourable conditions for investment and employment creation;
4. *Cognizant* of the AU's theme of 2019, "Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement", Somalia is critically in need of the financial and technical assistance from the international community for the provision of durable solutions for displaced Somalis;
5. *Commends* the Federal Government of Somalia for its determined efforts at socio-economic recovery through its eighth National Development Plan (NDP) and the forthcoming ninth NDP;
6. *Acknowledges* that the Federal Government of Somalia and subnational tiers of government have meagre resources, both domestic and external, to stimulate economic recovery and reduce poverty, that are needed to allow Somalia to transition to a country of lasting peace and development;
7. *Notes* that years of conflict in Somalia have resulted in the accumulation of arrears owed to external creditors, including bilateral and multilateral creditors, constraining the ability of Somalia to obtain external resources for reconstruction and development;
8. *Bearing in mind* that Somalia is among the last remaining eligible countries which are still to benefit from the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Debt Relief Initiative, an internationally agreed upon framework for providing comprehensive debt relief to low-income countries that qualify for the initiative;
9. *Aware* of the need for Somalia to normalize its financial relations with external creditors, thus unlocking financial resources for the country's stabilization, reconstruction, development and poverty reduction, including for the provision of durable solutions for displaced Somalis;

10. *Notes with satisfaction* the Somali Government's commitment to resolving its external debt problem through establishing good economic and financial governance and through the implementation of much needed reforms, including Somalia's third IMF Staff Monitored Programme ending mid-2019;
11. *Expresses its full support and continued* solidarity with the Somali people and their Government in their quest for normalization of financial relations with external creditors and full debt cancellation;
12. *Urges* Somalia's external creditors, especially the international financial institutions (IFIs) that have pledged financial support to step up their good faith efforts and accelerate: the normalization of financial relations with Somalia to fulfil their promises, the unlocking of development resources for the country and the full resolution of the external debt overhang;
13. *Aware* that a number of AU Member States are among Somalia's external creditors;
14. *Calls upon* AU Member States that are Somalia's external creditors to fully cancel Somalia's debt obligations in the spirit of African solidarity; requests that the Commission facilitates debt cancellation discussions between Somalia and AU Member State creditors and calls upon the latter to provide additional economic support to Somalia;
15. *Further calls upon* Somalia's external creditors to fully cancel Somalia's debt obligations as a means of relieving the country of a future debt servicing burden that may hinder its transition from conflict to peace and sustainable development.

Assembly/AU/Dec.732 (XXXII)

Decision on the Encyclopaedia Africana Project: Documenting African History towards Durable Solutions to African Challenges including Forced Displacement

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.500 (XXII), adopted at the Twenty-second Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2014, on the adoption of the Encyclopaedia Africana Project (EAP);
2. *Commends* the work of the Government of Ghana and the Commission on the progress made in reviving the EAP;
3. *Requests* the Commission to adopt the EAP as one of its flagship projects;
4. *Calls upon* Member States, the Commission and Pan-African institutions on the continent and in the diaspora to support the work of the EAP;
5. *Requests* the Commission to conduct an assessment of the current Secretariat of EAP and identify the possibility of making it a Pan-African institution.

Assembly/AU/Dec.733 (XXXII)

Decision on Financing the Union

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations contained in the report of the meeting of the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15), held on 6 February 2019, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.605 (XXVII), adopted at the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session held in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016, which decided:

- (i) To institute and implement a 0.2 per cent levy on all eligible imported goods into the continent to finance the African Union operational, programme and peace support operations budgets starting from the year 2017; and
- (ii) To establish a Committee of Ministers of Finance, comprising 10 Member States, representing the five regions, expanded further to 15 (three per region), to participate in the preparation of the annual budget;

3. *Also recalls* Decision AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII), adopted at the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2017, which emphasized that the Kigali Decision on Financing of the Union (Assembly/AU/Dec.605 (XXVII)) should be implemented in full and without undue delay, and commends Member States implementing the 0.2 per cent import levy;

4. *Also commends* the Commission for the speedy progress with regard to the implementation of the Golden Rules establishing clear financial management and accountability principles;

5. *Mandates* the Commission to do the following:

- (i) Provide technical support to Member States in accelerating the implementation of the 0.2 per cent levy;
- (ii) Facilitate the involvement of the F15 in the consideration of the annual audit report of the Union;
- (iii) Facilitate a retreat of the F15 to assess mechanisms on its working methods as well as consider modalities on how it can accelerate the implementation of decisions on Financing of the Union;
- (iv) Strengthen the Secretariat of the Financing of the Union with a view to providing adequate support to the F15 and Member States;

6. *Affirms* that Member States, while implementing this Decision, will be availed flexibility in fulfilling their obligations, as per their constitutional provisions and national laws, in accordance with Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Union.

Assembly/AU/Dec.734 (XXXII)

Decision on the Scale of Assessment for the Regular Budget and the Peace Fund

The Assembly,

A. On the Scale of Assessment and Contributions:

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.578 (XXV), adopted at the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2015, which decided that:

- (a) A new scale of assessment be adopted based on the principles of solidarity, equitable payments and capacity to pay in a way that ensures no single country bears a disproportionate share of the budget;
- (b) The scale of assessment will be based on achieving the following targets to be phased over five years starting from January 2016:
 - (i) 100 per cent of the Union's operational budget;
 - (ii) 75 per cent of Union's programme budget;

- (iii) 25 per cent of Union's peace support operations budget;
- (c) The scale of assessment will be based on a tier system as follows:
 - (i) All countries with a GDP above 4 per cent: tier 1;
 - (ii) All countries with a GDP above 1 per cent but below 4 per cent: tier 2;
 - (iii) All countries with a GDP of 1 per cent and below: tier 3;

2. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.605 (XXVII), adopted at the Twenty-seventh Ordinary Session held in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016, which stated that the Peace Fund shall be endowed with an amount of US\$ 325 million in 2017, rising to US\$ 400 million in 2020. This total amount shall be raised from equal contributions from each of the five AU regions, as defined in the relevant instruments;

3. *Reiterates* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.605 (XXVII), which reaffirmed its determination to ensure that the African Union (AU) is financed in a predictable, sustainable, equitable and accountable manner with the full ownership by its Member States;

4. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII), adopted at the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2017, which stipulated that the current scale of contributions should be revised based on the principles of ability to pay, solidarity, and equitable burden-sharing to avoid risk concentration;

5. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the AU Ministers of Finance during their meeting, held on the 9 August 2017, in Addis Ababa, in which they recommended that, in order to ensure equity and effective risk management, "caps" and "minima" should be introduced in the scale of assessment so that every country pays a minimum flat contribution and that no country or group of countries pays more than a specified share of the AU budget;

6. *Also takes note* of the Report of the Joint Sitting of the Ministerial Committee on the Scale of Assessment and Contributions and the Committee of Fifteen Finance Ministers on the AU Scale of Assessment and Contributions for the period 2020 to 2022;

7. *Decides* that, while still maintaining the tier system as per the Johannesburg Decision of 2015 (Assembly/AU/Dec.578 (XXV)) and while taking into account the recommendation of the African Union Ministers of Finance to introduce "caps" and "minima", the new scale shall be as follows:

- (i) Tier 1 assessed at 45.151 per cent of the Union's assessed budget;
- (ii) Tier 2 assessed at 32.749 per cent of the Union's assessed budget; and
- (iii) Tier 3 assessed at 22.100 per cent of the Union's assessed budget;

The new scale of assessment and contributions is herewith attached to this decision;

8. *Also decides* that no country shall pay less than \$350,000 or more than \$35,000,000 as a contribution for the regular budget and peace fund combined;

9. *Further decides* that with a view to addressing the growing burden to Member States, the 2020 regular budget shall be reduced by US\$ 32 million as compared to the 2019 regular budget. The Commission is directed to find savings within the Union budget;

10. *Mandates* the Commission to continue the ongoing efforts to consolidate the accountability and oversight mechanism on the AU budget processes and maintain an affordable and rationalized budget of the Union with the view to end its expansion taking into account the need for austerity measures;

B. On the Peace Fund:

11. *Takes note* that since 2017, 50 Member States have made their contributions to the Peace Fund on the basis of the existing scale of assessment for the regular budget;

12. *Commends* Member States for contributing US\$ 89 million to the AU Peace Fund since 2017 which demonstrates a high level of commitment by the Union to fully operationalize the Peace Fund;

13. *Requests* the AU High Representative for Financing the Union and the Peace Fund, supported by the Commission, to undertake regional consultations on the matter of assessing the Peace Fund and report back to the Executive Council in Niamey, Niger, in June 2019;

14. *Decides* that, in the interim, the existing scale of assessment as applied to the regular budget of the Union shall be applied to the 2017-2019 assessment of the Peace Fund and, in the event that no concrete recommendations emerge from the consultations, the new scale of assessment as applied for the regular budget shall also be applied to the Peace Fund from 2020 to 2022.^{1 2}

		Proposed new AU Scale of Assessment for 2020-2022	\$32Mil. Savings distribution (All Tiers)
	Member State	(%)	
1	Nigeria	7.525	2,408,042.65
2	Egypt	7.525	2,408,042.65
3	South Africa	7.525	2,408,042.65
4	Algeria	7.525	2,408,042.65
5	Angola	7.525	2,408,042.65
6	Morocco	7.525	2,408,042.65
	<u>TIER 1</u>	<u>45.151</u>	<u>14,448,255.92</u>
7	Ethiopia	3.999	1,279,680.00
8	Kenya	3.745	1,198,447.11
9	Sudan	3.811	1,219,634.27
10	United Rep. of Tanzania	2.236	715,557.89

¹ Reservation by the Republic of Seychelles: "Seychelles would like to express its reservations regarding the conditions and proposals set on this matter, which we feel is indeed inequitable and requires deeper consultations at capital level." Reservation entered during the adoption of decisions and confirmed through Note Verbale Ref. SEY/AU/3/1 Note No. 16/2019, dated 26 March 2019.

² Reservation by the Arab Republic of Egypt: "The ruling of paragraph 14 overrides the outcomes of the regional consultations to be undertaken by the AU High Representative according to the aforementioned decision. Besides, the paragraph implies the implementation of the scale of assessment retroactively (for the years 2017 to 2019); such retroactive implementation contravenes the universal budgetary principles applied on national budgets and the African Union budget." Reservation entered during the adoption of decisions and confirmed through Note Verbale No./2019 – AU, dated 27 March 2019.

THIRTY-SECOND ORDINARY SESSION (2019)

11	Tunisia	2.763	884,316.31
12	Libya	3.778	1,208,813.31
13	Ghana	2.811	899,536.04
14	D. R. of Congo	1.883	602,616.40
15	Côte d'Ivoire	3.000	960,000.00
16	Cameroon	1.740	556,906.47
17	Uganda	1.383	442,534.86
18	Zambia	1.599	511,618.49
	<i>TIER 2</i>	<u>32.749</u>	<u>10,479,661.16</u>
19	Zimbabwe	1.108	354,544.78
20	Botswana	1.152	368,611.06
21	Senegal	1.125	360,112.30
22	Gabon	1.274	407,674.52
23	Mozambique	1.132	362,181.02
24	South Sudan	1.062	339,680.87
25	Mali	0.942	301,281.82
26	Chad	0.944	302,232.78
27	Mauritius	0.938	300,310.28
28	Namibia	0.933	298,581.92
29	Burkina Faso	0.906	289,835.54
30	Madagascar	0.855	273,462.41
31	Equatorial Guinea	0.984	315,036.53
32	Congo	0.877	280,700.85
33	Benin	0.689	220,518.76
34	Guinea	0.584	186,736.10
35	Rwanda	0.629	201,278.96
36	Niger	0.602	192,766.29
37	Malawi	0.407	130,094.90
38	Mauritania	0.382	122,091.41
39	Eritrea	0.354	113,351.83
40	Sierra Leone	0.384	122,811.20
41	Togo	0.515	164,763.92
42	Swaziland	0.472	151,163.00
43	Burundi	0.411	131,501.99
44	Lesotho	0.286	91,583.45
45	Liberia	0.257	82,100.06
46	Djibouti	0.228	73,080.57
47	Central African Rep.	0.226	72,430.40
48	Cabo Verde	0.234	74,730.45
49	Seychelles	0.204	65,269.02
50	Somalia	0.202	64,678.97
51	Comoros	0.174	55,731.16
52	Guinea-Bissau	0.180	57,515.22

THIRTY-SECOND ORDINARY SESSION (2019)

53	Gambia	0.169	54,222.59
54	Saharawi Arab D.R.	0.164	52,466.38
55	São Tomé and Príncipe	0.115	36,949.60
	<u>TIER 3</u>	<u>22.100</u>	<u>7,072,082.92</u>
	Total	100.000	32,000,000.00

Assembly/AU/Dec.735 (XXXII)

Decision on the Draft Legal Instruments

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:
 - (i) Treaty for the Establishment of the African Medicines Agency;
 - (ii) Statute of the African Audio Visual and Cinema Commission;
 - (iii) Statute of the African Union International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA);
 - (iv) African Union Transitional Justice Policy; and
 - (v) Amendment to Article 35 of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance;
3. *Calls on* Member States to sign and ratify the above legal instruments, where applicable, to enable them to enter into force as soon as possible.

Assembly/AU/Dec.736 (XXXII)

Decision on the Dates and Venue of the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in February 2020

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the dates of the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly, which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, shall be the following:
 - (i) Thirty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC): 21 and 22 January 2020;
 - (ii) Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 6 and 7 February 2020; and
 - (iii) Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 9 and 10 February 2020;
2. *Requests* the Commission to make all the necessary arrangements for the successful holding of the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly and the preparatory meetings according to the aforementioned dates.

Assembly/AU/Dec.737 (XXXII)

Decision on Galvanizing the Political Commitment towards the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation in Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.383 (XVII) adopted at the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2011, which called upon the United Nations General Assembly to adopt a resolution banning female genital mutilation worldwide in support of a draft resolution at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly to ban female genital mutilation in the world;
2. *Guided by* the aspirations of Africa's Transformative Agenda 2063, on the elimination of all forms of gender based violence and harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation, and Target 5.3 of Sustainable Development Goal 5 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which calls for the elimination of harmful practices, particularly female genital mutilation, by 2030;
3. *Cognizant* of the positive efforts and partnerships led by Member States and the support of the UNICEF, UNFPA and UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme "Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change" to strengthen capacities and engage with communities to shift this harmful social norm towards collective abandonment of the practice;
4. *Reaffirming* the binding continental instruments that uphold the rights and welfare of children, young girls and women, including the 1990 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the 2003 Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol);
5. *Recognizing* the strong and forward looking recommendations and commitments in the General Assembly resolutions A/RES/67/146 (2012), A/RES/69/150 (2014) and A/RES/71/168 (2016) on "Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations" and the 2012 United Nations Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly E/CN.6/2012/8 on "Ending Female Genital Mutilation";
6. *Noting with concern* the high rates of female genital mutilation in Africa, where 50 million girls are at risk of undergoing this injurious, harmful practice by 2030, the human rights violation perpetuated and the lifelong health complications resulting from the practice and affecting the maternal health outcomes on the continent;
7. *Takes note* of the AU led Continental International Conference held in Ouagadougou in October 2018, under the theme "Galvanizing Political Action to Accelerate the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation by 2030" and the Ouagadougou Call to Action on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation submitted by Member States and their commitment, therein, endorsing the AU continental initiative known as Saleema on eliminating female genital mutilation, to advance political action at national, subregional and continental levels, to accelerate the elimination of female genital mutilation, within the framework of regional instruments and agreements, and national legislation;
8. *Endorses* the AU continental initiative led by the Commission to be known as "Saleema: AU Initiative on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation" and calls on Member States to implement the AU Initiative on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation, with a focus on social norms and cultural dimensions addressing the cross-border practice of female genital mutilation; in addition to implementing strong legislative frameworks, allocating domestic financial resources, promoting use of evidence and data, regular reporting, and the engagement of civil society and community groups in ending female genital mutilation;
9. *Requests* the Commission to put in place an accountability framework for the AU continental initiative – Saleema to assist Member States to account and monitor progress at the regional and national level in line with commitments made and also requests the Commission to report periodically on female genital mutilation in Africa,

through existing African Union instruments and platforms, including the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;

10. *Decides* to designate H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of the Republic of Burkina Faso, as the AU Leader for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation, and requests the Commission to convene annually a high-level meeting to review progress, strengthen partnership and renew commitment for action on the elimination of female genital mutilation by 2030.

Assembly/AU/Dec.738 (XXXII)

**Decision on the International Criminal Court
(Doc. EX.CL/1138 (XXXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of the Decisions of the Assembly on the International Criminal Court ("ICC") and the recommendations of the Open-Ended Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the International Criminal Court (Open-Ended Ministerial Committee);

2. *Reiterates:*

(a) 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;

(b) Its previous decisions on the deferral or termination of proceedings against President Omar Al Bashir of the Republic of Sudan in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute;

(c) The need for all Member States, in particular those that are also State Parties to the Rome Statute, to continue to comply with the Assembly decisions on the warrant of arrest issued by the ICC against President Al Bashir of Sudan pursuant to Article 23, paragraph 2, of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and Article 98 of the Rome Statute of the ICC; and

(d) The call for Member States to ratify the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol of the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights (Malabo Protocol);

3. *Commends* the efforts of the Commission and the African Group in New York in successfully placing on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly, the request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the question of immunities of Heads of State and Government and other senior officials as it relates to the obligations of States Parties under the Rome Statute and international law, and requests the Commission to finalize the question based on the recommendations of the Open-ended Ministerial Committee;

4. *Requests* the Commission to submit the final draft of the question to the Open-ended Ministerial Committee to allow all Member States of the Union the opportunity to make inputs to the draft prior to submission to the General Assembly, through the African Group in New York;

5. *Calls upon* all African Member States in New York, during consideration of the agenda item by the General Assembly, to support the transfer of the request for an advisory opinion to the ICJ in order for all States, in particular those that are States Parties to the ICC Rome Statute, to obtain clarity on this issue of immunities;

6. *Also calls upon* the ICC to respect the duty of all States Parties to the Rome Statute to honour their other international obligations as stipulated in Article 98, which includes the right to host international meetings and to ensure the participation of all invited delegations and high officials;

7. *Expresses satisfaction* with the manner in which the Commission presented the position of the Union before the Appeals Chamber of the ICC, in the hearing on the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's appeal against the decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber II of the ICC on Jordan's legal obligation to arrest and surrender President Al Bashir of Sudan while he was on the Jordanian territory attending the League of Arab States' Summit on 29 March 2017, and calls on all Member States to oppose any decision of the Appeals Chamber that is at variance with the AU common position and customary international law;

8. *Commends* the Commission for echoing the position of the Union at the Seventeenth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the ICC (ASP), on the issue of immunities and clarifying the complimentary relationship between Articles 27 and 98 of the Rome Statute, which allows States Parties to honour their legal obligations under the Rome Statute and other sources of international law, and requests the African Group in New York and The Hague to request the ASP to convene the working group of experts from among its Member States to propose a declaratory or interpretative clarification of the relationship between Articles 27 and 98, and other contested issues relating to the conflicting obligations of States Parties under international law;

9. *Requests:*

(i) The Commission and the African Group in New York to ensure that decisions of the AU policy organs are conveyed during the discussions on universal jurisdiction in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly and to make recommendations to the summit on how to move this discussion forward, in view of the apparent impasse in the Sixth Committee; and

(ii) The Commission to follow up on implementation of this Decision and report to the next meeting of the Open-ended Ministerial Committee.

Assembly/AU/Dec.739 (XXXII)

Decision on the Continental Scorecard for Nutrition

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses appreciation* for efforts undertaken by H.M. King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho and Leader on Nutrition;

2. *Recalls* Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIII) on "Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods" and Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXIII) on "Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa", adopted at the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014;

3. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.681 (XXX) adopted at the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2018, which endorsed the African Leaders for Nutrition Initiative;

4. *Cognizant* of the Six Global Nutrition Targets set by the World Health Assembly in 2012, and Goal 2 of the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals that seeks to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;

5. *Endorses* the Continental Scorecard on Nutrition developed by the Commission and the Africa Leaders for Nutrition, with the support of the AfDB and other stakeholders, as a tool for increased accountability for the achievement of nutrition security by the continent and to improve the monitoring of progress being made towards reaching the global and continental nutrition targets;

6. *Decides* to extend the mandate of H.M. King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho term as AU Leader on Nutrition from 2019 to 2021.

Assembly/AU/Dec.740 (XXXII)

**Decision on the Appointment of One Member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
(Doc. EX.CL/1147 (XXXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of one female member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) from the Central Region by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following member of the ACERWC for a term of five years:

Name	Gender	Country	Region
Hermine Kembo Takam Gatsing	F	Republic of Cameroon	Central

Assembly/AU/Dec.741 (XXXII)

**Decision on the Appointment of One Member of the African Union Commission on International Law
(Doc. EX.CL/1146 (XXXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of one female member of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL) from the Central Region by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following member of the AUCIL for a term of five years:

Name	Gender	Country	Region
Tomassa Bisia Ela Nchama	F	Republic of Equatorial Guinea	Central

Assembly/AU/Dec.742 (XXXII)

**Decision on the Appointment of Five Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/1149 (XXXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of five members of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following five Members States of the PSC for a term of three years:

No.	Country	Region
1.	People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Northern

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2.	Republic of Burundi	Central
3.	Republic of Kenya	Eastern
4.	Kingdom of Lesotho	Southern
5.	Federal Republic of Nigeria	Western

Assembly/AU/Dec.743 (XXXII)

Decision on the Appointment of Six Members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (Doc. EX.CL/1148 (XXXIV))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of six members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC) by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following six members of the AUABC for a term of two years:

No.	Name	Gender	Country	Region
1.	Jean Louis Andriamifidy	M	Republic of Madagascar	Eastern
2.	Pascal Bamouni	M	Burkina Faso	Western
3.	Miarom Begoto	M	Republic of Chad	Central
4.	Elisabeth Afiavi Gnansounou Fourn	F	Republic of Benin	Western
5.	Agness Kayobo Ng'andu	F	Republic of Zambia	Southern
6.	Sefako Aaron Seema	M	Kingdom of Lesotho	Southern

3. *Decides:*
 - (i) That the election of one member of the AUABC for the floating seat will be carried out during the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2019; and
 - (ii) To delegate its powers of appointment of members of AUABC, under Article 22, paragraph 4, of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, to the Executive Council to be held in Niamey, Niger, in July 2019.

Assembly/AU/Dec.744 (XXXII)

Decision on the Change of Date of the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the Thirty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC)

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.706 (XXXI), adopted at the Thirty-first Ordinary Session in July 2018, on the date and venue of the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the Thirty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC);
2. *Decides* that the dates of the session shall be as follows:
 - (i) The Thirty-eighth Ordinary Session of the PRC from 17 to 18 June 2019, at AU Headquarters;
 - (ii) The Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council from 4 to 5 July 2019, in Niamey, Niger;
 - (iii) The Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly on 7 July 2019, in Niamey, Niger; and
 - (iv) The First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union and the RECs on 8 July 2019, in Niamey, Niger.

Assembly/AU/Dec.745 (XXXII)

**Decision on the Report of the Commission on Re-Establishing the Drafting Committee
(Doc. EX.CL/1123 (XXXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.597 (XXVI) adopted at the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2016, dissolving the Ministerial Drafting Committee;
2. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Executive Council on the re-establishment of the Drafting Committee;
3. *Decides* to re-establish the Drafting Committee at the Ambassadorial level, and further decides that:
 - (i) The Drafting Committee shall be composed of 15 members:
 - (a) The five members of the Bureau of the Union; and
 - (b) Two Member States per region;
 - (ii) The tenure of the Drafting Committee shall be one year;
 - (iii) The Drafting Committee, assisted by the Commission, should elaborate its draft Rules of Procedure for consideration and adoption by the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council to be held in Niamey, Niger, in July 2019.

Assembly/AU/Dec.746 (XXXII)

**Decision on the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government,
Urban Development and Decentralization
(Doc.EX.CL/1109 (XXXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision EX.CL/Dec.2 (XXXIV) adopted at the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2019, on the Reports of the Specialized Technical Committees (STC), particularly, on the Report of the Third Ordinary Session of the STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization;
2. *Adopts* the Declaration of the Third Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization (as annexed).

**Annex to the Decision on the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service,
Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization**

AU-STC No. 8. 2018 Addis Ababa Declaration

We, Members of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization, meeting during this Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, on 5 December 2018,

Reaffirming the decisions of the First and Second Ordinary Session of the STC 8,

Commend the AUC for availing some resources for the operations of the STC 8,

Note the need for allocation of adequate resources for the STC 8 to effectively execute its mandate,

Recognizing the need to strengthen the Secretariat of the STC 8,

Commend the Subcommittees for effectively implementing their respective programmes under the STC 8,

Cognizant of the recent decision of the Heads of State and Government on Reforms in the African Union at the Eleventh Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 18 November 2018,

1. *Express our profound gratitude and appreciation* to the people and Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for hosting this Third Ordinary Session of the African Union STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization;
2. *Commend* the Secretariat of the STC 8, Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission (AUC), for facilitating the smooth operations of the STC 8;
3. *Commend* the outgoing Bureau for effectively steering the work of the STC 8 for the period 2017-2018;
4. *Elect* the members of the third Bureau of the STC 8 as follows:

Positions	STC Subcommittees	Regions	Countries
Chairperson	Urban Development and Human Settlements	Southern Africa	Lesotho
First Vice-Chair	Decentralization and Local Governance	Northern Africa	Morocco
Second Vice-Chair	Public Service and Administration	Eastern Africa	Tanzania
Third Vice-Chair	Urban Development and Human Settlements	Central Africa	Burundi

Rapporteur	Public Service and Administration	Western Africa	Niger
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5. *Decide* that the First, Second and Third Vice-Chairs of the AU-STC 8 Bureau will be the Chairs of the Decentralization, Public Service and Urban Development Subcommittees, respectively;
6. *Urge* the DPA/AUC to, in view of the reforms in the African Union, propose an appropriate structure of the Secretariat of the STC 8, taking into account the specificities of each of the Subcommittees, to the AU Reform Team for consideration and incorporation in the proposal for the overall structure of AUC that will be tabled for approval by the policy organs in June 2019;
7. *Further decide* to start the process of reviewing the Rules of Procedure of the STC 8 to provide for more efficient operations of the STC 8 and its Subcommittees;
8. *Request* the AUC, in collaboration with key institutional partners including the ECA and UN-Habitat, to incorporate the requirements of STC 8 in the overall resource mobilization strategy of the AUC;
9. *Urge* Member States to constitute a high-level national focal team for the STC 8 in line with the STC 8 Brazzaville Declaration;
10. *Also request* the Bureau of the STC 8 to prepare guidelines for operationalization of the national focal teams and submit to Member States;
11. *Request* the AUC to fast track the development of an African Union Charter on Values and Principles of Sustainable Urban and Human Settlements Development to be tabled for consideration by Member States;
12. *Also request* the AUC to expedite the operationalization process of the High Council of Local Authorities (HCLA) through the implementation of Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.993 (XXXII) of January 2018 and report to the Executive Council Session of June 2019, and request the AUC to initiate the process of elaborating the statute and mandate of the HCLA with a view to consideration and adoption by the AU policy organs;
13. *Call for* the allocation of adequate budgetary provision for the work of the STC 8;
14. *Also call for* strengthening of the advocacy for ratification of the Charter on Values and Principles of Decentralization taking into consideration the challenges in this regard, and appointment of an African Decentralization Champion to expedite the process of ratification of the Charter;
15. *Take note* of the STC 8 Work Plan for the period 2019-2020 and request the AUC in collaboration with key institutional partners to effectively facilitate its implementation and to report regularly to the Bureau and Member States;
16. *Endorse* the Harmonized Regional Implementation Framework for the New Urban Agenda in Africa;
17. *Call on* Member States to effectively participate in the implementation of the Harmonized Regional Implementation Framework for the New Urban Agenda in Africa as well as its monitoring and reporting mechanism;
18. *Decide* to commemorate an African Habitat Day and request the DPA of the African Union Commission, in consultation with Member States and the UN-Habitat, to facilitate implementation of this decision;

19. *Commend* the STC 8 for developing Guidelines for the Implementation of the African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration and call on Member States who have ratified to implement and report on progress and those who have not ratified to do so;
20. *Commend* the establishment of the Conference of State Parties for the Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration;
21. *Encourage* Member States to participate in the All-Africa Public Sector Innovation Awards (AAPSIA) in 2020 and call on the AUC to ensure communication on AAPSIA is sent to all Member States in a timely manner and in all working languages;
22. *Call on* Member States to participate in the Africa Public Service Day (APSD) in June 2019 and June 2020;
23. *Decide* that the Subcommittees meet at least once every two years;
24. *Request* the Chairperson of the AU STC 8 to bring this Declaration to the attention of the African Union policymaking organs for consideration;
25. *Decide* to hold the Fourth Ordinary Session of STC 8 in 2020.

Assembly/AU/Dec.747 (XXXII)

Decision on the Decolonization of the Chagos Archipelago

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the introductory note of the Chairperson of the Commission to the annual report on the activities of the African Union;
2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.684 (XXX) adopted at the Thirtieth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2018, which requested the Commission to report on the progress and implementation of this Decision to the Assembly in June/July 2018;
3. *Congratulates* and commends the AU Member States and other States Members of the international community which participated in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) legal proceedings on the Chagos Archipelago;
4. *Commends* the Commission for the excellent work done on behalf of the African Union in the ICJ legal proceedings in both the written submissions and oral hearings;
5. *Urges* Member States of the AU to redouble their efforts to contribute to the complete decolonization of Mauritius as requested by previous Assembly decisions;
6. *Directs* members of the African Group in New York to support all actions at the United Nations General Assembly that are necessary to contribute to the immediate and complete decolonization of Mauritius, including in accordance with any requirements pursuant to the advisory opinion once it is handed down by the ICJ and received by the General Assembly;
7. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission, through the Office of the Legal Counsel, to maintain the efforts to follow up on the ICJ Advisory Opinion on the “Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965” and to report on the results of these efforts in the next Assembly session in February 2020;

8. *Decides* to remain actively seized with the matter.

Assembly/AU/Dec.748 (XXXII)

**Decision on the High-Level Panel's Report for Assessing Candidate Countries
to Host the African Space Agency
(Doc. EX.CL/1118 (XXXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Executive Council decision on the Report of the Commission on the High-Level Panel's Report for Assessing Candidate Countries to Host the African Space Agency;
2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.589 (XXVI) adopted at the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2016, wherein the Assembly adopted the African Space Policy and Strategy and requested the Commission to carry out consultations with a view to evaluating the legal, structural and financial implications for the creation of a continental African Space Agency (AfSA) and report to the Assembly through the relevant structures;
3. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.676 (XXX) of January 2018 wherein the Assembly adopted the Statute of African Space Agency;
4. *Commends* the Panel for carrying out a transparent and sound technical assessment;
5. *Decides* that the African Space Agency will be hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt;
6. *Calls upon* the RECs and all development partners to support the operationalization of the African Space Agency.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXXII)

**Declaration on the Progress Report of Aids Watch Africa (AWA): Outcome of the
Leadership in Health Financing Funds High-Level Meeting
(Doc. Assembly/AU/20 (XXXII))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 10 to 11 February 2019, reviewed the progress, challenges and next steps needed for increased financing to strengthen health systems and achieve universal health coverage (UHC),

Taking note of the key outcomes of the Africa Leadership Meeting – Investing in Health, we recommit to increase domestic investments in health and urged the private sector and global health financing mechanisms to increase investments to address Africa's health priorities,

Recalling Agenda 2063, Africa's blueprint for socio-economic transformation, that calls for increased domestic investments to strengthen health systems as a foundation for solid inclusive growth, prosperity, peace and structural transformation, the Africa Health Strategy (2016-2030) that seeks to strengthen health systems and achieve universal health coverage and ensure Africa's health security, the Catalytic Framework to end AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa by 2030, the Maputo Plan of Action (2016-2030) for Universal Access to Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Africa, all endorsed by the Assembly in 2016, and the Declaration on "Universal Access to Immunization as a Cornerstone for Health and Development in Africa" adopted by the African Ministers of Health in 2016, and the 2017 Declaration committing to accelerate implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR),

Recognizing the broader health and development agenda of Agenda 2030 and the continued efforts to advocate for, and prioritize health as central to sustainable development and economic security,

Also recognizing that Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3) to achieve universal health coverage can only be achieved with strong country leadership, multisectoral collaboration, and the support of multilateral and bilateral partners, and the private sector,

Noting that the 2018 Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health demonstrates that 36 of 55 AU Member States (65.5 per cent) have increased the percentage of GDP invested in health over the previous financial year,

Noting with concern that despite this increased investment in health, only two of the 55 AU Member States meet Africa's target of dedicating at least 15 per cent of the government budget to health and that in no case does this investment reach the target of US\$ 86.30 per capita,

Also noting with concern that only four high income countries consistently meet the commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) to official development assistance,

Bearing in mind that the achievements of the last 18 years towards achieving universal health coverage depended largely on the political will and commitment by Africa's top leadership as well as strategic partnerships at all levels,

Cognizant of the importance of health, alongside education, in developing the human capital needed to drive economic growth, stability, peace and security,

Taking note of the upcoming Replenishments of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and of the importance of the recent Global Financing Facility (GFF) Replenishment and requests AU Member States and development partners to actively support these Replenishments and the development of the Global Action Plan,

Affirming that sustainable and diversified health financing is a shared responsibility which cannot be achieved without global solidarity and collective effort,

Do hereby solemnly:

1. *Commend* the continued global, continental, regional and national efforts to keep health financing high on the political agenda;
2. *Also commend* the support of international development partners and global health financing mechanisms to increase investments in health in the context of competing development priorities;
3. *Reaffirm* our commitment to increase domestic health resource mobilization and progressive taxation;
4. *Call upon* the private sector to support and invest in expanding access to quality health care services, achieving universal health coverage, and ensuring the health security of the continent;

To this end, we undertake to:

- (i) Increase domestic investment in health, improve health financing systems and further expand efforts to increase prioritization and efficiency in a context-appropriate manner so that each country can pursue its own path to achieving and sustaining universal health coverage and that the people of the African continent can receive the quality, accessible and affordable prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care services they need without suffering financial hardships;

- (ii) Mobilize sufficient and sustainable financing to strengthen health systems, especially primary health care and national public health institutions, and achieve universal health coverage;
 - (iii) Foster greater cooperation between the public and private sectors to create synergies for delivering sustainable, effective, efficient and equitable health for all, and safeguard the health security of the people;
 - (iv) Request the Commission and partners to ensure that strategies are in place for diversified, balanced and sustainable financing for health through the development of strategic health investment plans and strategies that include the private sector;
 - (v) Also request the Commission to work with partners to create regional health financing hubs to support relevant ministries (including finance and health) and request partners to catalyze, capture and scale innovations and best practices to address gaps in domestic health financing; and further request multilateral, bilateral and private sector partners to support the hubs and to use them to align their efforts to those of Member States to increase domestic financing, including through improved taxation and other financing mechanisms;
 - (vi) Further request the Commission to work with partners to improve the monitoring of health financing through greater annual implementation of national health accounts and wider dissemination;
 - (vii) Request the Commission to lead the development of a “Progress Tracker” that will complement the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health by enabling Member States to track, step-by-step progress, towards increased domestic financing and its efficient and effective allocation, pooling and use;
 - (viii) Call upon Member States to strengthen public financial management (PFM) capacity to help improve tax collection and/or increase the proportion of tax revenue collected as a percentage of GDP, through equitable and efficient general taxation and improved revenue collection, and to strengthen the capacities of ministries of finance and tax revenue authorities to achieve this;
 - (ix) Call upon Member States to reorient health spending and health systems to target the diseases and conditions across the lifecycle that have the greatest impact on mortality and human capital development with the mix of interventions that will deliver the greatest impact in combatting them;
 - (x) Enhance national health financing systems, including by exploring options to reduce fragmentation, exploring national health insurance, where appropriate, strengthening capacities to purchase services effectively and increasing efforts to improve prevention, cost-effectiveness and allocative efficiency. Member States should also foster greater coordination with multilateral and bilateral partners, including the AfDB, Gavi-the Vaccine Alliance, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and the Global Financing Facility; In turn, these organizations will work with a few pioneer countries to develop mechanisms for countries to access these funds to support national health platforms and systems (e.g. procurement, supply chain, etc.) and, where appropriate, public and private health insurance systems;
5. *Request* the Commission to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Africa Leadership Meeting – Investing in Health, and report to the Assembly regularly;
6. *Also request* the Commission and partners to support the implementation of the commitments on health financing and to develop an accountability framework to monitor implementation of this Declaration;
7. *Express our gratitude* to H.E. President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda, for hosting the Africa Leadership Meeting — Investing in Health;
8. *Appoint* H.E. President Paul Kagame as a Leader for domestic health financing.

Declaration on the AU Recognition of the 400th Anniversary of the Transatlantic Slave Trade

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, assembled on 11 February 2019 at our Thirty-second Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

Evoking the unity of all African peoples, bound together by neighbourliness, cultural affinity, historical experiences, our common struggles for independence and dignity, our civilizational heritage, and our common destiny with all peoples of African descent,

Recalling the depredations and evils of the transatlantic slave trade, its industrialization of racism, dispossession, discrimination and dehumanization,

Also recalling, with pride, the strong spirit of resistance that responded to the evils of the slave trade, the rise of the Pan-African movement in multiple continents and its continued inspiration to us African peoples,

Reaffirming our commitment to the unity of African people, to building an integrated Africa, to forging cultural, political, social and economic linkages that further the Pan-Africanist dream among all peoples of African descent,

Hereby:

1. *Request the Commission to work with well-organized and well-meaning initiatives to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in 2019, by holding and participating in events and engaging African States to send appropriate representatives;*
2. *Urge all people of African descent to make this a year of reconnection and re-engagement with our African identities, collective interests and to seek to forge practical and ambitious initiatives that will build our unity and offer prosperity to our peoples;*
3. *Also urge all Member States of the Union to consider immigration, economic, cultural and social policies that allow the Africans descended from the victims and survivors of the transatlantic slave trade to reconnect and re-engage with their brethren in the African continent.*

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XXXII)

Declaration on Addressing Social Determinants of Health in Africa: Adoption of Health in All Policies Approach

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 10 to 11 February 2019,

Aware of the pivotal role of a healthy population as a driver for sustainable, equitable, and inclusive economic growth and national development, and hence the advancement towards achieving universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Reaffirming that addressing social determinants of health is the responsibility of all governments in order to assure adequate, healthy and sustainable environments in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities for the health of their populations and that equity in health is an expression of social justice,

Recognizing that social determinants of health in the African region could not be tackled or addressed properly within the Ministries of Health alone, therefore, countries are required to promote intersectoral collaboration through adopting and implementing health in all policies whole of government approach,

Reaffirming that different governmental sectors, development partners, communities, private sector and civil society organizations have pivotal roles and responsibilities in achieving sustainable development goals and advancing towards universal health coverage, where the health needs of the poor, underserved, disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, including refugees, returnees and IDPs, receive due attention and that health is in all policies of every State within the African Union,

Recognizing that effective implementation of Health in All Policies in the African region requires the highest attainable level of political commitment and effective coordination and monitoring mechanisms,

Noting with appreciation that the World Health Organization and other global actors and initiatives, such as the Global Network for Health in All Policies, play a vital role in the institutionalization and implementation of the Health in All Policies Approach worldwide,

We hereby strongly:

1. *Commit* to support and enhance the reform of the health sector in the African countries through adopting the Health in All Policies Approach in order to progress towards achieving universal health coverage and Sustainable Development Goals in Africa by:

(i) Committing to health and health equity as political priority by adopting the principles of Health in All Policies and taking action on the social determinants of health;

(ii) Ensuring effective structures, processes and resources that enable the implementation of the Health in All Policies Approach across all Member States of the African Union;

(iii) Strengthening the capacities of Ministries of Health in all Member States to engage other sectors of government through leadership, partnership, advocacy and mediation to enable the implementation of the Health in All Policies and provide evidence on the determinants of health and inequity and effective responses to improve health outcomes;

(iv) Generating evidence and documenting good practices on the effectiveness of Health in All Policies on addressing social determinants of health in order to support Member States to adopt whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches;

(v) Promoting regional and global transfer of knowledge and best practices in the implementation of Health in All Policies;

(vi) Building partnerships and collaborations with countries and international institutions in order to positively affect global health and health-related policies and to reduce the negative consequences of these policies for the African region;

(vii) Requesting the Commission to report annually on the progress made in implementation of Health in All Policies, which is an expression of the Sustainable Development Goal 17, “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”, and its Indicator 17.14.1, “Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development”;

2. *Support and champion* all issues raised in this Declaration, at the national, regional and continental levels.

Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXXII)

Declaration of the Africa Leadership Meeting – Investing in Health: Addis Ababa Commitments towards Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for Increased Health Financing

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 10 to 11 February 2019, reviewed the progress, challenges and next steps needed for increased financing to strengthen health systems and achieve universal health coverage (UHC),

Taking note of the key outcomes of the Africa Leadership Meeting – Investing in Health, we recommitted to increased domestic investments and urged the private sector and global health financing mechanisms to increase investments to address Africa’s health priorities,

Recalling Agenda 2063 Africa’s blueprint for socio-economic transformation that calls for increased domestic investments to strengthen health systems as a foundation for solid inclusive growth, prosperity, peace and structural transformation, the Africa Health Strategy (2016-2030) that seeks to strengthen health systems and achieve universal health coverage, the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa by 2030, the Maputo Plan of Action (2016-2030) for Universal Access to Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Africa, all endorsed by the Assembly in 2016, and the Declaration on Universal Access to Immunization as a Cornerstone for Health and Development in Africa, adopted by African Ministers of Health in 2016,

Recognizing the broader health and development agenda of “Agenda 2030” and the continued efforts to advocate for, and prioritize health as central to sustainable development,

Also recognizing that Sustainable Development Goal 3, on the achievement of universal health coverage, can only be achieved with country leadership and the support of multilateral and bilateral partners, other strategic partners and the private sector,

Noting that the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health of 2018 demonstrates that 36 of 55 AU Member States (65.5 per cent) have increased the percentage of GDP invested in health over the previous financial year,

Noting with concern that, despite this increased investment in health, the level of investment means that only 2 (3.6 per cent) of 55 AU Member States meet the target of dedicating at least 5 per cent of the government budget to health and for this level of investment to exceed \$US 86.30 per capita,

Also noting with concern that very few developed countries meet the commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) to official development assistance,

Bearing in mind that the achievements of the last 18 years towards achieving universal health coverage depended largely on the political will and commitment by Africa’s top leadership as well as strategic partnerships at all levels,

Expressing concern on increased public health threats on the continent that require more concerted efforts to strengthen health systems and significantly increase investments to meet continental targets to end priority diseases by 2030,

Affirming that sustainable and diversified health financing is a shared responsibility which cannot be achieved without global solidarity and collective effort and cognizant of the importance of health and education in developing the human capital needed to drive economic growth, stability, peace and security,

Taking note of the upcoming Replenishments of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the African Development Bank (AfDB) and of the importance of the recent Global Financing Facility (GFF) Replenishment meeting and requests African Union Member States to actively support those Replenishments,

Do hereby solemnly:

1. *Commend* the continued global, continental, regional and national efforts to keep health financing high on the political agenda;
2. *Also commend* the support of international development partners and global health financing mechanisms to increase investments in health in the context of competing development priorities;
3. *Reaffirm* our commitment to increase domestic health resources mobilization and progressive taxation;
4. *Call upon* the private sector to support and invest in expanding access to quality health care services and achieving UHC;
5. *Also call upon* Member States and partners to fully implement the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa Business Plan and Regulatory Harmonization for increased access to affordable and quality-assured medicines, vaccines and new health technologies, including generics, as well as negotiating for affordable prices for vaccines and medicines for priority diseases;
6. *To this end, we undertake to:*
 - (i) Increase domestic investments in health and improve health financing systems in a context-appropriate manner so that each country can pursue its own path to achieving and sustaining universal health coverage and that the people of the African continent can receive qualitative, accessible and affordable prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care services they need without suffering financial hardships;
 - (ii) Mobilize sufficient and sustainable financing to strengthen health systems and achieve universal health coverage;
 - (iii) Foster cooperation between public and private sectors to create synergies and deliver health for all;
 - (iv) Request the Commission and partners to ensure that strategies are in place for diversified, balanced and sustainable financing for health through the development of strategic health investment plans and strategies, including from the private sector;
 - (v) Also request the Commission to work with partners to create regional platforms to support relevant ministries, including finance and health, to catalyze, capture and scale innovations, best practices and gaps and request multilateral, bilateral and private sector partners to support the platforms and to use them to align their efforts to those of Member States to increase domestic financing, including through improved taxation and health insurance efforts;
 - (vi) Further request the Commission to organize a biennial meeting of Ministers of Health and Finance to review the work of the platforms and to monitor progress;
 - (vii) Request the Commission to work with partners to improve the monitoring of health financing through greater annual implementation of national health accounts and wider dissemination; and
 - (viii) Redouble efforts to promote national health insurance systems, including greater coordination with and access to resources of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the AfDB;
7. *Request* the Commission to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Africa Leadership Meeting — Investing in Health and report to the Assembly regularly;
8. *Also request* the Commission and partners to support the implementation of the commitments on health financing and to develop an accountability framework to monitor implementation of this Declaration;

9. *Express our gratitude* to H.E. President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda for hosting the Africa Leadership Meeting — Investing in Health;
10. *Appoint* H.E. President Paul Kagame as Leader for Domestic Health Financing.

Assembly/AU/Decl.5 (XXXII)

**Declaration on the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on
Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS)
Addis Ababa, 12 October 2018**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 10 to 11 February 2019, adopt the Declaration of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) of the African Union (AU) held at the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in October 2018 (as annexed).

**Annex to the Declaration on the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the
Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS)
Addis Ababa, 12 October 2018**

“We, Members of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) of the African Union (AU), met at the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in October 2018 and considered the Conclusions of the African Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Safety and Security (ACDS),

Our meeting was preceded by the Fourteenth Meeting of the ACDS, held from 11 to 12 October 2018, and a Meeting of Experts held from 8 to 11 October 2018,

On the basis of our deliberations, we declare as follows:

1. *Adopt* the draft amended Rules of Procedure for the STCDSS;
2. *Call for* consultations with the AU, RECs/RMs and Member States on the draft MoU on the Deployment and Employment of the African Standby Force (ASF) and submit the finalized MoU to the next meeting of the STCDSS. In this regard, the Commission should provide timelines for its completion to Member States by November 2018;
3. *Direct* the Commission to ensure that the Maputo Five-Year Work Plan (2016-2020) focuses on the enhancement of the ASF;
4. *Urge* the PSC to expedite its efforts on the way forward on the harmonization of ACIRC within the ASF Framework. In respect of harmonization, the meeting took note of the advice provided by the AU Office of the Legal Counsel;
5. *Direct* the Commission to separate the issue of harmonization of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) from that of cooperation with ad hoc coalitions, which should be a stand-alone issue;
6. *Encourage* Member States to consider the draft AU Border Governance Strategy and provide written submissions to the Commission within a maximum period of three months in order to allow the Commission to resubmit the document to the next meeting of the STCDSS;

7. *Take note* of the Declaration of the African Union Border Programme and the Measures for its Consolidation;
8. *Urge* the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the Military Staff Committee (MSC) to visit the Continental Logistics Base (CLB) and provide strategic guidance on the use of the equipment, including possible utilization by current peace support operations (PSOs);
9. *Direct* the Commission to provide the PSC with regular updates on the CLB in respect of maintenance and storage of equipment, personnel and future plans;
10. *Urge* Member States to provide additional support to the CLB with regard to storage facilities, maintenance of equipment and staffing;
11. *Also urge* AU Member States to continue providing all kinds of support to AU PSOs;
12. *Direct* the Commission to circulate the draft Policy on Conduct and Discipline for PSOs and the draft Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for PSOs to all Member States for their inputs within one month of this Eleventh STCDSS and subsequently submit the revised drafts to the PSC for their consideration and adoption;
13. *Congratulate* the Republic of Cameroon for its continued commitment to the operationalization of the CLB, and commend its offer to deploy two officers, in response to the note verbale from the Commission requesting Member States to deploy staff to the CLB, at their own cost;
14. *Commend* the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Zimbabwe for seconding a staff officer each to the CLB, as well as the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Kenya for their offer on the same, at their own cost;
15. *Also commend* the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for the offer to second an officer, at its own cost, to the AUC to support the processes for the establishment of the Continental Movement Coordination Centre (CMCC);
16. *Express gratitude* to the Republic of Rwanda for its financial contribution of US\$ 1 million for the Joint Force of G5 Sahel;
17. *Express appreciation* to the Commission for its continued support to the Joint Force of G5 Sahel;
18. *Urge* Member States to consider providing additional capabilities for the ASF Rapid Deployment Capability;
19. *Emphasize* the importance of women in AU PSOs, including ensuring greater participation and placement in leadership positions;
20. *Call on* Member States to ensure that the Policy on Conduct and Discipline for PSOs and the draft Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for PSOs, once adopted, become part of national legislation and training efforts;
21. *Request* the Commission to avail working documents in a timely manner, in all AU working languages;
22. *Take note* of the statement made by the Representative of the Republic of the Gambia in welcoming the technical assistance provided by AU Member States and the Commission in support of security sector reform and transitional justice in the country;

23. *Commend* the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Turkey for the equipment provided to the AU, particularly for the CLB and PSOs;
24. *Encourage* the Commission to continue to provide regular updates and reports on progress towards the implementation of our decisions in the next meetings of the STCDSS;
25. *Express gratitude* to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for its hospitality;
26. *Reiterate* the role of the STCDSS, as per Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) and in line with the provisions of Article 15 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (2000). In this regard, we hereby submit our Declaration to the Executive Council of the AU for onward transmission to the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, scheduled to take place from 10 to 11 February 2019.”

Assembly/AU/Decl.5 (XXXII)

African Union Policy on Conduct and Discipline for Peace Support Operations

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACIRC	African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis
AHRM	Administration and Human Resources Management
ASF	African Standby Force
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUPOL	African Union Police
C&D	Conduct and Discipline
CC	Contingent Commander
CDU	Conduct and Discipline Unit
CoC	Code of Conduct
FC	Force Commander
FPU	Formed Police Unit
HoM	Head of Mission
IEC	Information Education Communication
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IHRL	International Human Rights Law
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PC	Police Commissioner
PCC	Police Contributing Country
PSC	Peace and Security Council
PSD	Peace and Security Department
PSOD	Peace Support Operations Division
PSOs	Peace Support Operations
IRL	International Refugee Law
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SOFA	Status of Force Agreement
SOMA	Status of Mission Agreement
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRCC	Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission
TCC	Troop Contributing Country
UN	United Nations

Definitions

For the purpose of the present Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. "Board of Inquiry" refers to the management tool used to assist the HoM in discharging his/her responsibilities in establishing facts or investigating allegations of misconduct by mission personnel. It is not a judicial body and it does not consider questions of compensation or legal liability.
2. "Chairperson" means the Head of the African Union Commission (AUC).
3. "Civilian personnel" comprises of all individuals in the service of the PSO, regardless of their contractual arrangement, who are not members of the police or military component and includes staff members of the African Union Commission when deployed to the mission area.
4. "Complainants" are persons who bring an allegation of misconduct committed by mission personnel or other AU staff to the attention of the AU in accordance with established procedures, but whose claims have not yet been established by the relevant administrative, investigative and judicial processes. A Complainant may be a victim, witness or any other person who is aware of the misconduct.
5. "Constitutive Act" means the Treaty establishing the African Union (AU).
6. "Consultant" means any person/firm recruited/appointed for the purpose of providing services on a predetermined timeframe and upon specific terms and conditions of service for a period not exceeding three months.
7. "Contractor" means a natural person, business or corporation which provides goods or services to another entity under terms specified in a binding legal agreement.
8. "Dismissal" means a separation of a staff member from the service of the Union as a result of serious or gross misconduct.
9. "Harassment" means all forms of harassment covered by the AUC Harassment Policy (2016).
10. "Injury" refers to any harm caused to any person or institution, in body, mind, reputation or property.
11. "Military personnel" means all members of the military component, including military contingent members, military staff officers, individual military personnel and other members of armed forces deployed to the PSO.
12. "Misconduct" is any act, omission or negligence, including criminal acts, that is a violation of:
 - (i) The core AU principles and norms as elaborated upon in its Constitutive Act, Protocols, Policies, and Directives as may be applicable in the mission area;
 - (ii) Mission specific directives, standard operating procedures (SOPs), rules of engagement (ROEs), directives on the use of force or applicable rules, regulations or administrative issuances;
 - (iii) Status of forces agreement/status of mission agreement (SOFA/SOMA);
 - (iv) Relevant and applicable local laws that are not contrary to human rights norms and standards; and
 - (v) International humanitarian law, international and regional human rights law and international refugee law.

13. “Mission area” means the designated area of a PSO as described in the PSC mandate.
14. “Mission personnel” consists of all individuals in the military, police and civilian components in a PSO.
15. “Police personnel” means all members of formed police units and individual police officers in a PSO.
16. “Remedy” means a redress or relief provided to a victim or his/her next of kin who has sustained bodily or mental harm caused by acts or omissions attributable to members of mission personnel or AU staff. In the context of this Policy, a remedy includes legal remedies, reparations, compensation, restitution, damages or equitable relief.
17. “Seconded staff” means any person from a Member State or any organization transferred to the Union to hold a temporary assignment with an organ of the Union upon agreed terms and conditions by all the parties concerned.
18. “Sexual exploitation and abuse” is defined as follows:
 - (a) “Sexual abuse” refers to any action or behavior of a sexual nature that coerces, threatens or forces a person to engage in a sexual activity (penetrative and non-penetrative), that they would not otherwise have engaged in, and often without being able to give their consent. Sexual abuse includes the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, and occurs under coercive conditions, which are often reflective of unequal power relations and harmful behavior;
 - (b) “Sexual exploitation” is defined as the inducement, incitement, coercion and/or compelling of another person to undertake a sexual activity through abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, dependency or trust. Sexual exploitation includes, but is not limited to, actual or attempted exploiting of material, monetary, social, psychological and political advantages to induce a person to engage in a sexual activity. An act of sexual exploitation occurs when the particular person would have had no substantial option, and no reasonable choice but to succumb to pressure to engage in a sexual activity. Sexual exploitation is harmful and exploitative behavior which occurs in the context of hierarchical interactions and relationships.
19. “Sexual violence” includes acts of a sexual nature against one or more persons or that cause such person or persons to engage in an act of a sexual nature by force, or by threat of force or coercion, such as that caused by fear of violence, duress, detention, psychological oppression or abuse of power, or by taking advantage of a coercive environment or such person’s or persons’ incapacity to give genuine consent. Forms of sexual violence include rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual aggression of comparable gravity.
20. “Staff member”, as defined in the AU Staff Regulations and Rules (2010), means any person employed by the AUC as continuing regular, fixed-term or short-term personnel on the basis of a daily wage or monthly salary.
21. “Victim” is a person whose allegations have been substantiated and confirmed through the necessary and clearly outlined AU administrative, investigative and/or judicial procedures.
22. “Whistleblower” is any person who exposes any kind of information or activity that is deemed illegal, unethical, and/or evidence of past, current or prospective PSO misconduct or any other violation or act which jeopardizes the integrity and mandate of the PSO. It includes any individual(s) who may be applicants, current or former staff members of the AU Commission (irrespective of employment status and duration), personnel who are engaged in activities relevant to the PSOs or individuals who are adversely affected by the activities of the PSOs irrespective of their affiliation with the PSOs.

References

1. OAU General Convention on Privileges and Immunities, 1965.
2. African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981.
3. AU Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1999.
4. Constitutive Act of the AU, 2000.
5. Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union, 2002.
6. Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, 2003.
7. United Nations Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13).
8. AU Staff Regulations and Rules, 2010.
9. PSC communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.(CDLXI), 461st meeting of 14 October 2014.
10. AUC Standard Operating Procedures for the Conduct of Investigations, 2015.
11. AUC Harassment Policy, 2016.
12. Code of Ethics and Conduct, 2016.
13. PSC communiqué PSC/PR/COMM. (DCLXXXIX), 689th meeting of 30 May 2017.

1. Background and Rationale

- 1.1 Since the establishment of the African Union (AU) in 2000 and its Peace and Security Council (PSC) in 2002, the AU has played an increased and expanded role in addressing peace and security issues on the continent. Pursuant to this, it has developed the AU Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and deployed missions in Darfur, Burundi, Mali, the Central African Republic and Somalia, to cite a few. The AU is also increasingly seen as a key strategic partner of the United Nations and has demonstrated its capacity and comparative advantage to rapidly intervene in crisis situations through the deployment of multidimensional peace support operations (PSOs) composed of military, police and civilian components.

- 1.2 PSOs have grown in number and complexity over time in order to face new and emerging security threats and challenges. At the same time, scrutiny over the conduct of mission personnel has increased, ranging from the conduct of military operations, often offensive ones, and the related issue of protection of civilians and respect of international law, to more "individual" conduct, including the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

- 1.3 In this regard, the AU has taken a number of measures to ensure observance of the highest standards of conduct in its PSOs, including through entering into Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with troop and police contributing countries (T/PCCs); signing status of force agreements (SOFA) or status of mission agreements (SOMA) with host nations; developing codes of conduct for its personnel and making specific provisions in mission directives and standard operating procedures (SOP) on conduct and discipline.

- 1.4 The AU Commission strives to ensure that all personnel serving in AU mandated or authorized PSOs uphold the highest standards of conduct, behaviour, integrity and accountability in the implementation of their mandate. The Commission takes all allegations of violations of applicable international human rights law (IHRL), international humanitarian law (IHL) as well as any act of abuse and misconduct extremely seriously, and has a

zero tolerance stance towards sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Such acts are contrary to the objectives and principles of the AU Constitutive Act and other instruments of the AU.

1.5 The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) has on numerous occasions reaffirmed its zero tolerance as articulated in its communiqués of its 461st and 689th meetings. These communiqués recognize conduct and discipline of mission personnel as a key element to the success of AU PSOs and assert that these commitments are at the heart of the high normative standards that the AU strives to promote to ensure the continued legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness of its mandated and authorized PSOs.

1.6 Conduct and discipline of mission personnel is, therefore, key to the success of any AU PSOs. As a result, the AU has embarked on a process of developing policies and guidelines as well as establishing systems, structures, and mechanisms to ensure that its PSOs are managed in accordance with internationally accepted norms and standards, including by implementing the provisions relating to protection of civilians and responsibility to protect frameworks.

1.7 The Policy on Conduct and Discipline is dedicated to the specificity and challenges experienced by AU PSOs, with the aim to clarify what constitutes misconduct in PSOs and what procedures to follow at the PSO level for each category of mission personnel in the field.

1.8 The AUC is responsible to ensure discipline of AU staff members, while discipline of military and police personnel shall be addressed by the T/PCCs. Therefore, this Policy does not intend to replace national codes of conducts applicable to T/PCCs serving in AU PSOs. It should be seen as the minimum standard of conduct that the AU requires from its mission personnel.

1.9 AU Member States retain exclusive criminal jurisdiction and remain responsible for conducting criminal proceedings against their nationals.

1.10 This Policy should be read in conjunction with the 2018 draft AU Policy on Prevention and Response to SEA in PSOs and the draft Guidelines on Protection of Whistleblowers.

2. Purpose

2.1 This Policy clarifies and describes the minimum standards of conduct expected of all mission personnel serving in AU PSOs regardless of their status and position in the mission.

2.2 This Policy also prescribes the minimum standard of conduct expected of personnel in the mission area that provide service(s) on behalf of or in the name of the AU (e.g., contractors and consultants).

2.3 It explains the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of mission personnel in upholding standards of conduct and the process to be adopted in addressing misconduct for the various categories of personnel.

3. Scope of application

3.1 This Policy shall apply to all AU PSOs and their mission personnel for all cases of misconduct committed in and outside of the mission area of a PSO whether the individual was on official duty at the time of the offence or not.

3.2 PSOs, mandated and authorized by the AU PSC, are expected to apply and integrate these standards of conduct into their mission documents and processes.

4. Expected standards of conduct

4.1 All mission personnel, regardless of their position or level, are responsible for upholding the highest standards of integrity, which includes respect for AU principles, values and norms as set out in this Policy, in the Constitutive Act, in international humanitarian and human rights law, as well as in the Code of Ethics and Conduct and other AU issuances, including mission specific documents.

4.2 While different frameworks and policies might be applicable to different categories of personnel in a mission area, the standards of conduct and integrity required are similar since all are derived from principles, values and norms contained in the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

4.3 All mission personnel in the service of the PSO are expected to conduct themselves in a professional, dignified, and disciplined manner at all times, bearing in mind that they are the main interface between the AU and the local population and represent the AU, their respective countries and other institutions to which they may be affiliated.

4.4 Mission personnel shall respect international and local laws, as well as customs and practices where compatible with provisions of human rights law and related international standards. They shall treat the inhabitants of the host country with respect, courtesy and consideration and act with impartiality, integrity and tact.

4.5 Mission personnel must function in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the AU. Misconduct, and even perceptions of impropriety, are unacceptable and have a detrimental effect on the relationship of mission personnel with the local population and could cause difficulty in fulfilling the mandate entrusted to the mission.

4.6 Mission personnel must refrain from any action or activity incompatible with the mandate of the PSO, and other applicable legal provisions, norms and standards.

4.7 Violations of IHL and IHRL by mission personnel constitute serious misconduct and are grounds for disciplinary sanctions and criminal prosecution.

4.8 Rules of engagement, directives on the use of force, detention SOPs and other mission specific documents generally reflect IHL and IHRL obligations, and are rules that the uniformed personnel and other personnel carrying arms must follow. Violations of those rules will constitute serious misconduct and should be prosecuted by P/TCCs.

4.9 Civilian personnel equally have the responsibility to respect IHL and IHRL provisions, applicable principles and standards. Serious misconduct by civilian personnel may lead to a criminal proceeding in their country of origin, as well as the country where a PSO is deployed.

5. Actions or omissions constitutive of misconduct in AU PSOs

5.1 Violations of the expected standards of conduct, whether by action or omission, constitute misconduct, and are divided into two categories depending on the gravity of the act, namely, minor misconduct and serious misconduct. Both minor and serious misconduct may call either for criminal prosecution, disciplinary sanctions, or both, depending on the gravity of the act.

Minor Misconduct

5.2 Minor misconduct is any act, omission or negligence that does not result in, or is not likely to result in, major damage or injury to an individual or the mission. Examples of minor misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Neglect in performance of duty;

- (b) Intoxication while on duty or in public not resulting in any damages or injuries;
- (c) Negligent driving not resulting in any damages or injuries;
- (d) Minor traffic offences, such as speeding, and driving without proper documentation;
- (e) Taking, communicating, possessing and photocopying official documents and information in all forms that pass through in the course of duty without authorization;
- (f) Tardiness to report to duty;
- (g) Disorderly behaviour within the premises of a PSO;
- (h) Basic misuse of mission equipment;
- (i) Basic mismanagement.

Serious Misconduct

5.3 Serious misconduct is any act, omission or negligence that results, or is likely to result, in serious damage or injury to, an individual or the mission and/or deliberate act or omission that might impact the performance of the mission tasks.

5.4 Serious misconduct includes, but is not limited to the following:

- (a) Violations of IHL and IHRL;
- (b) Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA);
- (c) Child sexual abuse;
- (d) Threatening life, physical assault or murder;
- (e) Abuse or torture of detained persons or civilians;
- (f) Harassment, including sexual and other forms of harassment listed in the AUC Harassment Policy;
- (g) Unlawful discharge of firearms;
- (h) Breach of confidentiality;
- (i) Abuse of African Union privileges and immunities;
- (j) Driving while intoxicated or other grossly negligent driving;
- (k) Repeatedly being intoxicated while on duty or in public;
- (l) Repeatedly being absent from duty without permission;
- (m) Use, possession or distribution of illegal narcotics and illegal drugs;
- (n) Embezzlement or other financial malfeasance;

- (o) Wilful disobedience of a lawful order, including wilful infractions of regulations, rules and administrative issuances;
- (p) Entitlement fraud and procurement violations;
- (q) Taking or giving bribes or any illegal gratification;
- (r) Discrimination, retribution and/or retaliation against whistleblowers;
- (s) Malicious reporting of misconduct;
- (t) Unlawful acts including, but not limited to, acts or attempted acts of aiding or abetting acts of corruption, abuse of authority, including bribery, theft, fraud, forgery, illicit trafficking in drugs and narcotics, humans or weapons, money laundering, smuggling, illegal mineral trade and similar acts.

6. The AU's strategy on conduct and discipline

6.1 The AU's approach to conduct and discipline in PSOs is ensured through prevention, enforcement and remedial action.

6.2 Prevention is aimed at ensuring that misconduct does not occur in the first place. It includes activities such as screening of personnel before deployment; raising awareness, including through public communication (before, during and after deployment); training (pre-deployment, induction and in-mission training) and outreach; contextualizing measures according to the particularities of the context in which the PSO is deployed, as well as ensuring the welfare and recreation of personnel while on mission; and undertaking risk assessment and monitoring generally.

6.3 Enforcement encompasses activities associated with actions to be taken in response to instances of alleged misconduct reported in a PSO. The steps include: establishment of mission structures, systems and processes; reception of allegation; assessment of the allegation; notification and referral for investigation; investigation; review of investigation results; actions following investigation (administrative/disciplinary process); and holding the individual accountable for misconduct (sanction); as well as ensuring oversight by the structures at the Strategic Headquarters throughout the process. Prompt and consistent enforcement is essential to the goal of ensuring that the AU's standards of conduct are respected.

6.4 Remedial action applies to all instances of misconduct, including violations of IHRL, IHL and SEA. Remedial actions include actions of protection of victims and witnesses, and are guided by the principle of "do no harm" and confidentiality in handling misconduct. It also includes actions to repair a damaged reputation.

7. Prevention Efforts

7.1 In collaboration with AU PSOs, the AUC shall prevent individuals with misconduct records from being hired or rehired, in compliance with applicable laws and to the best of the AU's abilities. This could include engaging with AU Member States to ensure vetting and screening as well as background and criminal reference checks of all mission personnel, as appropriate. The AUC shall ensure that these requirements are included in guidelines and other issuances directing P/TCCs on preparing of capabilities including personnel prior to any deployment.

7.2 All mission personnel are obliged to create and maintain an environment that prevents any misconduct. The leadership, including the mission leadership, contingent commanders, battalion commanders, formed police unit commanders, unit commanders, managers and supervisors at all levels, have a particular responsibility to support, implement and develop systems that prevent misconduct, based on the overall leadership of the HoM and guidance from the AUC.

7.3 PSOs shall be required to put in place concerted training sessions on the expected standards of conduct for all categories of personnel throughout the life of the mission. Information education communication (IEC) materials such as videos, brochures, posters, pamphlets, and similar will be developed, as appropriate.

7.4 PSOs shall incorporate provisions of this Policy in all induction material and other relevant codes of behaviour for mission personnel.

8. Enforcement

8.1 Reporting misconduct

8.1.1 The PSO, in particular the Head of Mission (HoM) and the Conduct and Discipline Unit (CDU)/focal point, shall take all reports of possible misconduct seriously and must provide a confidential mechanism for individuals who wish to report misconduct. All PSOs shall be required to establish multiple and accessible means for reporting misconduct for all categories of personnel to ensure that individuals from both within the mission and outside the mission report misconduct without fear of retaliation.

8.1.2 Misconduct can be reported, but is not limited to, the following senior mission leadership and units/offices depending on the mission set-up and the context in which a PSO is deployed:

- (a) HoM;
- (b) Deputy Head of Mission;
- (c) Force Commander;
- (d) Police Commissioner;
- (e) Head of Mission support;
- (f) Conduct and Discipline Unit (CDU) or Conduct and Discipline focal point;
- (g) Representatives of personnel in the mission, including networks within the PSOs;
- (h) Chiefs of staff of the various components;
- (i) Contingent commanders;
- (j) Offices or units of protection, gender, human rights, child protection and civil affairs;
- (k) Office of administration and human resources management;
- (l) Security unit or office;
- (m) Supervisors: first or second supervisor of individuals who have committed the alleged violation;
- (n) Medical units;
- (o) Police offices in the PSOs;
- (p) Designated offices and/or officials in the regions;

- (q) Designated NGOs, community organizations and host government offices; and
- (r) Any other office that the HoM designates as appropriate for receiving complaints from personnel.

8.1.3 Mission personnel may also report misconduct directly to the AUC, should they have a reasonable fear of retaliation and/or consider that the matter against the mission personnel cannot be addressed impartially within the mission area due to the seniority of the individual or other cogent factors, and that the actions of the mission personnel amounts to serious misconduct. They may report the matter directly to the appropriate structures at the Strategic Headquarters, such as the PSOD, the Office of Ethics, the Director of Administration and Human Resources Management (AHRM), the Commissioner for Peace and Security or the Chairperson of the AUC, providing as much information and evidence on the matter as possible.

8.1.4 The HoM is required to take appropriate action and measures to ensure that individuals are not retaliated against. Such measures may include ensuring confidentiality of reports, regular engagement and continuous monitoring of the circumstances of the individual making the complaint, and, if the circumstances warrant, relocating the individual to a different office.

8.2 Procedure for handling misconduct

8.2.1 Different robust procedures are envisaged in addressing the specific allegation(s) depending on whether the misconduct is qualified as minor or as serious, and depending on the category of the personnel.

8.2.2 AU staff members are governed by the standards of conduct set out in the AU Staff Regulations and Rules, and other administrative issuances. Staff members are bound to respect those standards of conduct through the signing of their offer of appointment and related employment contract with the African Union.

8.2.3 Individual police and military officers are deployed with the legal status of experts on mission based on a legal agreement concluded between the AUC and the sending Member State. They shall also individually sign an undertaking upon commencement of service with the AU, through which they agree to be bound by the provisions on conduct and discipline standards contained in this undertaking.

8.2.4 The conduct and discipline of members of military contingents is governed by the memorandum of understanding (MOU) concluded between the troop contributing country and the AU and/or the AU and RECs/RMs for the deployment of military contingents. Through this MOU, Member States agree that, while their military personnel remain subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of respective troop contributing countries, they will comply with AU standards of conduct and such other documents adopted by the AU that regulate the conduct of this category of personnel.

8.2.5 The conduct and discipline of members of formed police units (FPUs) is governed by the memorandum of understanding concluded between police contributing countries and the AU and/or the AU and RECs/RMs for the deployment of formed police units. Member States agree through this MOU, that while their police personnel remain subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of respective police contributing countries, they will comply with AU standards of conduct and such other documents adopted by the AU that regulate the conduct of this category of personnel.

8.2.6 For individual consultants and contractors, agreements signed between them and the AU contain provisions on the obligation to respect the AU standards of conduct.

8.2.7 The HoM is required to share all information concerning all cases of misconduct that s/he is informed about with the AUC. S/he will be supported in this responsibility by the CDU/focal point. If a CDU/focal point does not exist, the HoM will designate an official in his/her office to ensure that all cases are forwarded to the AUC through the PSOD.

8.2.8 In all instances, the Deputy SRCC as Head of the Civilian Component, the Head of Mission Support, the Head of Finance, the Police Commissioner and the Force Commander shall inform the HoM of all instances of misconduct in writing. The Conduct and Discipline Unit or focal point shall maintain records and/data base on misconduct. In so doing, they may seek the assistance of other units of the mission with the capacity to maintain and analyze such data, such as the Civilian Casualty Tracking Analysis Cell.

8.3 Immunities of mission personnel

8.3.1 The Special Representative of the Chairperson, or Head of Mission, and other high ranking members as may be agreed between the AU and the host State, shall have the status of officials specified in Article VI of the OAU General Convention on Privileges and Immunities (hereafter referred as the General Convention), therein referred to as those accorded diplomatic envoys by international law.

8.3.2 Other mission personnel, and as specified in the SOMA with the host State, shall have the status of experts on mission specified in Article VII of the General Convention, which provides for their functional immunity.

9. Handling misconduct for civilian personnel

9.1 The civilian personnel must comply with the rules set out in this Policy, as well as international law, the law of the host State (to the extent that it is compatible with international human rights law norms and standards), the domestic law of their country of origin, as well as various mission documents.

9.2 Privileges and immunity of civilian personnel may be waived by the Chairperson if this is in the interest of justice, and this shall be discussed between the HoM, Chairperson and the host State.

9.3 The status of civilian personnel in AU PSOs shall be governed by the AU Staff Regulations and Rules (2010) for AU staff members and/or terms of their contracts for other civilian personnel, the Administrative Guidelines on the Recruitment, Selection, Deployment and Management of Civilian Personnel in Field Operations (2016) as well as by the status of mission agreement (SOMA) concluded between the AUC and the host State.

9.4 The overall responsibility for ensuring discipline of civilian personnel rests with the HoM, with delegated authority given by the Chairperson of the AUC.

9.5 All cases of minor misconduct committed by civilian personnel shall be handled administratively in the PSO by the HoM or his/her designee.

9.6 In situations of serious misconduct, in particular violations of IHRL and IHL where applicable, the HoM will inform the AUC, through the PSOD, of the matter for a follow-up with the national authorities of the country of origin of the individual, in order to encourage the criminal proceedings and/or other remedial action required, especially in regard to assistance to victims.

Procedures for addressing misconduct of AU staff members in a PSO

9.7 The Disciplinary Board established in accordance with the AU Staff Regulations and Rules shall advise the Chairperson or the competent authority of any other organ on disciplinary measures if any to be instituted against a staff member over acts of misconduct violating the provisions of the Constitutive Act, the Code of Conduct and Ethics, the Staff Regulations and Rules, the Financial Rules, and any other regulations or rules of the AUC, including this Policy, in accordance with Rules 57 to 59 of the AU Staff Rules.

9.8 Accordingly, the following procedure shall be followed with respect to misconduct by AU staff members in PSOs:

- (a) Except in situations of staff grievances arising out of their interpersonal relationships and the application of conditions of employment other than matters arising out of disciplinary action (Rule 63 of the Staff Rules), a complaint of a staff member's breach of the AU standards of conduct shall be forwarded to the Head of AHRM with a copy being sent to the CDU/Conduct and Discipline focal point. Upon receipt of such a complaint, the Head of AHRM in consultation with CDU/Conduct and discipline focal point shall immediately notify the HoM of such a complaint. The regulations in the Staff Rule 59 regarding disciplinary procedures shall be strictly adhered to and are adapted to the specific context of PSOs in paragraphs (b) to (h);
- (b) The HoM shall weigh the matter and determine the appropriate action to take with guidance from the Office of Human Resources Management, the CDU/focal point, the legal unit/officer and any other office or unit that may be relevant to the matter at hand. S/he may also request for additional information, comments from the staff member and/or meet with the staff member as s/he determines, as part of the fact-finding process to establish the prima facie case (initial examination to establish that sufficient corroborating evidence appears to exist to support a case);
- (c) The fact-finding process shall start within seven days after receiving the complaint and shall be conducted in accordance with the AU Staff Rules and Regulations (Article 59 on disciplinary procedures). Once the fact-finding process is completed, the HoM shall request the concerned staff member(s) to comment on the facts concerning him or her;
- (d) Should the fact-finding process not establish a prima facie case, the HoM will inform the staff member(s) of the outcome and close the file. Should the fact-finding reveal that no misconduct occurred but that administrative measures are required, and in the best interest of the mission, s/he should implement such administrative actions, as appropriate;
- (e) In the event that the fact-finding process establishes a prima facie case, the HoM shall submit the entire file, including the comments from the staff member(s), with conclusions and recommendations, to the Director of AHRM for appropriate action in accordance with the Staff Regulations and Rules. Alternatively, s/he may determine to conduct a BOI investigation into the matter, depending on the matter at hand and if considered that this would serve the interest of the mission best, especially in cases of serious misconduct. The BOI report will be forwarded to the Director of AHRM for appropriate action within 30 days of receipt of complaint/allegation;
- (f) The HoM will follow-up with the Director of AHRM in consultation with the PSOD and inform the staff member of the progress of the case, as appropriate;
- (g) In the event that the case is against a member of the leadership of the mission, or for some other cogent reason it is evident to the HoM that an impartial BOI investigation cannot be carried out in the mission, the HoM may report the matter to the Director of AHRM, the Commissioner for Peace and Security or the Chairperson of the AUC, as appropriate. S/he may request for a panel or investigators from the strategic headquarters to go to the mission to carry out the investigation into the matter. The external panel or investigators will share their report with the Director of AHRM who will then take appropriate action and inform the HoM as appropriate;
- (h) In case the staff member is involved in a criminal act or is being investigated in the context of a criminal investigation, Rule 60 of the AU Staff Regulations regarding criminal proceedings instituted against a staff member shall apply. The HoM shall inform the Director of AHRM through the PSOD as soon as his/her attention is brought to such a situation. The Director of AHRM will then take appropriate action.

Procedures for addressing misconduct of other categories of civilian personnel

9.9 The procedure for handling misconduct of all other civilian personnel including seconded staff, partners, technical experts, interns, volunteers, individuals on special assignment and contractors and consultants shall be regulated by the terms of their contract and/or undertaking.

10. Handling misconduct of military personnel

10.1 The military personnel must comply with the rules set out in this Policy, as well as international law, the law of the host State (to the extent that it is compatible with international human rights law norms and standards), the domestic law of their country of origin, as well as the mission documents such as the ROEs and relevant SOPs.

10.2 The status of contingent military personnel deployed by the TCCs is governed exclusively by the MoU concluded between the AU and the TCCs and/or the MoU concluded between the AU and the RECs/RMs, and by the SOFA/SOMA, which confer the TCCs with exclusive jurisdiction over criminal matters involving their personnel. Therefore, the procedure for handling misconduct for military contingent members shall run in pari passu (hand-in-hand).

10.3 The status of individual military officers who have been sent to a PSO by an AU Member State will be governed by a legal agreement concluded between the AU and the AU Member State in question and the SOMA/SOFA. Individual military officers shall also individually sign an undertaking upon commencement of service with the AU, through which they agree to be bound by the provisions contained in this Policy.

10.4 The overall responsibility for the adherence to and enforcement of AU standards of conduct of the military personnel rests with the Force Commander (FC) or his designee. However, military personnel remain members of the national contingent and are therefore subject to the codes of conduct of their respective national military authority in addition to the provisions of this Policy.

10.5 The AU and the TCCs vest the Commander of the national contingent with the functional responsibility for the discipline and good order of all contingent members while assigned to the AU PSO.

10.6 Upon receipt of a report of misconduct, the Contingent Commander is required to notify the FC and the CDU/focal point promptly of the allegation that has been brought to his/her attention.

10.7 The Contingent Commander is required to commence investigations into the matter within seven days of receipt of the complaint and inform the HoM, through the FC.

10.8 In the event where the Contingent Commander fails to commence an investigation into a matter after notification within seven days, in particular if serious misconduct has been committed, the Contingent Commander must notify the FC within 24 hours of the end of the seven days. In the event that this is not done, the Contingent Commander will be deemed unwilling to conduct such investigation.

10.9 If the Contingent Commander is unable to conduct an investigation for any reason, h/she must notify the FC within the seven day period.

10.10 The Contingent Commander is required to inform the HoM through the FC of the outcome(s) of the investigation and or the disciplinary action that have been taken in all cases of misconduct within 30 days of receipt of a complaint/allegation.

10.11 In all cases where the PSO or AU have credible information that a contingent member has committed a misconduct, the PSO and/or AU shall notify the Contingent Commander within seven days. In the event that the allegation(s) is/are against the Contingent Commander, the HoM shall inform the AUC through appropriate channels and the latter shall advise the TCC concerned for appropriate action to be taken.

10.12 The FC may also recommend to the HoM for the institution of a BOI if the interest of the mission would be best served in such a way, and for any acts of serious misconduct or acts that have the potential to damage the image, credibility or integrity of the AU. In such instances, the HoM will institute the BOI, including civilian personnel, such as, human rights monitors, the AU security officer, gender officer, and child protection adviser depending on the matter at hand. Where and when possible and appropriate, such BOI(s) shall be conducted

jointly with the contingent. Once the investigation or BOI is completed, the FC or HoM, as the case may be, will inform the Contingent Commander and the AUC of the outcomes, as appropriate, so that disciplinary action is taken.

10.13 All cases of minor misconduct will be handled administratively by the Force Commander or Contingent Commanders.

10.14 Following receipt of the recommendations of the BOI and the final decision of the HoM, as referred to above, the FC or another supervisor responsible for the maintenance of discipline shall take appropriate administrative and/or disciplinary action. Such actions may be one or more of the following:

- (a) Removal from position of command;
- (b) Redeployment to another position/area after retraining, if necessary;
- (c) Removal of benefits and concessions provided to mission personnel;
- (d) Suspension of leave/compensatory time off;
- (e) Full or partial recovery from the mission subsistence allowance, in cases of financial loss to the Organization;
- (f) Recommendation for repatriation;
- (g) Written censure or reprimand, including a possible recommendation for non-eligibility for future assignment with the AUC.

10.15 Following notification by HoM of the outcomes of the BoI, the AUC will engage with the national authorities of the TCC on the disciplinary action taken, outcomes of criminal proceedings and/or other remedial action required, especially in regards to assistance to victims.

10.16 If the AU is made aware that no action is taken by the TCC, the AUC shall bring the matter to the attention of the Peace and Security Council for consideration of future possible action to be taken.

11. Handling misconduct of police personnel

11.1 The police personnel must comply with the rules set out in this Policy, as well as international law, the law of the host State (to the extent that it is compatible with international human rights law norms and standards), the domestic law of their country of origin, as well as the mission documents such as the directives on the use of force and relevant SOPs.

11.2 The status of the Formed Police Units (FPU) personnel deployed by the PCCs is governed exclusively by the MoU concluded between the AU and the PCC and/or MoU concluded between the AU and the RECs/RMs, and by the SOFA/SOMA, which confer the PCCs with exclusive jurisdiction over criminal matters involving their personnel. Therefore, the procedure for handling misconduct for members of Formed Police Units (FPUs) shall run in *pari passu* (hand-in-hand).

11.3 The status of individual police officers (IPOs) who have been sent to a PSO by an AU Member State will be governed by a legal agreement concluded between the AU and the AU Member State in question and the SOMA/SOFA. IPOs shall also individually sign an undertaking upon commencement of service with the AU, through which they agree to be bound by the provisions contained in this Policy.

11.4 The overall responsibility for the adherence to and enforcement of AU standards of conduct of the police personnel rests with the Police Commissioner or his/her designee. However, police personnel remain subject to their national codes of conduct in addition to the provisions of this Policy.

11.5 The AU and the PCCs vest the Commander of the FPU with the functional responsibility for the discipline and good order of all unit members while assigned to the AU PSO.

11.6 Upon receipt of a report of misconduct, the Unit Commander is required to notify the PC and the CDU/focal point promptly of the allegation that has been brought to his/her attention.

11.7 The Unit Commander is required to commence investigations into the matter within seven days of receipt of the complaint and inform the HoM, through the PC.

11.8 In the event where the Unit Commander fails to commence an investigation into a matter after notification within seven days, in particular if serious misconduct has been committed, the Unit Commander must notify the PC within 24 hours of the end of the seven days. In the event that this is not done, the Unit Commander will be deemed unwilling to conduct such investigation.

11.9 If the Unit Commander is unable to conduct an investigation for any reason, h/she must notify the PC within the seven day period.

11.10 The Unit Commander is required to inform the HoM through the PC of the outcome(s) of the investigation and/or the disciplinary action that has been taken in all cases of misconduct within 30 days of receipt of a complaint/allegation.

11.11 In all cases where the PSO or AU has credible information that a contingent member has committed a misconduct, the PSO and/or AU shall notify the Unit Commander within seven days. In the event that the allegation(s) is/are against the Unit Commander, the HoM shall inform the AUC through appropriate channels and the latter shall advise the PCC concerned for appropriate action to be taken.

11.12 The PC may also recommend to the HoM for the institution of a BOI if the interest of the mission would be best served in such a way, and for any acts of serious misconduct or acts that have the potential to damage the image, credibility or integrity of the AU. In such instances, the HoM will institute the BOI, including civilian personnel, such as, human rights monitors, the AU security officer, gender officer, and child protection adviser depending on the matter at hand. Where and when possible and appropriate, such BOI(s) shall be conducted jointly with the contingent. Once the investigation or BOI is completed, the PC or HoM, as the case may be, will inform the Unit Commander and the AUC of the outcomes, as appropriate, so that disciplinary action is taken.

11.13 All cases of minor misconduct will be handled administratively by the Police Commissioner or Unit Commanders.

11.14 Following receipt of the recommendations of the BOI and the final decision of the HoM, as referred to above, the PC or another supervisor responsible for the maintenance of discipline shall take appropriate administrative and/or disciplinary action. Such actions may be one or more of the following:

- (a) Removal from position of command;
- (b) Redeployment to another position/area after retraining, if necessary;
- (c) Removal of benefits and concessions provided to mission personnel;
- (d) Suspension of leave/compensatory time off;

(e) Full or partial recovery from the mission subsistence allowance, in cases of financial loss to the Organization;

(f) Recommendation for repatriation;

(g) Written censure or reprimand, including a possible recommendation for non-eligibility for future assignment with the AUC.

11.15 Following notification by HoM of the outcomes of the BoI, the AUC will engage with the national authorities of the PCC on the disciplinary action taken, outcomes of criminal proceedings and/or other remedial action required, especially in regards to assistance to victims.

11.16 If the AU is made aware that no action is taken by the PCC, the AUC shall bring the matter to the attention of the Peace and Security Council for consideration of future possible action to be taken.

12. Individual, Managers and Commanders accountability

12.1 All personnel serving in AU PSOs are required to make themselves familiar with the AU values, norms and standards of conduct, including by attending training sessions, and are obliged to uphold these standards at all times, at the workplace and outside of the workplace, on duty and off duty, including when on leave. Any breach of the expected standard, where appropriate, may be referred for investigation and possible prosecution before Member States' national and/or military courts when such violations constitute crimes under national laws.

12.2 Managers and commanders are responsible for taking steps to prevent and address misconduct on the part of their subordinates. They are expected to ensure that personnel under their command or supervision are aware of the AU standards of conduct, including through organization of training sessions and by promoting compliance with the AU standards of conduct.

12.3 Commanders are responsible for preventing violations of the law and for taking necessary disciplinary action where violations are identified. The fact that a commander did not order, authorize or knowingly acquiesce in a violation of the law by a subordinate will not relieve him/her of responsibility if s/he knew, or owing to the circumstances at the time, should have known, that forces/units under his/her command were committing or about to commit misconduct/crimes, and s/he failed to take all necessary and reasonable measures within his/her power to prevent or suppress their commission, or to submit the matter to the competent authorities for investigation or prosecution.

12.4 Managers and commanders will also be held accountable in terms of performance regarding the exercise of their conduct and discipline functions. For Heads of Mission, this is achieved through provisions included in their contracts and/or letters of appointment. For all other managers and commanders, performance in the exercise of the conduct and discipline functions shall be evaluated through the performance appraisal mechanisms applicable to the manager or commander.

13. Actions to safeguard the image and reputation of the PSO and the AU

13.1 For allegations of serious misconduct that have implications for the reputation and image of the AU and the mission, the HoM will work closely with the relevant offices of the mission, including but not limited to the spokesperson, communications, outreach and public relations, legal, political and civil affairs, women and gender offices, and in close consultation with AU PSOD, to protect and safeguard the reputation of the mission and the AU generally. This may be especially necessary where allegations have generated public and media interest.

13.2 In general, the HoM should avoid creating an absence of visible accountability, as this could give rise to a perception that the AU does not take the matter seriously. Instead, s/he should be cooperative, transparent, and demonstrate accountability, seriousness and full engagement in the matter.

13.3 Consequently, the HoM, public information and communication personnel as well as the other components mentioned above, are to work together to achieve the following key objectives:

- (a) Communicate that the AU and the PSO are fully engaged and committed to addressing allegations of misconduct and will promptly investigate or are investigating, as the case may be, and intend to take or ensure that appropriate action is taken against those found guilty;
- (b) Communicate transparency on the part of the mission through engaging with the complainants and their families on what action is being taken by the mission, without compromising any investigation that is being undertaken;
- (c) Dispel rumours and damaging gossip with facts, so that the media and the local population sees the mission as credible and trustworthy by, inter alia, making information available through a number of easily accessible channels with due regard to protecting the integrity of the investigation, the due process rights of the alleged perpetrators and the safety and welfare of the alleged victims; and
- (d) Encourage accurate reporting of incidents by the media by providing clear information and details, without compromising or prejudicing the investigation or divulging the identity of parties prematurely.

14. Assistance for victims of misconduct

14.1 When misconduct results in injury and/or damage, a comprehensive, timely and responsive assistance and/or redress shall be provided to complainants, victims as well as their families, as appropriate.

14.2 The AU will ensure that victims receive the support and attention they deserve, from the moment an allegation is received until there is an outcome. Such assistance can be, for example, medical care, psychosocial support, legal assistance, and immediate material needs such as food, medical care, clothing, and safe shelter.

14.3 The HoM shall establish a mechanism for victim assistance, or work with the existing system if it already exists, to facilitate support and assist victims of misconduct, particularly in cases of violations of IHL, IHRL and SEA. In this regard, s/he is to be supported by the CDU/focal point, and/or the gender, civil affairs, political or human rights offices or units that have strong ties with the local community and NGOs in the mission area, especially those engaged in women and children issues. Such a mechanism shall consider various ways and means for assisting victims.

14.4 In reviewing cases and requests for assistance, the established mechanism shall consult with NGOs, community leaders, community based organizations and any other individuals in order to make informed and prudent decisions.

14.5 Complainants and/or victims should receive basic and individually tailored assistance and support in accordance with their individual needs directly arising from the alleged misconduct. This assistance and support can comprise logistical support (travel, accommodation, & interpretation), medical care, legal services, psychosocial support, immediate material care, such as food, medicines, clothing, emergency and safe shelter, as necessary. This can also include a referral to another organization, NGO or other body that is capable to provide adequate assistance to the victim, when available.

14.6 The mechanism for assistance is to consider all cases that require assistance as a result of an act of misconduct and to recommend specific types of assistance for each case. In so doing, this mechanism is to be guided by the following principles:

- (a) Victims, especially victims of SEA, are generally vulnerable, disadvantaged, with minimal or no education and resources and are often ostracized and shunned by their communities;

- (b) Assistance is voluntary; hence the victim cannot be forced or coerced to accept assistance. It is a good practice to obtain the victims' consent in verifiable form that s/he accepts the assistance being provided;
- (c) The major consideration in the provision of assistance is the best interests of the victims and the resources available and accessible to the PSO. Hence, any assistance provided should not harm the victim. Assistance and support should be provided in a manner that does not increase the trauma suffered by the victim, cause further stigmatization or exclude or discriminate against other victims;
- (d) The circumstances of each case will vary and assistance should be accorded accordingly; however, an effort should be made to minimize disparities among similar or comparable cases;
- (e) Assistance should complement rather than duplicate existing support to victims of abuse and violence and, to the greatest extent possible, should be integrated into existing programmes. Consequently, the mission could consider entering into arrangements with NGOs to provide services directly to the victims and in turn either reimburse the NGOs directly or provide support to the NGOs;
- (f) If children are born as a result of misconduct by mission personnel, assistance to be provided should be in the best interests of the child;
- (g) The duration of the provision of assistance and support should be set in accordance with individual needs directly arising from misconduct;
- (h) Assistance provided to victims should be separated from the allegation and investigation processes. At no time should assistance be made contingent on the victims' cooperation in an investigation process;
- (i) The provision of any assistance and support by the PSO is not necessarily an acknowledgment of the validity of the claims or an indication of acceptance of the legal responsibility of the alleged perpetrator, PSO or AUC.

14.7 The PSO should consider appointing a victim advocate/facilitator for all cases of serious misconduct, in particular in cases of violation of IHL, IHRL and SEA. In order to bring forward a complaint and request of assistance, the complainant might need help from somebody they have confidence in and who can present their interests and serve as a facilitator and "voice" in the process. Consequently, the victim advocate/facilitator need not be a mission personnel but could be from the community or from various NGOs. The critical consideration being that the victim has confidence in the victim advocate/facilitator.

14.8 The PSO shall develop a system for tracking and following up on all cases of assistance. The matter will be considered closed once the victim has been fully assisted and can meet the needs arising from the misconduct independently.

14.9 The PSO shall securely keep proper records of its deliberations and prepare an annual report of all victims assisted that includes all key relevant information, including the type of assistance provided, the cost of the assistance provided, and the present circumstances of the victims to the best of the Committee's knowledge. It shall also indicate whether the matter is closed or ongoing and highlight any aspects requiring additional follow-up with national authorities. This report shall be forwarded to the AUC through PSOD for review, consideration and further action, as appropriate.

15. Roles in implementing the Policy

15.1 Below is an outline of the key roles and responsibilities of the main actors for implementing this Policy.

15.2 PSC

- (a) Engage in, and provide overall guidance through review and endorsement of conduct and discipline related policies and guidelines, including on SEA, protection of whistleblowers, victim assistance and compensation and welfare and recreation, among others;
- (b) Oversee implementation of a rigorous and effective conduct and discipline regime through monitoring and making necessary recommendations, as appropriate;
- (c) Engage relevant AU policy organs and direct the AUC to submit regular reports on conduct and discipline in AU PSOs;
- (d) Engage with AU PSOs more closely through use of different tools, such as video conferences, scheduled visits to PSOs, and solidarity missions.

15.3 AU Member States sending personnel (military, police, civilian) to PSOs

- (a) Vest contingent and unit commanders with the necessary authority to conduct investigations, refer cases to the relevant national authorities, inform the Head of Mission of all instances of misconduct, and take disciplinary action, where appropriate;
- (b) Ensure that contingent and unit commanders comply and ensure compliance with relevant international and domestic laws, including domestic laws of the host State, as well as AU standards of conduct;
- (c) Uphold the principle of command responsibility for all commanders;
- (d) Provide information to the AUC, through the PSOD, on all disciplinary matters and actions taken against serious violations and misconduct, including the outcome of investigations and prosecutorial action on a regular basis;
- (e) Ensure that all personnel to be deployed to an AU PSO, including police and military personnel, are trained on conduct and discipline prior to deployment. This includes reviewing the preparation procedures for deployment to ensure that the same incorporates conduct and discipline, human rights, gender issues, including SGBV;
- (f) Consider and integrate conduct and discipline related training into the national curricula of training institutions, especially but not limited to civilian and child protection, SGBV, human rights and gender topics;
- (g) Conduct various hearings, including court martials in accordance with national laws and procedures as soon as reports of misconduct are made, preferably in the mission area;
- (h) Ensure that individuals accused of serious violations are prosecuted in their countries of origin and keep the AUC informed of the outcomes of any proceedings;
- (i) Establish a mechanism to verify that prior offenders are not deployed or redeployed to PSOs;
- (j) Cooperate with the AUC in conducting background checks of civilian personnel to be deployed to AU PSOs;
- (k) Cooperate and assist PSOs with sensitization of the local population on the expected standards of behaviour of AU mission personnel;
- (l) Work in partnership with AU PSOs to sensitize AU mission personnel on local laws, culture, customs and traditions;

(m) Assist and/or facilitate awareness raising campaigns, including establishing and publicizing accessible means and avenues for reporting allegations with AU PSOs on investigations, as appropriate;

(n) Designate a liaison or focal point on conduct and discipline matters;

(o) Facilitate victim support and redress efforts.

15.4 AUC

(a) Lead and coordinate implementation of the framework and the strategy on conduct and discipline matters;

(b) Develop a work plan for implementation of this policy with clear indicators and results expected;

(c) Establish an adequate capacity on conduct and discipline, both at the AUC HQ level and in AU PSOs to monitor and respond to cases of misconduct;

(d) Review and coordinate efforts to strengthen provisions in the memoranda of understanding (MoU) with T/PCCs, as well as other legal frameworks with AU Member States on conduct and discipline, including SEA;

(e) Engage with AU Member States, and in particular T/PCCs, to reinforce and monitor implementation of activities and promote a collaborative approach;

(f) Sensitize, build capacity, and clarify expectations on conduct and discipline for the leadership of various T/PCCs;

(g) Develop and maintain a secure misconduct tracking and analysis database (MTAD) and accountability system using developments in ICT for all AU PSOs;

(h) Establish a mechanism to verify that prior offenders are not deployed or redeployed to AU PSOs, in cooperation with the T/PCCs;

(i) Follow up with national authorities on actions taken with respect to conduct and discipline in relation to prevention, investigation, prosecution, discipline, redress, punishment, victim assistance and accountability;

(j) Work with T/PCCs to sensitize and build capacity on conduct and discipline, using various avenues, including appropriate ICT;

(k) Strengthen mechanisms for ensuring civilian accountability for misconduct;

(l) Develop a checklist for T/PCCs on all the above priorities that are relevant and that include activities to be carried out, indicators and a monitoring and review mechanism;

(m) Develop a communication strategy for managing relationships with external parties, including partners, stakeholders, and media, etc.;

(n) Develop various strategic communication tools for instilling and reinforcing a sense of African solidarity, development of a sense of camaraderie, shared purpose and self-discipline;

(o) Provide regular reports on conduct and discipline on PSOs to the AU PSC.

15.5 AU PSOs

- (a) Lead and manage efforts on conduct and discipline at the mission level;
- (b) Prioritize and foster commitment and adherence to standards of conduct and discipline through various communications and actions;
- (c) Establish conduct and discipline focal points, officers or units for addressing conduct and discipline matters, as appropriate;
- (d) Establish accessible and relevant entry points for the host population to engage on conduct and discipline, including making reports in a confidential and safe environment;
- (e) Develop and implement a work plan on conduct and discipline that is appropriate to the PSO that is comprehensive, inclusive, engages all personnel and that is tailored to suit the circumstances and realities of the PSO;
- (f) Operationalize and implement policies, guidelines, SOPs and directives on conduct and discipline;
- (g) Create and maintain secure, up-to-date records on conduct and discipline cases and ensure that the same is updated on MTDS;
- (h) Prepare and share regularly, and at a minimum, monthly reports on conduct and discipline activities generally and on specific cases with AUC.

16. Entry into Force

16.1 This Policy will take effect following the endorsement by the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security.

16.2 This Policy can be amended and revised periodically, as and when necessary.

Assembly/AU/Decl.5 (XXXII)

African Union Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for Peace Support Operations

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somali
ASF	African Standby Force
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CC	Contingent Commander
CDU	Conduct and Discipline Unit
HOM	Head of Mission
IHRL	International Human Rights Law
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PCC	Police Contributing Country
PSC	Peace and Security Council
PSD	Peace and Security Department
PSOD	Peace Support Operations Division

PSO	Peace Support Operation
SDGEA	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
SOFA	Status of Forces Agreement
SOMA	Status of Mission Agreement
TCC	Troop Contributing Country
T/PCC	Troop and Police Contributing Countries
UN	United Nations
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WGDD	Women, Gender and Development Directorate

Definitions

For the purpose of the present Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. “Accountability” refers to measures taken to acknowledge, assume responsibility for, and remedy violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, AU policies, rules and regulations, and mission-specific regulations. This includes set up of systems aimed at ensuring that AU PSO personnel act in accordance with their international and internal obligations and duties.
2. “Chairperson” means the Head of the African Union Commission.
3. “Child” means every human being below the age of 18 years.
4. “Children born out of sexual exploitation and abuse” refers to children who are found by the judicial and investigative processes (including by medical proof/DNA testing) of relevant AU and national authorities or through admission of guilt to have been born as a result of the sexual exploitation and abuse by AU staff or mission personnel in an AU PSO.
5. “Civilian personnel” comprises all individuals in the service of the PSO, regardless of their contractual arrangement, who are not members of the police or military component and includes staff members of the African Union Commission when deployed to the mission area.
6. “Complainant” is a person who brings an allegation of misconduct committed by mission personnel or other AU staff to the attention of the AU in accordance with established procedures, but whose claims have not yet been established by the relevant AU administrative, investigative and judicial processes. A complainant may be a victim, witness or any other person who is aware of the misconduct.
7. “Constitutive Act” means the Treaty establishing the African Union.
8. “Consultant” means any person/firm recruited/appointed for the purpose of providing services on a predetermined timeframe and upon specific terms and conditions of service for a period not exceeding three months.
9. “Good governance” refers to the processes of making and implementing decisions. It is not necessarily about making “correct” decisions, but about the best possible process for making those decisions. It would generally have the following major characteristics: It is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law. It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society.

10. "Impunity" means the unwillingness, de facto or de jure (in practice or in law), of bringing the perpetrators of violations to account – whether in criminal, civil, administrative or disciplinary proceedings and/or refusal to comply with compensatory obligations as determined by an appropriate body.
11. "Member State" means a Member State of the AU.
12. "Military personnel" means all members of the military component, including military contingent members, military staff officers, individual military personnel and other members of the armed forces deployed to a PSO.
13. "Misconduct" is any act, omission or negligence, including criminal acts, that is a violation of:
 - (i) The core AU principles and norms as elaborated upon in its Constitutive Act, protocols, policies, and directives as may be applicable in the mission area;
 - (ii) Mission specific directives, standard operating procedures (SOPs), rules of engagement (ROEs), directives on the use of force, or applicable rules, regulations or administrative issuances;
 - (iii) SOFA/SOMA;
 - (iv) Relevant and applicable local laws that are not contrary to human rights norms and standards; and
 - (v) International humanitarian law, international and regional human rights law and international refugee law.
14. "Mission area" means the designated area of a PSO as described in the PSC mandate.
15. "Mission personnel" consists of all individuals in the military, police and civilian components in a PSO.
16. "Police personnel" means all members of formed police units and individual police officers in a PSO.
17. "Remedy" means a redress or relief provided to a victim or his/her next of kin who has sustained bodily or mental harm caused by acts or omissions attributable to members of mission personnel or AU staff. In the context of this Policy, a remedy includes legal remedies, reparations, compensation, restitution, damages or equitable relief.
18. "Seconded staff" means any person from a Member State or any organization transferred to the Union to hold a temporary assignment with an organ of the Union upon agreed terms and conditions by all the parties concerned.
19. "Serious misconduct" means any act, omission or negligence that results, or is likely to result, in serious damage or injury to, an individual or the mission and/or deliberate act or omission that might impact the performance of the mission tasks.
20. "Sexual abuse" refers to any action or behaviour of a sexual nature that coerces, threatens or forces a person to engage in a sexual activity (penetrative and non-penetrative), that they would not otherwise have engaged in, and often without being able to give their consent. Sexual abuse includes the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, and occurs under coercive conditions, which are often reflective of unequal power relations and harmful behaviour.
21. "Sexual exploitation" is defined as the inducement, incitement, coercion and compelling of another person to undertake a sexual activity through abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, dependency or trust. Sexual exploitation includes, but is not limited to, exploiting material, monetary, social, psychological and

political advantages to induce a person to engage in a sexual activity. In this context, sexual exploitation applies not only to actual sexual activity but also to an attempt to engage in such activity. An act of sexual exploitation occurs when the particular person would have had no substantial option, and no reasonable choice but to succumb to pressure to engage in a sexual activity. Sexual exploitation is harmful and exploitative behaviour which occurs in the context of hierarchical interactions and relationships.

22. “Sexual violence” includes acts of a sexual nature against one or more persons or that cause such person or persons to engage in an act of a sexual nature by force, or by threat of force or coercion, such as that caused by fear of violence, duress, detention, psychological oppression or abuse of power, or by taking advantage of a coercive environment or such person’s or persons’ incapacity to give genuine consent. Forms of sexual violence include rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual aggression of comparable gravity.

23. “Staff member”, as defined in the AU Staff Regulations and Rules (2010), means any person employed by the AU as continuing regular, fixed-term or short-term personnel on the basis of a daily wage or monthly salary as provided for in the AU Regulations and Rules.

24. “Transactional sex” means sexual relationships where the giving of gifts or services, such as rent, phones, clothes, drinks, drugs, grades, or education, support to the family and employment is an important factor. Transactional sex relationships are distinct from prostitution, in that the exchange of gifts for sex includes a broader set of (usually non-marital) obligations that do not necessarily involve a predetermined payment or gift, but where there is a definite motivation to benefit materially from the sexual exchange.

25. “Victim of SEA” is a person who is, or has been, sexually exploited and/or abused.

26. “Whistleblower” means any person who exposes any kind of information or activity that is deemed illegal, unethical, and/or evidence of past, current or prospective PSO misconduct or any other violation or act which jeopardizes the integrity and mandate of the PSO. It includes any individual(s) who may be applicants, current or former staff members of the AU Commission (irrespective of employment status and duration), personnel who are engaged in activities relevant to the PSOs or individuals who are adversely affected by the activities of the PSOs irrespective of their affiliation with the PSOs.

References

1. African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, 1981
2. AU Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1999
3. Constitutive Act of the African Union, 2000
4. United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, 2000
5. Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union, 2002
6. Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, 2003
7. United Nations Secretary-General’s Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13), 2003
8. Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), 2007
9. AU Gender Policy, 2009

10. AU Staff Regulations and Rules, 2010
11. PSC communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.(CDLXI), 461st meeting of 14 October 2014
12. The AU Code of Ethics and Conduct, 2016
13. AUC Harassment Policy, 2016
14. PSC communiqué PSC/PR/COMM. (DCLXXXIX), 689th meeting of 30 May 2017
15. AU Policy on Conduct and Discipline for PSOs, 2018

1. Background and Context

1.1 The African Union (AU) embodies the aspirations, togetherness, and determination of the African people, especially in relation to advancing peace, prosperity, human rights and freedoms for the inhabitants of the African continent. In this regard, an objective of the AU, articulated in its Constitutive Act is to “promote peace, security, and stability on the continent.” In realizing this objective, the AU established the Peace and Security Council (PSC) to, inter alia, promote peace, security and stability in Africa and undertake peace support operations (PSOs)³ in accordance with Article 4, subparagraphs (h) and (j), of the AU Constitutive Act.⁴

1.2 The AU has progressively played an expanded role in African peace support efforts, especially following the establishment of the PSC.⁵ Since its establishment, the PSC has either mandated or authorized PSOs in a number of contexts on the continent, including Burundi, Comoros, Darfur (Sudan), Mali, Central African Republic, and Lord’s Resistance Army affected countries, Somalia, Sahel and the countries of Lake Chad Basin, to cite a few. Moreover, additional efforts have been put in place for the enhancement of the African Standby Force (ASF) in order to address conflict on the continent more swiftly, systematically and effectively. It is in this context, that the AUC is developing various doctrines, policies, guidelines and directives to guide its current and future PSOs.

1.3 As this process has been ongoing, one critical gap has emerged in relation to the need to be more cognizant of the role of women in peace processes and the need to address the specific vulnerabilities of women and children in conflict situations. While issues of SEA have been a constant feature of conflicts, it was in the early 1990s that the international community realized its magnitude and began to take collective decisions towards addressing it. Indeed, increased demands have been placed on PSOs to ensure that they are managed in a manner that promotes and protects human rights and empowers and protects women and girls, in particular, as well as men and boys, against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). It has been recognized that the underlining causes of SEA have been based on gender inequality, discrimination and patterns of violence against women, men, boys and girls. These have particularly highlighted the need to ensure accountability and end impunity for all forms of SEA. This Policy fits into these ongoing efforts to prevent and address violations, and in particular SEA, committed by AU staff and mission personnel.

1.4 The AU is committed to eradicating SGBV in Africa. As part of this, the AU has developed a range of instruments that Member States have agreed to adhere to and promote, including the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa which, inter alia, committed to initiate, launch and engage sustained public campaigns against gender-based violence. On this basis and also in recognition of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and the fact that all persons, and women in particular, are especially vulnerable to SGBV in conflict and post-

³ See Article 6 (a) and 9 (d) of the PSC Protocol.

⁴ Article 4 (h): The right of the Union to intervene in a Member State pursuant to a decision for the Assembly in respect of grave circumstances, namely: war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity; Article 4 (j) the right of Member States to request intervention from the Union in order to restore peace and security.

⁵ The Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC of the AU was adopted in Durban on 9 July 2002.

conflict situations, the AU is determined to proactively strengthen measures in AU PSOs to prevent and respond to SEA.

1.5 The AU has focused on operationalizing its various instruments on SGBV and SEA through the work of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) and through the appointment of a Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security in February 2014. The AU has also created a specific capacity to address misconduct, including SEA in PSOs at both the AUC HQ and PSO level, including through the work of the Office of Ethics. Similarly, it has also established gender, human rights and child protection capacities and frameworks at the HQ and in PSOs. This Policy is therefore part of this broad effort.

1.6 Finally, while recognizing the need to adopt African solutions to African problems, this SEA Policy draws from numerous international instruments, including the AU and United Nations frameworks, such as the PSC communiqué of 461th meeting on sexual violence in conflict situations in Africa and the United Nations Secretary-General's Bulletin (ST/SGB/2003/13) on Special Measures for Protection from SEA. It also seeks to develop a policy that is responsive to AU experiences in PSOs. In this regard, it has been informed by an assessment conducted in 2014 on SEA in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the AU's largest PSO to date.

2. Rationale

2.1 The AU considers SEA as serious misconduct and has a "zero tolerance" approach towards SEA. SEA could also have a particularly detrimental impact on the ability of a PSO to execute its mandate, especially in establishing trust and goodwill and winning the "hearts and minds" of the population. This, in turn, can lead to an erosion of credibility, which can have negative political, legal, military, humanitarian, and security implications for AU PSOs, and ultimately the AU.

2.2 The Policy sets the minimum standards to be followed by all AU PSOs. Indeed, each PSO is encouraged to strive for effective standards and to develop their own strategies and procedures to uphold the SEA Policy and the core principles upon which it is based.

3. Scope of the Policy

3.1 This Policy shall apply to all AU PSOs and their mission personnel for all cases of SEA committed in the PSO mission area whether the individual was on official duty at the time of the offence or not. It also applies to mission personnel outside of the mission area when and where they are on official duty and/or performing tasks in the name of the PSO and/or the AUC.

3.2 This Policy shall also apply to all personnel in the mission area that provide service(s) on behalf of or in the name of the AU (e.g. contractors and consultants) for all cases of SEA committed in the mission area.

3.3 All mission personnel are to be made aware of the provisions of this Policy and are expected to comply with the same. This Policy complements the AU Gender Policy (2009), the AU Harassment Policy (2016), the AU Code of Ethics and Conduct (2016) and other documents and guidelines aiming to protect victims and whistleblowers. In addition, it should be read in conjunction with the 2018 draft AU Policy on Conduct and Discipline for PSO, which provides for detailed procedures for addressing acts of misconduct for different categories of mission personnel.

3.4 This Policy prescribes what constitutes SEA and what the expected behaviour of AU mission personnel entails.

3.5 PSOs, mandated and authorized by the AU PSC, are expected to apply and integrate these standards of conduct into their mission documents and processes.

4. Purpose of the Policy

4.1 The purpose of the present Policy is to strengthen the AU's prevention and response efforts to SEA and to establish minimum requirements for all AU PSOs in this regard. This Policy therefore seeks to achieve the following four objectives:

- (a) Enforcement of the AU zero stance on SEA;
- (b) Strengthen leadership and management engagement, roles and response to SEA;
- (c) Reinforce mechanisms and measures for preventing and responding to allegations of SEA and to ensure that AU personnel involved in SEA are held accountable; and
- (d) Specify the manner and type of assistance, as well as redress, that is to be provided to victims and families of SEA by AU PSO mission personnel.

5. Guiding Values and Core Principles

5.1 This Policy will be guided by the values and principles stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the AU (2000), the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the AU (PSC Protocol, 2002) and the commitments of the AU Heads of State, AU organs, and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RMs), including:

- (a) The promotion and protection of all human rights, including women's rights;
- (b) The promotion of women empowerment, gender equality and gender mainstreaming;
- (c) The condemnation of sexual violence in all its forms and the elimination of impunity for sexual violence;
- (d) The principles of impartiality, dignity, integrity and mutual respect for others, especially in PSO contexts;
- (e) The promotion of good governance, accountability, inclusiveness and meaningful engagement of key stakeholders in AU institutions, including civil society organizations and other non-governmental actors. The promotion of the rule of law, holistic justice and primacy of due process and timely and effective administration of justice;
- (f) The application of the principle of subsidiarity to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the policy at all levels.

6. Acts that constitute SEA and prohibited behaviour

6.1 Sexual abuse refers to any action or behaviour of a sexual nature that coerces, threatens or forces a person to engage in a sexual activity (penetrative and non-penetrative), that they would not otherwise have engaged in, and often without being able to give their consent. Sexual abuse includes the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, and occurs under coercive conditions, which are often reflective of unequal power relations and harmful behaviour.

6.2 Sexual exploitation is the inducement, incitement, coercion and compelling of another person to undertake a sexual activity through abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, dependency or trust. Sexual exploitation includes, but is not limited to, exploiting material, monetary, social, psychological and political advantages to induce a person to engage in a sexual activity. In this context, sexual exploitation applies not only to actual sexual activity but also to an attempt to engage in such activity. An act of sexual exploitation occurs when the particular person would have had no substantial option, and no reasonable choice but to succumb to pressure

to engage in a sexual activity. Sexual exploitation is harmful and exploitative behaviour which occurs in the context of hierarchical interactions and relationships.

6.3 Acts that constitute SEA are prohibited behaviour and include acts outlined in paragraphs (a) to (d). Some of the acts outlined can be overlapping (e.g. exchange of money, employment, goods and services for sex, and transactional sex):

(a) Exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex, including sexual favours or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behaviour is considered to be sexual exploitation and is therefore prohibited. This includes any exchange of assistance that is due to the local population, participants and/or beneficiaries of assistance, for sex.

(b) Any action or behaviour of a sexual nature that coerces, threatens or forces a person to engage in a sexual activity (penetrative and non-penetrative) is considered to be sexual abuse. Sexual abuse of the local population, participants and/or beneficiaries of assistance is prohibited.

(c) Sexual activity involving children of the local population, participants and/or beneficiaries of assistance is prohibited, regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally. Mistaken belief as to the age of a child is not a defence.

(d) Transactional sex is prohibited, since it is based on inherently unequal power dynamics. Such relationships undermine the integrity and credibility of mission personnel, PSOs and the AU at large.

6.4 Additionally, sexual relationships between any member of mission personnel (military, police or civilian) and members of the local population are strongly discouraged since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics. Such relationships may undermine the credibility and integrity of the mission. A PSO might make a mission specific determination to prohibit sexual relationships with local population entirely, as deemed necessary.

7. Duty of personnel to prevent and report SEA

7.1 All mission personnel are obliged to create and maintain an environment that prevents SEA and have the duty to promote the implementation of the present Policy. Mission leadership at all levels have particular responsibilities to support and develop systems that maintain this environment.

7.2 When mission personnel observe suspicious conduct or when they become aware through other means of suspicious conduct occurring regarding SEA by other mission personnel, they have a duty to report such concerns via the existing reporting procedures established in the PSO.

8. Consequences of SEA

8.1 Consequences of committing SEA are as follows:

(a) SEA by mission personnel are acts of serious misconduct and are therefore grounds for disciplinary action, including termination of employment, contracts and other engagements with the AU, as well as criminal prosecution, depending on the circumstance of the SEA. SEA could also constitute violations of norms of international humanitarian law and international and regional human rights law;

(b) Any mission personnel found to have committed SEA will no longer be eligible to serve as personnel for the AU or AU PSOs in any capacity;

(c) Companies that have knowledge that their personnel and/or agents have been/are engaged in SEA and take no measures to prevent and respond to SEA, will be ineligible for any contract with the AU or AU PSOs;

(d) Any mission personnel found to have committed SEA shall be required to provide assistance and/or to pay redress to the victim(s) and their families in accordance with the provisions outlined in Section 10;

(e) The PSO, T/PCCs, countries sending civilian personnel and the AUC are all expected to facilitate the provision of support to children born as a consequence of SEA and shall put in place mechanisms to support and facilitate this process, taking into account the provisions set out in paragraph 10.24, below.

9. Overall approach and considerations

9.1 This Policy shall be implemented in all AU PSOs with guidance and support from the appropriate departments and offices within the AUC, including PSD, especially PSOD, the WGDD and the Office of the Special Envoy for Women Peace and Security. The AUC, through PSOD, will work in consultation with these departments and offices, as well as PSOs, to develop further operational guidelines and procedures as may be necessary.

9.2 At the PSO level, the Head of Mission (HOM) is expected to provide leadership and ensure that this Policy is implemented. In this role, the HOM will be supported by the conduct and discipline unit or focal point, as well as the security, legal, police, human rights, gender and other relevant civilian capacities in the PSO. S/he may also call on any other capacities that s/he deems appropriate. In this regard, it may be prudent for the HOM to constitute a multifaceted working group to support him/her in this role.

10. Key Actions to be taken in respect of PSOs on SEA

10.1 The following are the key actions that each PSO is required to take, structured around four interlocking areas:

- (a) Leadership engagement and responsibilities;
- (b) Prevention efforts;
- (c) Complaint and response mechanisms;
- (d) Victim assistance and redress.

Leadership engagement and responsibilities AUC

10.2 The AUC shall ensure that a conduct and discipline office/unit or focal point is established in the PSO at its inception.

The Head of Mission

10.3 The HOM shall ensure proper functioning of the conduct and discipline office or unit. In addition, s/he is required to ensure that this capacity is accessible to local communities in the host State. In this regard, s/he might consider designating focal points dealing with SEA in the regions and sectors, as may be appropriate, to support the implementation of this Policy.

10.4 The HOM is responsible for creating and maintaining an environment that prevents SEA, and shall take appropriate measures for this purpose. In particular, the HOM shall ensure that all mission personnel are made aware of this Policy and informed of the AUC's approach and response to SEA. In this regard, the HOM shall ensure the development of a mission-specific work plan to prevent and respond to SEA.

10.5 The HOM shall ensure that at the mission level, all components (military, police and civilian) consistently and regularly incorporate reports on SEA in their progress reports.

10.6 The HOM shall ensure that at the mission level, this policy is disseminated and reflected in, terms of reference and contracts, as appropriate.

10.7 The HOM shall be responsible for providing periodic reports to the AUC on SEA, as specified in the monitoring and reporting section of this Policy.

Senior Mission Leadership Team

10.8 The Senior Leadership Team, officers and supervisors are required to support the HOM in his/her role, and to ensure that all mission personnel comply with this Policy.

Prevention Efforts AUC

10.9 The AUC shall establish a mechanism to verify prior perpetrators of SEA are not deployed or redeployed to AU PSOs, in compliance with applicable laws and to the best of the AU's abilities. This should include engaging with AU Member States to ensure that they perform thorough vetting and screening as well as background and criminal reference checks of military and police personnel during pre-deployment verifications and of civilian personnel upon a request from the AUC.

10.10 The AUC shall ensure that the provisions of this Policy are included in the guidelines and other issuances provided to countries sending personnel to a PSO prior to the deployment.

10.11 The AUC shall ensure the MoU it enters with T/PCC contain clauses on what needs to be done in cases of SEA.

10.12 During pre-deployment verification (PDV) visits, the AUC shall make sure that training on matters relating to SEA are included and conducted prior to deployment to the mission area.

10.13 The AUC in collaboration with PSOs shall incorporate SEA in all induction material and other relevant codes of behaviour for mission personnel.

10.14 The AUC shall ensure that when entering into agreement with other actors and partners, the agreements:

- (a) Incorporate the present Policy as an annex;
- (b) Include a commitment by such actors to comply with this Policy;
- (c) Expressly state that failure by partners to adhere to this policy shall constitute grounds for termination of such agreements or contracts; and
- (d) Institute some mechanisms which would allow for the compliance of such contractual obligations.

AU PSOs

10.15 PSOs shall be required to have in place concerted campaigns against SEA throughout the life of the mission. These campaigns shall be both internal and external, and shall clearly enunciate the position of the specific PSO and the AU on SEA. Information education communication (IEC) materials such as videos, brochures, posters, pamphlets, t-shirts, billboards, and jingles shall include contact information of designated officials and offices for receiving complaints, whenever appropriate. The external campaign shall especially endeavour to use platforms and mediums accessible to the most vulnerable members of the population, such as NGOs' fora, radio, community theatres, cinemas, religious institutions, community fora, billboards, among others.

10.16 PSOs shall engage and consult with host communities and governments in determining and implementing measures for preventing SEA.

10.17 Mission leadership, including contingent commanders, battalion commanders and unit commanders, as well as managers and supervisors at all levels, have a particular responsibility to support, implement and develop systems that maintain an environment that prevents SEA, based on the overall leadership of the HOM and guidance from the AUC.

Mission Personnel

10.18 All mission personnel are obliged to create and maintain an environment that prevents SEA.

Troop and Police Contributing Countries

10.19 It is the responsibility of T/PCCs to inform and keep the AUC updated on actions they have taken in respect of SEA.

10.20 T/PCCs are expected to integrate training/sensitization sessions on prevention and response to SEA as part of compulsory pre-deployment training prior to deployment of any contingent/unit to an AU PSO. Training on SEA will be a precondition for individual deployments as well.

Complaint and Response Mechanisms

10.21 The HOM shall ensure that the proper procedures are in place in PSOs for the conduct and discipline office/unit or focal point, serve to receive complaints and coordinate all the other mechanisms established for receiving complaints. The conduct and discipline office/unit or focal point or any other mechanism established to receive complaints shall ensure:

- (a) Accessibility to the community, especially women and children;
- (b) Security of the mechanism (this does not preclude non-physical mechanisms, including via email, mobile communications, among others);
- (c) Confidence of the community in the mechanism;
- (d) Confidentiality of the mechanism; and
- (e) Respect for the culture and practices of the host community, provided that such culture and practices are not contrary to human rights norms and standards.

10.22 AU PSOs shall take appropriate measures to preserve the confidentiality and anonymity of victims and complainants in order to protect them against stigmatization, backlash and other negative implications for having reported SEA. Any action in the interest of the victim shall be guided by his/her informed consent.

10.23 In consultation with the AUC, and in strict adherence with the relevant provisions of the AU Whistleblower Policy (once adopted), the PSOs shall take appropriate action, using the resources and means at their disposal, to protect these persons from discrimination, retribution or retaliation when allegations of SEA are made.

10.24 The process to be followed in order to address allegations of SEA in respect of each of the categories of PSO mission personnel (military, police, civilian) is outlined in the AU Policy on Conduct and Discipline for PSO.

10.25 The HOM, in consultation with the conduct and discipline office/unit or focal point, shall ensure that investigations of allegations of SEA are timely, sensitive, confidential and impartial, and carried out in a professional manner. Where there are any concerns about the manner in which the investigation is being carried out, such concerns shall be brought to the attention of the AUC, through the appropriate channel.

10.26 While investigations are still being conducted, and if necessary, the HOM, in consultation with the conduct and discipline office/unit or focal point or other designated office/focal point, may implement interim measures if this is in the best interests of and for the safety of the victim, the PSO and/or the integrity of the investigation process.

10.27 The HOM shall inform the AUC of any allegation of SEA in a timely manner. It is the AUC's responsibility to follow up with T/PCCs for military or police personnel and with relevant Member States for civilian personnel implicated in, or accused of perpetrating SEA. The objective is to ensure that necessary and appropriate action against alleged perpetrators of SEA is taken and that victims and families of SEA are supported and/or compensated.

10.28 Frequent feedback and communication with complainants and victims on the progress of their cases against alleged perpetrators of SEA is vital. Regular feedback and communication not only assure the complainants, victims, local populations and host communities that the AU PSO, and by extension the AU, take the allegations of SEA seriously, but also facilitates trust-building, healing and closure. The involvement of victims and complainants may include their participation in proceedings, in case they wish so. At the conclusion of the investigation, the complainant and victims should be informed about the outcome and the steps that have been taken towards redress.

10.29 When SEA has generated community, public or media interest, the PSO shall adopt, as appropriate, the measures described in the Policy on Conduct and Discipline for PSOs on engagement with the public and media.

Victim Assistance and Redress Considerations in providing redress

10.30 In cases of SEA, victims have the right to remedy for harm suffered, which entails access to justice, reparations and being informed about the process that concerns them. Comprehensive, timely and responsive assistance and/or redress shall be provided to complainants, victims as well as children born as a result of SEA. The main principles that should guide any assistance to be provided to victims and complainants are outlined in paragraph 10.34, below. However, the three overriding considerations when providing assistance are:

- (a) The best interests of the victims and any children born as a result of SEA, including the need to ensure that assistance and/or redress does not do any harm, such as causing stigmatization or increasing the trauma suffered by victim(s);
- (b) The resources available and accessible to the PSO; and
- (c) The need to provide assistance and/or redress in such a manner as to minimize disparities among similar or comparable cases, taking into consideration the context of the PSO and the specific circumstances of each case.

10.31 The AUC shall ensure that resources for provision of assistance and redress to complainants and victims are specifically designated for this purpose in the budget of the PSO.

10.32 Victims should also be entitled to obtain assistance and/or redress from the perpetrator(s), country of origin of the perpetrator(s), and from other sources that the PSO may identify and deem appropriate. The AUC shall support the victims with such claims.

Mechanism for providing assistance and redress

10.33 While underlying the primary responsibility of T/PCCs to assist and compensate victims of SEA committed by their personnel, the AUC shall also establish a mechanism to support the provision of victim assistance and/or redress for SEA victims and their families, in consultations with a PSO. Such a mechanism shall be supported by the Conduct and Discipline Office/Unit or focal point and/or the gender, civil affairs, political or human rights offices/units, Ethics Office or any other relevant unit. This mechanism should have its own working procedures and shall consider various ways and means for assisting victims and ensuring that victims and their families receive redress for SEA.

10.34 In reviewing cases and requests for assistance and/or redress, the established mechanism in the AU PSOs shall consult with local NGOs, community-based organizations, community leaders and any other relevant individuals in order to make informed and prudent decisions.

10.35 Victims should receive individually tailored assistance and support in accordance with their individual needs directly arising from the SEA. This assistance and support can comprise logistical support (travel, accommodation, and interpretation), medical care, legal services, psychosocial support, immediate material care, such as food, clothing, emergency medical care, as well as emergency and safe shelter, as necessary. This can also include a referral to another organization, NGO or other body that is capable to provide an adequate assistance to the victim, when available. The redress may also consist of a monetary or material redress as well as other forms of redress such as public apologies, acceptance of responsibility for the action and the harm suffered, among others.

10.36 Upon determination of the type of assistance and/or redress to be provided to the victim, the PSO shall designate an official and/or office to facilitate the provision of assistance and redress. The mechanism established for this purpose shall follow up on a regular basis to ensure that the assistance and/or redress is provided and may call on the HOM or any other office in the PSO for assistance, if required. The case will be considered closed once the victim has been fully assisted and can meet the needs arising from the SEA independently. In cases where redress is to be provided, the case will be considered closed once the redress to be provided has been received and acknowledged by the victim.

10.37 The mechanism established for victim assistance shall keep proper and secure records of its communications and deliberations with the victims, their families and non-governmental actors and prepare an annual report of all victims assisted. Such report shall include all relevant information, including the type of assistance provided, the cost of the assistance provided, and the current circumstances of the victims, to the best of the PSO's knowledge. The report shall also indicate whether the matter is closed or ongoing, and highlight any aspects that require additional follow-up with national authorities. This report shall be forwarded to the AUC, through PSOD, for review, consideration and further action, as appropriate. Where the interest of the victim so requires, the reporting procedure shall ensure confidentiality in reporting on victim assistance or identity of victims and incidents.

10.38 In carrying out this role, the mechanism of assistance established in a PSO shall develop a secure system for tracking and following up on all cases of assistance and redress.

10.39 The AUC, through PSO, should equally be kept informed of all cases of assistance and redress provided by T/PCCs by their own means and through their own mechanisms.

Guiding principles in providing assistance and redress

10.40 The AUC, PSOs, P/TCCs and countries sending civilian personnel to PSOs shall consider all cases that require assistance and/or redress as a result of SEA and determine the nature of the assistance and/or redress in each case. In so doing they shall be guided by the following principles:

(a) Victims, especially victims of SEA, are generally vulnerable, disadvantaged, and have minimal or no education and resources. They are often ostracized and shunned by their communities. Consequently, in order for

them to relay and follow through with a complaint, they may require help from another person in whom they have confidence and who can represent their interests, serve as a facilitator and act as their “voice” in the process. Accordingly, the mechanism should consider appointing a Victim Advocate/Facilitator for all cases of SEA in the PSO. The Victim Advocate/Facilitator need not be mission personnel, but could be from within the community or from various non-governmental actors. The critical considerations should be that the victim has confidence in the Victim Advocate/Facilitator and s/he is willing and able to act as Victim Advocate/Facilitator;

(b) The acceptance of assistance and/or redress is voluntary. Consequently, the victim should not be forced or coerced into accepting assistance and/or redress. Accordingly, the rights of the complainants, the victim and of any child born as a result of SEA, is to be respected. This includes the right to refuse certain assistance or to refrain or withdraw from participating in an assistance programme. Therefore, it is good practice to obtain the consent of the victim that s/he accepts the assistance and/or being provided in a verifiable form;

(c) The provision of assistance to victims or complainants should be treated separately from the allegation and investigation processes. Assistance must not be made contingent on the complainant’s cooperation in an investigation process;

(d) Assistance should complement, rather than duplicate existing support to survivors of abuse and violence and, to the greatest extent possible should be integrated into existing programmes. Consequently, the AUC should consider entering into arrangements with NGOs to provide assistance directly to the victims and in turn either reimburse the NGOs directly or provide support to the NGOs;

(e) Assistance and/or redress provided to complainants, victims and children born out of SEA should not discriminate on the basis of any social category, including gender, age, ethnicity and educational background, among others;

(f) The provision of any assistance and support by the PSO is not an acknowledgement that the claims of SEA have any validity.

Specific requirements in providing redress

10.41 Children born out of SEA by mission personnel are to be assisted in obtaining child support from their parents, including through legal, diplomatic and other appropriate means required to ensure that they obtain the support expeditiously and consistently.

10.42 The duration of the provision of assistance should be set in accordance with individual needs directly arising out of the SEA. The aim is to enable, in the most expedient and efficient way, the person receiving assistance to address such needs independently.

11. Reporting and Monitoring

11.1 The Mission shall maintain a secure up-to-date record of all cases under this Policy, both as stand-alone records and as part of the overall recording of misconduct cases in the misconduct database tracking system, once established.

11.2 AU PSOs shall report to the AUC regularly, at least once a month, on all allegations of SEA, including the actions that the PSO is taking or has taken. The report shall also indicate any support or guidance that the PSO may require from the AUC. Such internal reports shall maintain confidentiality of the identity of the victim and the incidents and sharing of information shall be made on a need-to-know basis.

11.3 AU PSOs shall provide annual reports on SEA that include the following:

- (a) A comprehensive list and analysis on all allegations of SEA in their respective PSOs and the actions taken or required to be taken by the AU and national authorities, with due regard to confidentiality and integrity of evidence;
- (b) A comprehensive analysis on the state of play in relation to SEA in the PSO, including an analysis on trends, patterns and nature of SEA, if it is occurring;
- (c) A description and analysis of the actions and major gaps, under the four broad themes of:
 - (i) Leadership engagement;
 - (ii) Prevention;
 - (iii) Complaint mechanisms; and
 - (iv) Response and victim assistance, taken by the mission to address SEA;
- (d) Identification and analysis of the bottlenecks and actions taken or planned to be taken to address and mitigate against the impact of SEA;
- (e) Best practices and lessons learned that have emerged with respect to the implementation of the SEA Policy;
- (f) Concrete recommendations on this Policy, including its effectiveness, applicability and areas where the Policy could be further strengthened.

11.4 The AUC shall compile this information from all AU PSOs and prepare a comprehensive report for submission to the PSC regularly, taking into account confidentiality and sensitivity of the information provided by PSOs.

12. Entry into Force

12.1 This Policy will take effect following the endorsement by the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security.

12.2 This Policy can be amended and revised periodically, as and when necessary.

Assembly/AU/Decl.6 (XXXII)

Declaration on WTO Issues of the Seventh Meeting of the African Ministers of Trade Cairo, Egypt, 12 to 13 December 2018

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 10 to 11 February 2019, adopt the Declaration of the Ministers of Trade of the Member States of the African Union, held in Cairo, Egypt, on 12 and 13 December 2018, at the occasion of the Seventh Meeting of the African Ministers of Trade (AMOT) (as annexed).

Annex

“We, Ministers of Trade of the Member States of the African Union, meeting in Cairo, on 12 and 13 December 2018, at the occasion of the Seventh Meeting of the African Ministers of Trade (AMOT) in order to, among other

things, review the state of play in the WTO negotiations, following the outcome of the Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference,

Took note of the recent developments at the WTO since our last meeting on 18 September 2017, including the rise in trade protectionist measures that have been challenged as being in breach of WTO rules and principles, the Appellate Body impasse, and new negotiating proposals by a few members that include calls to change the rules and procedures in the WTO,

Also took note of the informal processes among groups of members in the Joint Statement Initiatives on electronic commerce, investment facilitation, domestic regulation, and micro, medium and small enterprises and acknowledged that some African Group Members participate in these informal processes,

Concerned with the multiple difficulties and challenges faced by African countries who are in the process of acceding to the WTO,

Acknowledged and welcomed developments to achieve the objectives of the African Union's "Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want", through a rules-based governance system established by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),

Reconfirmed our pledge to work on supporting efforts in the multilateral trading system that promote and defend Africa's interests in line with the African Union's "Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want", and recognized the need to build coherence by ensuring that the African Group's negotiating objectives at the WTO fully support the AfCFTA objectives for continental industrialization, structural transformation and integration,

Welcomed the growing recognition of the importance of industrial policy for development,

Agreed to:

1. *Reiterate* our concern with the lack of progress on issues of long-standing importance to Africa;
2. *Reaffirm* positions adopted in the AMOT Ministerial Declaration of 30 November 2016, notably African Trade Ministers' (AMOT) commitment to meaningful outcomes on trade distorting domestic support, cotton, public stockholding for food security purposes, the special safeguard mechanism and special and differential treatment (SDT); recognize the challenges faced by net food-importing developing countries (NFIDCs) and emphasize that any outcome in agriculture negotiations shall accord flexibilities to address NFIDCs and least developed countries (LDCs) particular situation;
3. *Recall and reaffirm* the importance of implementing WTO Ministerial and General Council Decisions and Declarations adopted since Doha in 2001, which keep development at the centre of the work programme;
4. *Reaffirm* the importance of the negotiations on fisheries subsidies and the need for SDT for African countries to guarantee the policy space necessary to strengthen their fishing industries and capacities for economic and social development;
5. *Reiterate* our concerns that the Aid for Trade Initiative should contribute to meeting the objectives of trade-related capacity-building, overcoming supply-side constraints, infrastructure development, or facilitating the integration of developing economies, in particular LDCs, in regional and global trade in ways that support their development. We call upon Member States to strengthen and improve the Aid for Trade Initiative so that it delivers real benefits to recipient developing countries and LDCs and to avoid conditioning its implementation to the participation on negotiating new issues in the WTO;

6. *Commit* to strengthen, in close coordination with Ministries responsible for Trade, on our common positions and stay abreast of all developments at the WTO, and ensure that development remains an integral component of all negotiating outcomes for all African economies in line with the Doha Development Mandate;
7. *Reiterate* our commitment in pursuing outcomes on special and differential treatment in line with paragraph 44 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration;
8. *Reaffirm* that the SDT shall be an integral part of all WTO agreements and future multilateral outcomes and shall be embodied, as appropriate, in schedules of concessions and commitments and in the rules and disciplines, so as to be operationally effective and to enable developing countries, in particular LDCs in Africa, to effectively address their development needs in line with Africa's industrial development priorities as encapsulated in the African Union's Agenda 2063 on structural transformation and industrialization;
9. *Invite* all WTO members to extend to African graduating countries the existing SDT measures and exemptions available to LDCs for a period appropriate to the development situation of those countries;
10. *Pledge* support to African countries in the process of WTO accession and urge members to desist from making unreasonable requests on African acceding countries to extend any commitments made as a result of their membership to the AfCFTA or that are inconsistent with their levels of development;
11. *Underscore* that Africa's priority trade policy objective is the AfCFTA that will build a single African market for trade in goods and services, and to ensure that WTO outcomes do not undermine those objectives;
12. *Recommit* to a rules-based multilateral trading system that is fair, equitable, inclusive and development-oriented, and that prioritizes Africa's interests;
13. *Reaffirm* the importance of preserving and adhering to the principles and procedures of the WTO as established in the Marrakech Agreement. These include: the architecture for development and special and differential treatment, for developing countries and least developed countries; the procedures and principles governing plurilateral agreements; a multilateral mandate as the necessary prerequisite to advance any negotiating proposal at the WTO and the WTO Secretariat preservation of its international stature and constant stance above the partisan position of members;
14. *Oppose* unilateral trade measures and call on WTO members to refrain from any and all measures that undermine WTO principles and the rules-based multilateral trading system;
15. *Urge* that priority attention is given to resolving the Appellate Body impasse and commit to work with all WTO members to find mutually agreeable solutions, while preserving the essential features and integrity of the system;
16. *Insist* that any discussions on the future of the WTO shall include the views and interests of the African Group and address the core issues of development and inclusiveness;
17. *Instruct* officials to work towards a common position on the WTO reform.

Assembly/AU/Decl.7 (XXXII)

Declaration on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 10 and 11 February 2019,

Taking note of the report on the situation in Palestine and the Middle East and recalling all the previous resolutions and decisions adopted by the Organization of African Unity/African Union on the situation in Palestine aimed at achieving a lasting peace and security in the Middle East,

Reaffirming our full support for the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organization in their legitimate struggle against the Israeli occupation, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, in order to restore their inalienable right to establish an independent Palestinian State existing side by side with the State of Israel,

Reiterating our desire to find a peaceful political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions calling for the establishment of a Palestinian State on the borders of 4 June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital on the basis of the two-State solution and in conformity with the United Nations resolution 194 on the return of Palestinian refugees,

Renewing our call for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East and in support of all initiatives aimed at finding a lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict,

Committed to negotiations through an international multilateral mechanism that includes all permanent status issues, borders, security, settlements, refugees, water and prisoners, premised upon international human rights and humanitarian law, ensuring that the agreements are implemented within a specified period of time and providing guarantees for implementation,

Restating the steadfastness of our position in support of the just Palestinian cause and the continued efforts of the Union to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace for the Palestinian people,

Renewing our call to all countries to uphold the legitimate legal status of the city of East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine and to refrain from any action or act that would undermine the legitimate status of the city of Jerusalem, in particular to refrain from transferring embassies accredited to Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. We look forward to Member States to abide by the decisions reflecting the African consensus and the Union's policy on the Palestinian issue,

Reaffirming that all settlements in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights are null and void and condemn the policy of land confiscation, house demolitions, forced displacement of civilians, policies of racial discrimination and all measures of collective punishment implemented in the course of intensive colonial activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, which constitute a violation of and a war crime under international law,

Hereby declare as follows:

1. *Denounce* all repressive measures of occupation, and the policy of torture and execution in the field against Palestinian citizens, especially targeting medical personnel, children, women and people with special needs who go about their business and/or demonstrate peacefully. We consider them crimes against humanity and war crimes in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention. We call for the urgent international protection of the Palestinian people under occupation in accordance with the decisions of the international community;

2. *Reiterate* various decisions of the African Union reaffirming the entire territory of East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine within the borders of 4 June 1967 and call for the preservation of the sanctity of the Christian and Islamic holy sites in the holy city and the freedom to practice the religious rites of the heavenly religions and further call on all Member States in their relations to take into account the specificity of East Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the State of Palestine;

3. *Deplore* the successive Israeli policies aimed at "Judaization" of the city of Jerusalem and its historical, legal and demographic nature, and the continuous aggression against Islamic and Christian holy sites, which imposes strict security restrictions on the worshippers and restricts freedom of worship in the holy city and call

upon the United Nations to monitor the implementation of UNESCO's decision of 26 October 2016 concerning Jerusalem and to ensure the full implementation of the decision;

4. *Condemn* the policy of ethnic cleansing through forced displacement, house demolitions and the policy of racial discrimination practiced by the Israelis against Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem through evacuation orders for Palestinian Bedouin communities in the Red Khan in the vicinity of Jerusalem, whose aim is to isolate the holy city, cut off its geographical connection with the territories of the occupied West Bank in 1967, and achieve the demographic superiority of the settlers over the owners of the land of Jerusalem;

5. *Also condemn* the Israeli settlement plans being implemented at an accelerated pace in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine, and the Jordan Valley in contravention of the rules of international law, in particular Security Council resolution 2334;

6. *Implore* all African countries to end all forms of direct and indirect dealings with the illegal Israeli colonial settlement system in the territory of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 2334 and the previous AU decisions in this regard;

7. *Reject* the racist Jewish national law, which recognizes the Jewishness of the State of Israel, restricts the State and citizenship to the Jewish people only, denying two million Arab Palestinians (Muslim and Christian) their fundamental human rights and supports the confiscation of Palestinian land in favour of Israeli settlement;

8. *Renew* our support for the vision and initiative of President Mahmoud Abbas for peace presented to the Security Council on 20 February 2018, which is based on the outcomes of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative, through international multilateral mediation, within a specific time frame and deplore the campaign of incitement and distortion aimed at Palestinian President Abbas and the Palestinian leadership;

9. *Consider* that the Palestinian refugees are all Palestinians who have been displaced from the historic land of Palestine since the Nakba in 1948, or left before this date and could not return, all of whom must enjoy the absolute right to return to their lands and homes, while retaining the right to just compensation for the harm suffered;

10. *Reject* the measures aimed at the liquidation of UNRWA services and warn of the consequences of the United States administration's attitude towards the Palestinian refugees, which contravenes the provisions of United Nations resolution 194 and call for the enhancement of the institutional capacity of the Agency in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution 302;

11. *Support* the legitimate Palestinian right to full membership of the United Nations and call upon Member States to render solidarity to the State of Palestine in its efforts to join international organizations and support the vision of the Palestinian leadership for a final solution to the conflict, in accordance with the two-State solution, which enjoys international consensus, the rejection of partial and incomplete solutions and the idea of a provisional State;

12. *Condemn* Israel's adoption of a law that would sanction the execution of Palestinian prisoners, which constitutes a clear violation of all international laws, charters and conventions that guarantee the protection of civilians and prisoners during war and call upon the international community to stand up against these arbitrary measures;

13. *Express our deep concern* about the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip as a result of the Israeli blockade and hold the Israeli occupation fully responsible for the situation in the Gaza Strip; believe that the crisis in the Gaza Strip is an occupation crisis and that this crisis should be dealt with by ending the occupation and enabling the geographical and political unity of the Palestinian territories between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and call on the international community to work to end this unjust Israeli blockade;

14. *Affirm* that a just solution to the Palestinian cause and the achievement of comprehensive peace and an end to the Israeli conflict can only be achieved through the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian State on the borders of 4 June 1967 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital and not as a capital on the outskirts of East Jerusalem, and that there is no possibility of a political settlement and an end to the conflict with the establishment of a State in the Gaza Strip or a Palestinian State without the Gaza Strip;
15. *Reiterate* that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories to the June 1967 line, including the Syrian Golan Heights and the territories still occupied in Southern Lebanon;
16. *Condemn* the arbitrary measures and sentences imposed on detainees, especially children and women, in Israeli jails, which deprive them of the minimum rights guaranteed by international humanitarian law and international human rights law, therefore, call upon the Israeli Government to release all Palestinian and Arab prisoners in Israeli jails immediately and unconditionally;
17. *Commend* H.E. Juan Carlos Varela Rodriguez, President of Panama, for cancelling the decision of his predecessor to move the embassy of his country in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and urge all countries who moved their embassies to Jerusalem to reconsider their decision.

Assembly/AU/Decl.8 (XXXII)

Declaration on the African Union Theme of the Year 2019 as the Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly from 10 to 11 February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to launch the Theme of the Year 2019: “The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa”,

Mindful that there are deeper structural and multi-layered factors that continue to trigger forced displacement, including socio-cultural and politico-economic challenges, that result in underdevelopment, inequality, poverty, including disparity between women and men, sexual and gender-based violence, intolerance and mismanagement of diversity, bad governance, mismanagement of natural resources, corruption and conflicts,

Concerned about the scale and complexities of forced displacement and protracted humanitarian situations that continue to ravage countries and communities across the continent owing to, inter alia, civil strife and violent conflicts, human rights violations, persecution, governance deficits, impunity, natural disasters and calamities, effects of drought and climate change, terrorism and violent extremism resulting in 6.3 million refugees and asylum seekers and 14.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs),

Reaffirming that the Theme of the Year 2019, on refugees, returnees and IDPs, presents an auspicious historical moment as it brings to fore Africa’s continued exemplary level of shared solidarity towards displaced populations, in the spirit of Pan-Africanism, at a time when displaced persons are faced with discrimination and xenophobia in many parts of the world,

Committed to striving towards realization of the noble goals of “Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want” by addressing the structural root causes of forced displacement and by implementing durable solutions to humanitarian crises and forced displacement in Africa,

Recognizing that year 2019 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (OAU Refugee Convention) as well as the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the 2009 AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), key instruments for Member States to prevent displacement,

respond to the material and protection needs of the displaced populations and find solutions to humanitarian crises situations,

Now hereby declare:

A. On the fiftieth anniversary of the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and tenth anniversary of the Kampala Convention:

1. *Call on* all Member States to sign, ratify, domesticate and implement the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the AU Convention on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and other relevant policy frameworks dealing with forced displacement and associated humanitarian crises including the Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness;

2. *Request* Member States, the Commission, humanitarian and development partners to mobilize resources for implementation of the instruments and to strengthen structures for monitoring compliance and accountability;

3. *Undertake* to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention as well as the tenth anniversary of the 2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) in 2019 in partnership with key national, regional, continental and international partners including the United Nations system;

B. On Addressing the Root Causes:

4. *Recommit* to address the structural root causes of protracted violent conflicts, terrorism and violent extremism, natural disasters and calamities, climate change, governance deficit, diversity mismanagement, human rights abuses and other factors that have led to a large number of forced displacements;

5. *Ensure* that efforts are made to guarantee sustainable peace and security, democracy and socio-economic development pursuant to the noble goals of Agenda 2063 towards silencing guns and ending all wars in Africa by the year 2020;

6. *Urge* Member States to prevent forced displacement through better understanding of the drivers of displacement and develop plans and policies that implement early and broad-based political actions and strategic responses that deal with the multifaceted and context-specific root causes for displacements in Africa;

7. *Request* the Commission to work with Member States, the Regional Economic Communities, international humanitarian and development partners to support Member States in implementing the prevention agenda of the African Union as stipulated in Agenda 2063, the African Governance Architecture (AGA), the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), as well as the AU's strong legal and policy frameworks governing human rights, situations of forced displacement and attendant humanitarian crises in Africa;

C. On Finding Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement:

8. *Recognize* that protracted displacement require concerted, holistic and multilayered strategy for their durable solution involving Member States, RECs, humanitarian and development partners at national, regional, continental and global levels and, therefore, request the Commission to enhance greater partnerships to address protracted displacement situations;

9. *Cognizant* of the reality that conflicts pose a political challenge to the continent resulting in displacement and humanitarian crisis and aware that such challenges fundamentally require a political solution anchored on political commitments that enhance peace and security, democracy and governance, as well as socio-economic development and structural transformation on our continent;

10. *Commit* to take bold and effective political leadership to resolve conflicts in Africa through adopting policies and strategies that strengthen national systems and structures that prevent conflict and displacement on the continent;

11. *Support* efforts towards the creation of conditions conducive to return, rehabilitation and reintegration as part of durable solutions to forced displacement;

12. *Underline* the importance of preventive measures towards durable solutions to forced displacement through early warning, early response, early recovery, disaster risk reduction measures, timely humanitarian action, compliance with human rights and humanitarian law and greater participation of the affected population, including host communities, paying particular attention to women, children, young people, people with disabilities and the elderly;

13. *Establish* the link between displacement and peace and security as a fundamental basis for dealing with durable solutions and call on Member States and all development partners to ensure that the link between displacement and good governance, as well as displacement and the development dimensions, are also fully recognized and addressed and to this end, call on the Member States and the development partners to engage in “a whole of the society approach”;

D. On Statelessness:

14. *Express concern* that the continent hosts 712,000 stateless persons that lack any form of legal protection and are often more vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and violations, with their displacement lasting sometimes for several decades without solutions and commit to develop a clear policy framework to address this challenge;

15. *Request* the Commission to work with Member States to develop policies that can assist Member States to better manage and solve the problem of statelessness in Africa;

E. On Natural Disasters and Climate Change:

16. *Recognize* that natural disasters and climate change can exacerbate existing violent conflict, threaten access to vital resources and disproportionately affect the most vulnerable and result in displacement;

17. *Call on* Member States to strengthen measures to address the effects of climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters, particularly in conflict-affected areas;

18. *Request* the Commission to support Member States to draw from examples of good practices across the continent and identify resources, mechanisms and forward-looking strategies, backed by national, regional, continental and global political commitments to prevent and mitigate the negative impact and consequences of such trends;

F. On Education:

19. *Perturbed* that an estimated 12.6 million children living in conflict zones are out of school in Africa because displacement denies children of their right to access quality education; displaced refugee children are five times more likely to be out of school than children not displaced and girls are almost two and a half times more likely to be out of school if they live in conflict-affected countries, and young women are nearly 90 per cent more likely to be out of secondary school than their counterparts in countries not affected by conflict;

20. *Request* the Commission to work with Member States and relevant partners to ensure access to education for refugee children, returnee children, IDP children and stateless children in Africa;

21. *Request* the AU Centre for Girls and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) to spearhead the development of a mechanism for regular reporting on the situation of girls and women's education in Member States, taking into account their teaching and learning environments, the safety and security of schools and the education systems and the extent to which refugees are mainstreamed into local education systems;

22. *Request* AU/CIEFFA to work, with relevant partners, to develop national gender sensitive comprehensive policies and operational plans that integrate peace, education and protection of girls and young women in the education programmes for the displaced populations in Africa;

G. On Gender Mainstreaming and Youth Empowerment:

23. *Recognize* that responding better to displaced people's protection and assistance requires a comprehensive understanding of the gender and age differentiated impact on forced displacement and request the Commission to improve its data management to ensure gender and age disaggregated reporting;

24. *Call on* Member States and concerned parties to ensure that the participation of women and youth in peace processes and capacity-building through disaster risk management are enhanced;

25. *Urge* Member States, the Commission and partners, to ensure a holistic approach to humanitarian actions through social inclusion and sustainable development with a focus on refugee youth, children and women;

H. On Humanitarian Financing:

26. *Recognize* that against the backdrop of rhetoric on global solidarity and burden-sharing, several national programmes remain substantially underfunded, leaving displaced persons and host communities with little resources to rely on and commend Member States that continue to host refugees, IDPs and stateless persons for their solidarity and hospitality in the spirit of Pan-Africanism;

27. *Request* Member States and the international community to revitalize and implement global responsibility-sharing mechanisms to find durable solutions to forced displacement;

28. *Request* the Commission, RECs and development partners to support Member States to better respond to situations before crisis or conflict break out and implore humanitarian and development partners to avail resources necessary in addressing the challenges of forced displacement on the continent;

I. On Global Partnership and Cooperation:

29. *Commend* Africa's impressive tradition of protecting the forcibly displaced through fostering regional peace and stability and by taking steps to contribute towards a global public good, through complementing the global framework of international refugee and human rights law, through the development of strong complementary continental refugee, IDP and human rights normative frameworks to address forced displacement;

30. *Reiterate* that the generosity of AU Member States needs to be supported by concerted international action and request Member States to revitalize and implement global responsibility-sharing and partnership mechanisms that address root causes and explore durable solutions to forced displacement;

31. *Call for* the transformation of the international humanitarian system to make it more responsive, effective and fit for purposes;

J. On African Humanitarian Agency:

32. *Restate* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.604 (XXVI) adopted at the Twenty-sixth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2016, that calls for the establishment of an African Humanitarian Agency as a vehicle for streamlining humanitarian action on the continent;

33. *Request* the Commission, in collaboration with Member States, RECs and relevant AU organs and institutions, to expedite the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency;

K. On the Theme of the Year 2019:

34. *Welcome* the plans of the Commission on a range of activities to be implemented in relation to the Theme of the Year 2019 “The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Person: towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa”, in line with the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.707 (XXXI);

35. *Adopt* the Concept Note that outlines the planned activities for the Theme of the Year 2019;

36. *Appoint* H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, as the AU Leader for the Theme of the Year 2019 and request him to steer the planned activities for the Theme of the Year, and report on the implementation of this Decision during the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly in February 2020.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXXII)

Resolution on the Lifting of the Economic, Commercial and Financial Blockade Imposed on the Republic of Cuba by the United States of America

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the continuous and illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Cuban Government and people;

2. *Reaffirms* its full support to the resolution of the General Assembly, “Necessity to end the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”;

3. *Regrets* the regression in the bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States and, once again, urges the Government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing and unjustifiable economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Cuban people;

4. *Acknowledges* that the blockade is the main obstacle for Cuba's implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and shares this concern due to the importance that the African Union attaches to the achievement of the objectives of the said Agenda;

5. *Reaffirms* its solidarity with the people of Cuba.

Assembly/AU/Motion 1 (XXXII)

Motion of Support to Mr. Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and United Nations Under Secretary-General

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of our Assembly, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 10 to 11 February 2019,

Considering that the mandate of Mr. Michel Sidibé as Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and United Nations Under Secretary-General ends in June 2019,

Recognizing that the invaluable work of UNAIDS in favour of the people of Africa and the world under the leadership of Mr. Sidibé has saved many lives and has had a decisive impact on the devastating AIDS epidemic in Africa,

1. *Note with satisfaction* his outstanding strategic vision, relentless advocacy to ensure that all populations, including the most vulnerable, have access to health services, which has ensured that the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS has remained among the global public health priorities;
2. *Express our appreciation* for the outstanding achievements made thus far and recognized by everyone under his leadership, in tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and count on his unflinching commitment and abiding leadership to continue to promote the health and well-being of the peoples of the African continent;
3. *Warmly commend* Mr. Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS and United Nations Under-Secretary-General, for the laudable services he has rendered for the improvement of health and living conditions of the people of Africa, as well as for the exemplary leadership he has always exhibited during his tenure;
4. *Express our profound gratitude* and pay him a special tribute for his great contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the AU, including Agenda 2063;
5. *Remain committed* to work with UNAIDS and all its partners to mobilize all the energies and necessary resources for the realization of the goal set, namely the eradication of AIDS as a threat to public health by 2030.

Assembly/AU/Motion 2 (XXXII)

**Motion of Appreciation to H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, and
Outgoing Chairperson of the African Union**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government, meeting in its Thirty-second Ordinary Session, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 10 and 11 February 2019,

Taking note of the end of the mandate of H.E. Paul Kagame, and recognizing the tireless and remarkable efforts he invested during his chairmanship of the African Union (AU) in the year 2018, which contributed to strengthening the Union and its relevance in addressing Africa's needs, as well as its place in the world,

Bearing in mind the many achievements made, thanks to his dedication, vision, self-abnegation and his full commitment to defending the principles and objectives of the Union, as well as the ideals of Pan-Africanism within the continent and at all international fora (G7, G20, European Union, United Nations, etc.),

Noting, in particular, his dynamic and efficient stewardship of the Union's institutional reform process,

1. *Expresses* its profound gratitude to H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, and outgoing Chairperson of our Assembly, for his vibrant, visionary and sterling leadership of the Union during his term of office;

The past year was marked by:

- The adoption and launching of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which will also remain a historic event for our respective peoples, as well as the international community;
- The institutional reform of the African Union as well as that of the AU Commission; and
- The launching of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM);

2. *Commends* H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, for the numerous achievements the African Union was able to make during his mandate, particularly the adoption of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment, as well as the adoption of the Guidelines for the Design, Production and Issuance of the African Passport;
3. *Reiterates* its appreciation to H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, for his significant contribution towards the continent's political, economic and social integration process.

TWELFTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

**Niamey, Niger
7 July 2019**

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

Decision on the Launch of the Operational Phase of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, the Leader of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and adopts the recommendations thereof on the progress achieved on the establishment of the AfCFTA;
2. *Commends* the role of all Member States, the AU Ministers of Trade (AMOT) and other AfCFTA negotiating institutions, the Commission, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the AU cooperating partners, on the significant progress made in the ratification of the AfCFTA Agreement culminating in the unprecedented record attainment of the minimum number of instruments of ratifications on 29 April 2019 within thirteen months of opening for signature of the AfCFTA Agreement;
3. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the AfCFTA Agreement on 30 May 2019;
4. *Congratulates* the 27 States parties who have deposited the instruments of ratification of the AfCFTA Agreement with the Chairperson of the Commission, namely: Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe;
5. *Welcomes* the signing of the Agreement by Benin and Nigeria, which raises the number of signatures to 54 Member States, and calls upon those Member States that have not signed or ratified the AfCFTA Agreement, to do so as soon as possible;
6. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.714 (XXXII), adopted at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in February, 2019, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to specifically hold this Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU to celebrate the first anniversary of signing the AfCFTA Agreement, launch the operational phase of the African Internal Market and decide on the location and structure of the AfCFTA Secretariat;
7. *Launches* the operational phase of the AfCFTA supported by:
 - (a) The agreed AfCFTA Rules of Origin;
 - (b) The Dashboard of the AU Trade Observatory;
 - (c) The AfCFTA Trade in Goods Password Protected Dashboard;
 - (d) The Pan-African Payments and Settlements System; and
 - (e) The Continental Online Mechanism for Monitoring, Reporting and Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers;
8. *Decides* that the:
 - (a) Final schedules of tariff concessions and outstanding rules of origin for the AfCFTA, be submitted to the next session of the Assembly of the AU in February 2020;
 - (b) Dismantling of tariffs shall start not later than 1 July 2020, to allow the start of trading within the AfCFTA regime on the same day;

- (c) Interim AfCFTA Secretariat organizes the inaugural meeting of the AfCFTA Council of Ministers not later than 31 October 2019;
- (d) Commission should ensure that the AfCFTA Secretariat is operational no later than 31 March 2020; and
- (e) 7 July of each year be designated as “the Africa Integration Day” without being a public holiday to commemorate the operationalization of the AfCFTA Agreement;
9. *Decides* to further discuss the submission of the G6 countries (Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe) to undertake liberalization of the 90 per cent of total tariff lines over a period of 15 years, subject to reciprocity, with the view to reach consensus and to report to the upcoming session of the Assembly of the AU in February 2020;
10. *Also decides* that the AfCFTA Leader and the Head of the AfCFTA Secretariat, be part of the Mid-Year Coordination Meetings between the AU and the RECs;
11. *Directs* the Commission to support the Council of Ministers responsible for Trade to put in place the AfCFTA institutional and governance structures that will facilitate effective implementation of the various trade instruments under the AfCFTA Agreement;
12. *Also directs* the Commission to have the structure of the AfCFTA Secretariat, its work programme and budget approved by the appropriate AU policy organs by February 2020;
13. *Further directs* the Secretariat to monitor the implementation of AfCFTA and submit reports to the AfCFTA Council of Ministers for consideration at the Assembly’s ordinary sessions;
14. *Calls upon* States Parties to ensure sustainability of the AfCFTA Agreement by continuously providing the necessary support such as financial, political, technical and including the timely provision of information;
15. *Also calls upon* the AfCFTA Secretariat, the Commission and RECs to develop a framework of cooperation to further facilitate the development of the intra-Africa trade, and in this context welcomes the organization of the first Intra-African Trade Fair held in Cairo, Egypt, in December 2018, and the following session that will be held in Kigali, Rwanda, in September 2020;
16. *Takes note* of the position of Director General of the World Trade Organization falling vacant on 31 August 2020 and directs the African Ministers of Trade (AMOT) to work towards ensuring that Africa succeeds in getting the position and contributes to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system following the established AU relevant processes and procedures;
17. *Congratulates* the people and Government of the Republic of Niger for successfully hosting the session of the Executive Council, the Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU, the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the AU and RECs and side events;
18. *Adopts* the Niamey Declaration on the Launch of the Operational Phase of the AfCFTA;
19. *Requests* the AfCFTA Leader, H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, to submit a progress report on the AfCFTA at the February 2020 session of the Assembly of the AU.

Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.2 (XII)

Decision on the Hosting of the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.394 (XVIII), adopted at the Eighteenth Ordinary Session held in January 2012, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Boosting Intra-African Trade and Fast Tracking the establishment of the AfCFTA, as well as Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (X), adopted at the Tenth Extraordinary Session held in March 2018, in Kigali, Rwanda, on the adoption of the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA;
2. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.714 (XXXII), adopted at the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in February 2019, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to hold an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in July 2019, in Niamey, Niger, in order to celebrate the first anniversary of the signing of the AfCFTA, launch the operational phase of the African Internal Market and decide on the location and structure of the AfCFTA Secretariat;
3. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the Technical Evaluation Mission Report on the Hosting of the AfCFTA Secretariat;
4. *Decides* that the Republic of Ghana shall host the AfCFTA Secretariat;
5. *Congratulates* the people and the Government of the Republic of Ghana;
6. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the Republic of Ghana, to finalize the host country agreement in accordance with the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/195 (VII) Rev.1 of July 2005 on hosting AU organs; and accordingly, facilitate the expeditious transfer of the interim AfCFTA Secretariat to the host country with a view to accelerating the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat by February 2020;
7. *Mandates* the Commission to submit a progress report on the operationalization of the AfCFTA Secretariat to the ordinary session of the Assembly of the AU in February 2020.

Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.3 (XII)

Decision on the Successful Hosting of the Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union and the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the AU and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Niamey, Republic of Niger

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.744 (XXXII), adopted at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session in February 2019, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, wherein the Assembly of the Union decided to hold its Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in the Republic of Niger, before the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the AU and the RECs, in order to celebrate the first anniversary of the signing of the AfCFTA and formally launch the operational phase of the African internal market;
2. *Notes with satisfaction* the impressive planning, organizing and hosting of the Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU and the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the AU and the RECs by the Republic of Niger, in Niamey, at the “Palais des Congres” on 7 and 8 July 2019;
3. *Congratulates* H.E. the President Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, the Government and the people of Niger for the efforts and facilities put in place which led to the success of the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, the Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the AU and the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the AU and the RECs;
4. *Commends* the Republic of Niger for the warm hospitality extended to all delegations and participants and also commends the Government of Niger for the successful results of the AU Summit.

Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XII)

Niamey Declaration on the Launch of the Operational Phase of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

We, the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government, having held our Twelfth Extraordinary Summit in Niamey, Republic of Niger, on 7 July 2019,

Recalling the:

- (a) Provisions of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) signed in Abuja, Nigeria, in 1991,
- (b) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.394 (XVIII), adopted at the Eighteenth Ordinary Session held in January 2012, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Boosting Intra-African Trade (BIAT) and Fast Tracking the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by an indicative date of 2017,
- (c) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.569 (XXV), adopted at the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in June 2015, in Johannesburg, South Africa, launching the negotiations for the establishment of the AfCFTA,
- (d) Assembly Decision on the Readiness Assessment of the African Internal Market to be presented to the February 2020 Summit,
- (e) Launch of the Single African Air Transport Market,
- (f) Opening for signature of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the AEC Relating to the Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment for Member States to sign and ratify,

Recognizing that the AfCFTA negotiating institutions undertook negotiations from February 2016 leading to the signing of the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA at the Tenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly held on 21 March 2018, in Kigali, Rwanda,

Also recognizing the extended mandate given to AfCFTA negotiating institutions for the conclusion of the AfCFTA negotiations as per Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.714 (XXXII),

Congratulating 44 Member States who signed the Agreement when it was first opened for signature at the Tenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 21 March 2018; five more Member States who signed it at the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Nouakchott, Mauritania, on 1 July 2018; a further three who signed the same Agreement at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 10 February 2019; and Benin and Nigeria, who signed the same Agreement at the Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU in Niamey, Niger, on 7 July 2019, bringing the total number of signatories to 54 out of 55 Member States to date,

Also congratulating the first 22 States Parties who deposited instruments of ratification with the Chairperson of the Commission to give legal force to the Agreement, as well as the additional five Member States who acceded to the instruments of ratification, making a total of 27 States Parties to date,

Welcoming the entry into force of the AfCFTA Agreement on 30 May 2019,

Expressing our thanks and gratitude to the Commission and all the Regional Economic Communities, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development, the African Development Bank, the African Export and Import Bank, as well as, the development and cooperation partners and

stakeholders, for the valuable support and cooperation during the process of establishing the AfCFTA under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger and the Leader of the AfCFTA,

Hereby:

Express our deep appreciation for the warm reception and generous hospitality of the people and Government of the Republic of Niger and congratulate H.E Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, for the efforts and facilities put in place towards the success of the Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU;

Commemorate the first anniversary of the AfCFTA falling on 21 March 2019 and record our satisfaction with the progress it has achieved in its first year;

Also commit ourselves to build on the successes of the first year of the AfCFTA in accordance with the clusters outlined in the 2012 Action Plan on BIAT;

Trade Policy

Launch the operational phase of the AfCFTA which is a remarkable achievement following the entry into force of the AfCFTA Agreement, thereby reaffirming Africa's commitment to the multilateral trading system in addition to laying a strong foundation for Africa's development;

Urge in this respect, the AfCFTA negotiating institutions to conclude the outstanding work on Phase I negotiations on trade in goods and trade in services for submission to the February 2020 session of the Assembly;

Reaffirm our commitment to the timely conclusion of Phase II of the AfCFTA negotiations by June 2021;

Productive Capacity

Acknowledge the need to scale up manufacturing as it is a strategic sector in economic transformation, productivity, competitiveness, and innovation. To this end, commit to promoting private sector engagement in the development of productive capacities. We further commit to collaborate on the Afro-Champions initiative to promote agro-processing and also commit to work with African manufacturers to establish the African Manufacturer's Association;

Development of Trade Related Infrastructure

Commit to meeting Africa's infrastructure finance gap within a decade in collaboration with the Afro-Champions Initiative and other stakeholders;

Finance

Commit ourselves to work with financial institutions to meet Africa's trade finance gap in order to increase intra-African trade flows; also commit to finalize work on the AfCFTA Adjustment Facility in order to promote inclusive development of the AfCFTA market. In the interim, we shall collaborate with international financial institutions to mobilize short-term financing to assist States Parties meet their liberalization commitments in the AfCFTA with minimum adjustment costs;

Trade Information

Commit to establish the African Trade Observatory (ATO) which will enhance transparency, efficiency and integrity in the AfCFTA market on trade in goods and services. In this regard, we commit to ensure that the ATO provides

reliable and timely information on emerging opportunities for regional value chains, market conditions and applied regulations, genuine registered exporters and importers, as well as, authorized economic operators;

Also commit to strengthening the ATO in assisting the policymakers to make evidence-based trade policies and in monitoring the implementation and impact of the AfCFTA and BIAT through a built-in scorecard; and to use the ATO to disseminate reports on the elimination of NTBs and to expand its coverage to include information on e-commerce and start-ups;

Further commit to develop AfCFTA web-based and mobile application for business. This application will be used by the business community and the general public as a one-stop-shop that will serve as an electronic AfCFTA Handbook. The application will be accessible to a larger audience in all the official languages of the African Union;

Commit to develop the Intra-African Trade Fair as a viable instrument to mobilize businesses across Africa to transact with a view to increasing intra-African trade flows. To this end, urge Member States to fully support the Fair;

Factor Market Integration

Commit to full implementation of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the AEC Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Establishment and Right of Residence. To this end, call upon all Member States to sign and ratify this Protocol, which will bring the AfCFTA closer to the African people, who are most important stakeholder in this process of continental integration;

While deepening continental integration, urge all Member States to put in place measures that will facilitate speedy financial market integration across the continent;

Trade Facilitation

Commit to leverage trade facilitation to promote efficient and increased trade flows across the continent. In this connection, urge all Member States to:

- (a) Put in place statutory, regulatory and other measures to guarantee that goods can be traded under the AfCFTA trade regime;
- (b) Facilitate transit and other formalities for goods passing through their territories;
- (c) Align their national development and reform strategies to the AfCFTA so that the AfCFTA delivers to the expectations of African citizens; and
- (d) Undertake stakeholder sensitization and capacity-building at the national level as part of operationalizing the AfCFTA Agreement;

Urge the AfCFTA Secretariat to work closely with the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities to facilitate intra-African trade;

Commit to broaden inclusiveness in the operation of the AfCFTA by catering for the small to medium cross-border traders. To this end, will collaborate with the Regional Economic Communities to develop a simplified trade regime fully meeting the needs of our hardworking people;

Promoting Inclusive Development of the AfCFTA Market

Recognizing that broad-based involvement in the operation of the AfCFTA is key to its sustainability. In this regard, call upon:

- (a) Those Member States that have not signed and/or ratified the AfCFTA Agreement to do so expeditiously so that all AU Member States become States parties to the Agreement;
- (b) The business community to use the period up to July 2020 to scale up investment so that they are able to supply the AfCFTA market;
- (c) The private sector to work with Member States in ensuring that their concerns on the AfCFTA are resolved in time;
- (d) The academia and other research institutions to engage in programmes of scholarships on the AfCFTA, in order to develop a knowledge base of the AfCFTA;
- (e) The youth and women to contribute to the attainment of the AfCFTA through the development of start-ups and small and medium enterprises;
- (f) The African diaspora to invest in the new market on the continent;
- (g) The international community to support the AfCFTA as it contributes to the growth and prosperity of Africa and global peace; and
- (h) Member States to invest in quality infrastructure in order to facilitate the production and supply of quality goods across Africa and beyond;

Reaffirm our commitment to continue the journey of establishing the AEC as outlined in the Abuja Treaty of 1991;

Observing and Celebrating Our Achievements in the AfCFTA

Fully aware that the destiny of the AfCFTA is in our hands, decide that 7 July of each year shall be designated as the Africa Integration Day without being a public holiday. On this day, Africans on the continent and in the diaspora should come up with commemorative activities to solemnly observe and celebrate the achievements of the AfCFTA in the preceding year; empower the Chairperson of the AU; the Leader of the AfCFTA; and the Chairperson of the AUC to issue a joint statement in the same spirit.

THIRTY-THIRD ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
09 to 10 February 2020**

Assembly/AU/Dec.749 (XXXIII)

Decision on the Institutional Reform of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.582 streamlining the work of the Commission;
2. *Takes note* of the Report of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and Leader on the Institutional Reform of the African Union;
3. *Commends* H.E Paul Kagame and the Chairperson of the Commission for the excellent progress that has been made in the implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII);
4. *Directs* the Commission to submit to the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, after due consideration by the Executive Council, practical proposals for rationalizing the agenda and the programme of work of the Assembly, as well as streamlining the programme of meetings and side events of the Assembly and the Executive Council;
5. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to finalize the review of the other organs and institutions as outlined in Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII), and to submit its proposals to the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February 2021.

Assembly/AU/Dec.750 (XXXIII)

Decision on the Structures of the African Union Commission, Organs and Specialized Agencies

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XI) of the AU Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of November 2018 on the Institutional Reform of the African Union (AU), which mandated the Chairperson of the Commission to develop a new departmental structure that is lean and performance-oriented, taking into account the division of labour between the African Union, RECs and Regional Mechanisms, Member States and continental organizations;
2. *Also recalls* Decisions Assembly AU/Dec.728 (XXXII), EX.CL/Dec.987 (XXXII), Assembly/AU/Dec.730 (XXXII), Assembly/AU/Dec.695 (XXXI), EX.CL/Dec.820 (XXV), Assembly/AU/Dec.636 (XXXVIII), EX.CL/1153 (XXXV), Assembly/AU/Dec.729 (XXXII), EX.CL/Dec.1010 (XXXIII), Assembly/AU/Dec.452 (XX), and Assembly/AU/Dec.2 (XXVI);
3. *Takes note* of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1 (XXXVI) of the Executive Council and adopts the following structures (annexed) as recommended by the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:
 - (i) African Union Commission Departmental Structure;
 - (ii) Continental Operational Centre for Combatting Irregular Migration (Sudan);
 - (iii) African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration (Mali);
 - (iv) African Migration Observatory (the Observatory) (Morocco);
 - (v) African Union Mechanism For Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) (Algeria);

- (vi) African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AUCPCRD) (Egypt);
- (vii) Secretariat of African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) (Lesotho);
and
- (viii) African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation (AOSTI) (Equatorial Guinea).

Assembly/AU/Dec.751 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Decision of the Executive Council;
2. *Also takes note* of the Report of the Second Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the African Continental Free Trade Area, held on 15 December 2019, in Accra, Ghana and the recommendations therein;
3. *Further takes note* of the Report of the Bureau of the Council of Ministers of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Executive Council on the selection of the Secretary-General of the AfCFTA and endorses the recommendations contained therein;
4. *Expresses gratitude* to the Government of the Republic of Ghana for offering facilities for the AfCFTA Secretariat as well as for availing a grant of US\$ 10 million to support its operations;
5. *Approves* the Decision of the Council of Ministers to set up a selection panel and expresses appreciation to all members of the selection panel;

Appointment and Installation of the Secretary-General of the AfCFTA, and Assumption of Duty

6. *Decides* to appoint and congratulate Mr. Wamkele Mene as Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area for a four-year term at the salary grade of SP2, without prejudice to the functions of the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission as controller of the Union;
7. *Upholds* its July 2019 Niamey Decision on the Operationalization of the AfCFTA Secretariat to have the permanent Secretariat start operating by 31 March 2020;
8. *Decides* that the swearing in and installation of the incoming AfCFTA Secretary-General be held in Accra, Ghana, on 31 March 2020, and directs the African Union Commission to prepare for the installation ceremony in close liaison with the Government of the Republic of Ghana as host;

Extraordinary Summit

9. *Approves* the recommendations of the AfCFTA Council of Ministers to have an Extraordinary Summit on 30 May 2020 to approve all instruments required for the start of trading under the AfCFTA on 1 July 2020. In this connection, the Assembly welcomes and endorses the offer by the Government of the Republic of South Africa to host the Extraordinary Summit;
10. *Requests* Ministers of Trade to prioritize AfCFTA meetings in order to ensure quorums required to facilitate effective decision-making and further directs the Commission to convene the necessary meetings as per the Tenth AMOT outcomes aimed at concluding the work on rules of origin, schedules of tariff concessions, and

schedules of specific commitment on the five priority service sectors in order to meet the target of start of trading on 1 July 2020 as agreed by the Assembly at its Twelfth Extraordinary Session held in Niamey, Niger, on 7 July 2019;

11. *Directs* the AfCFTA Council of Ministers and relevant policy organs of the AU to finalize consideration of the draft Organizational Structure, including the appropriate functions of the appointed directors and the adequate number of the Permanent Secretariat of the AfCFTA, and submit it to the Extraordinary Summit in May 2020, together with a supplementary budget and work programme, through the appropriate policy organs of the AU system;
12. *Also directs* the AfCFTA Council of Ministers and its subsidiary bodies to finalize any other outstanding work for its consideration at the Extraordinary Summit;

Report of H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, the Leader of the AfCFTA

13. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Report of H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, the Leader of the AfCFTA, and adopts the recommendations thereof on the progress achieved on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA);
14. *Commends* the role of all Member States, the Council of Ministers, the African Union Ministers of Trade and other AfCFTA negotiating institutions, the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Communities and the AU partners, on the significant progress made towards the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement;
15. *Congratulates* the Republic of Mauritius which became the twenty-eighth State party following the deposit of its instruments of ratification of the AfCFTA Agreement with the Chairperson of the Commission in September 2019;

Conclusion of Phase I of AfCFTA Negotiations on Trade in Goods, Services and Rules of Origin

16. *Urges* that all outstanding work on rules of origin be finalized by the end of March 2020 to enable the finalization of tariff offers and to submit this work on rules of origin to the Extraordinary Summit in May 2020;
17. *Also calls upon* Member States to finalize and submit to the Extraordinary Summit in May 2020:
 - (i) Their schedules of tariff concessions of 90 per cent; and
 - (ii) Their schedules of specific commitments on the five priority services sectors;
18. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.714 (XXXII) of February 2019 adopting the deadline of June 2020 for finalization of AfCFTA negotiations and urges Member States to submit their schedules of specific commitments on the remaining services sectors and the Regulatory Cooperation Framework for Trade in Services by the said deadline;

G-6 Reservations

19. *Welcomes with appreciation*, the decision of the G6 countries (Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe) to withdraw their reservations in the interest and solidarity of the African continent and to join the rest of the States parties in implementing the modalities on tariff liberalization;

Status of Signature and Ratification of the AfCFTA Agreement

20. *Directs* the African Union Commission to continue its efforts to ensure the signature by all Member States before the end of April 2020, and calls upon all African Union Member States who have not yet done so to ratify

the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area before the start of trading under this Agreement on 1 July 2020;

Preparedness for the Start of Trading Under the AfCFTA on 1 July 2020

21. *Directs* the Interim AfCFTA Secretariat to produce and distribute to all African Union Member States before the end of February 2020, a template for submitting reports on the state of national level preparations, and put in place before the end of April 2020, systems for monitoring trade flows in the AfCFTA, as well as capturing trade statistics;

Phase II Negotiations and Beyond

22. *Decides* to uphold the deadline of December 2020 for the conclusion of Phase II negotiations on investment, intellectual property rights and competition policy;

23. *Further decides* that Phase III Negotiations focuses on an AfCFTA Protocol on e-commerce immediately after conclusion of Phase II Negotiations and directs the African Union Commission to embark on preparations for the upcoming negotiations and mobilize resources during 2020 for capacity-building for African trade negotiators to be involved in the negotiation of e-commerce legal instruments at the level of the African Continental Free Trade Area;

24. *Urges* Member States to critically review approaches that are being made to them by bilateral partners to enter into bilateral e-commerce legal instruments with them in order to ensure that Africa is able to negotiate and implement an AfCFTA protocol on e-commerce where Africa has full authority on all aspects of e-commerce such as data and products being traded under e-commerce, and to promote the emergence of African owned e-commerce platforms at national, regional and continental levels as part of our preparations for the negotiation of an AfCFTA protocol on e-commerce;

Commemoration of Africa Integration Day and Popularization of the AfCFTA Vision

25. *Calls upon* Member States to come up with commemorative activities to solemnly observe and celebrate the achievements of AfCFTA in the preceding year in line with the guidelines developed by the Interim AfCFTA Secretariat;

26. *Urges* Heads of State and Government of the African Union to make regular statements on how their countries are implementing the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area;

Mobilization of the African Private Sector and Regional Economic Communities for Effective Implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement

27. *Requests* the Afro-Champions Initiative to work with African ministers, especially those responsible for trade, finance, industry and development planning in the implementation of the Trillion Dollar Framework;

28. *Also requests* the Interim AfCFTA Secretariat and Regional Economic Communities to develop the Framework of Collaboration before the start of trading and submit a substantive progress report on the matter at the May 2020 Extraordinary Summit;

29. *Further requests* the Ministers of Trade and Finance, in partnership with Afreximbank, to conclude the work on the AfCFTA Adjustment Facility during the course of 2020 and should bring to the February 2021 summit, the draft statutes and resource mobilization plan and initiative for its consideration;

Delegation of Certain Powers to the AfCFTA Council of Ministers

30. *Mandates* the AfCFTA Council of Ministers to expeditiously consider all technical matters pertaining to the implementation of the AfCFTA, and to submit to the Executive Council proposals that include financial and structural implications, and report to the Assembly for endorsement through appropriate policy structures of the AU system;

Building Momentum for Full, Timely and Effective Implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement

31. *Directs* the Interim AfCFTA Secretariat to develop, as part of its handover package to the permanent AfCFTA Secretariat, a strategy paper on sustaining the momentum for full, timely and effective implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement which will be part of the report to the May 2020 Extraordinary Summit;

32. *Further directs* the Interim AfCFTA Secretariat to work closely with Member States, the Secretariats of the Regional Economic Communities and other relevant intergovernmental organizations active in this area on the continent, in order to enhance planning and coordination of activities and meetings and minimize the potential conflicts of dates and other overlaps;

33. *Calls upon* the African Union Heads of State and Government to market the AfCFTA as an attractive and growing investment destination in their engagements with business leaders;

34. *Requests* the African Union Commission in collaboration with UNIDO, ECA and Afro-Champions, to organize a summit on Africa's Industrialization and Economic Diversification during the Africa Industrialization Week;

35. *Takes note* of the proposal by Ethiopia to host the First Expo of African produced products in energy, ICT, infrastructure and similar sectors, and requests Ethiopia to submit the Concept Note for consideration by the next Extraordinary Summit in May 2020;

Observer Status by States that are not Member States of the African Union

36. *Decides* that the AfCFTA shall not accept requests for observer status from States that are not Member States of the African Union;

Third Party Agreements

37. *Directs* the Interim AfCFTA Secretariat to:

(a) Continue to monitor developments concerning third party agreements involving AfCFTA States parties and report to the AU Summit;

(b) Develop reporting guidelines and templates for notification of third party agreements in line with relevant provisions of the Agreement;

(c) Include a section on third party agreements in the future Framework of Collaboration between the AfCFTA Secretariat, the AU Commission and the Regional Economic Communities; and

(d) Submit to the next Council of Ministers of AfCFTA for consideration and adoption, the Reporting Guidelines and Templates for notification of Third Party Agreements and the Framework of Collaboration between the AfCFTA Secretariat, the AU Commission and the Regional Economic Communities;

38. *Requests* the AfCFTA Leader, H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, to submit a progress report on the AfCFTA at the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly, in May 2020.

Assembly/AU/Dec.752 (XXXIII)

Decision of the Joint Sitting Report of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions and the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions and F15;
2. *Also takes note* of Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1089 (XXXVI) of the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
3. *Commends* Member States for contributing 79 per cent of the funds assessed to them in 2019 towards the Union regular budget;
4. *Also commends* 50 Member States for contributing US\$ 154,124,812 to the AU Peace Fund since 2017, which demonstrates the high level of commitment by the Union to fully operationalize the Fund;
5. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.734 (XXXII) on the scale of assessment and the Peace Fund requesting the AU High Representative for Financing the Union and the Peace Fund, supported by the Commission, to undertake regional consultations on the matter of assessing the Peace Fund and report back to the Executive Council in Niamey, Niger, in June 2019, and decides that in the interim, the existing scale of assessment as applied to the regular budget of the Union shall be applied to the 2017-2019 assessment of the Peace Fund and, in the event no concrete recommendations emerge from the consultations, the new scale of assessment as applied for the regular budget shall also be applied to the Peace Fund from 2020-2022¹;
6. *Takes note* of the briefing of the AU High Representative on regional consultations on the scale of assessment of the AU Peace Fund and decides that the target for the collection of the US\$ 400 million in Member State contributions to the AU Peace Fund be extended by 24 months for full endowment of the Peace Fund by 2023; and requests the Commission to adjust accordingly the annual amounts paid to the Fund in order to demonstrate a reduced burden on Member States;
7. *Commends* the High Representative for Financing of the Union and Peace Fund for the excellent work undertaken to meet with the regions on the matter of assessing the Peace Fund, and requests that the consultations be concluded, and that the High Representative reports back to the Executive Council in July 2020;
8. *Also directs* the Commission to consider all Member States' assessed contributions to the Peace Fund during the interim period as payments on account while awaiting the conclusion of the regional consultations²;
9. *Decides* to suspend all discussions on whether sanctions for the non-payment of assessed contributions to the Peace Fund should be considered while regional consultations are under way until the High Representative on Financing the Union and Peace Fund has reported back to the Executive Council in July 2020 on the outcome of these consultations;
10. *Recalls* Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.3 (XI) of November 2018, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which adopted the strengthened sanctions regime for implementation as from July 2019, and further recalls Decision

¹ Reservation by the Arab Republic of Egypt: "The ruling of paragraph no. 14 overrides the outcomes of the regional consultations to be undertaken by the AU High Representative according to the aforementioned decision. Besides, the paragraph implies the implementation of the scale of assessment retroactively (for the years 2017-2019); such retroactive implementation contravenes the universal budgetary principles applied on national budgets and the African Union budget." Reservation entered during the adoption of decisions and confirmed through Note Verbale No./2019 – AU, dated 27 March 2019.

² Reservations by the Arab Republic of Egypt.

EX.CL/Dec.1071 (XXXV) in which the Commission was mandated to hold consultations with Member States on the elaboration of modalities for implementation of the strengthened sanctions regime and to submit a report by February 2020;

11. *Requests* the PRC to expedite the alignment of the relevant provisions of the Assembly Rules of Procedure, the AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the Statute of the Commission for consideration and adoption by the relevant policy organs;

12. *Decides* to impose sanctions on Member States, in line with paragraph 3 (c) of the November 2018 Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.3 (XI);

13. *Recalls* Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.3 (XI) which states that the Assembly may consider requests from Member States experiencing force majeure circumstances making them temporarily unable to pay their assessed contributions. Member States shall notify the Assembly in writing for consideration and decision;

14. *Takes note* of the requests from Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Seychelles and Burundi, acknowledges the challenges faced by these Member States in meeting their annual contributions to the Union, and requests the Commission to engage with Member States facing difficulties paying their contributions to the Union and those in arrears for two or more years in order to agree on the payment plan for clearing the arrears, and report back to the Executive Council in July 2020;

15. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.578 (XXV) which endorsed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee that the new scale of assessment shall be based on achieving 100 per cent of the Union's operational budget; 75 per cent of Union's programme budget; and 25 per cent of Union's peace support operations budget, and requests the Commission to provide at the next meeting of the Executive Council a progress report on the attainment of such targets.

Assembly/AU/Dec.753 (XXXIII)

**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 (XXXIII))**

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 and encourages the Peace and Security Council (PSC), working with the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), with the support of the African Union (AU) Commission, to continue enhancing efforts to prevent, manage and resolve conflict and crisis situations. The Assembly further urges the PSC to continue providing strategic guidance on the implementation of post-conflict stabilization, reconstruction and development programmes in countries emerging from conflicts;

2. *Commends* the efforts being deployed by H.E. President Felix Tshisekedi and other leaders of the region to foster peace and stability in the DRC and also to promote good neighbourly relations with and between the countries of the region. In this context, the Assembly reiterates the imperative of full implementation of the 2013 Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region. The Assembly expresses its gratitude to MONUSCO, bilateral and multilateral partners of the DRC, for their continued support for the stabilization of the DRC, as evidenced by the recent peace and stability gains made in the Kasai region. The Assembly calls on AU Member States and the larger international community to continue to support the current efforts of the DRC, including in infrastructure development and socio-economic recovery, particularly in the regions affected by insecurity. The Assembly encourages Member States to also support efforts in the fight against the Ebola Virus disease outbreak in parts of the DRC. The Assembly calls on the international community to

provide financial support to the DDR programme in DRC and encourages all partners to also participate in the Conference for Trade and Investment of the Great Lakes Region scheduled to take place in Kigali, in March 2020;

3. *Acknowledges* the steps taken by the Government of Burundi in addressing the country's challenges, particularly with regard to preparations for the upcoming elections in 2020, including the establishment, on 31 August 2018, of an Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), in line with the Burundian Electoral Code, and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of 13 members, in accordance with the 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, the adoption of the Kayanza Road Map for the elections, and the publication of the electoral calendar by CENI, among others. The Assembly commends President Pierre Nkurunziza for honouring his commitment not to enlist his candidature in the upcoming 2020 presidential election; invites the Government and opposition groups to maintain dialogue aimed at strengthening peace and security as well as creating an enabling environment for socio-economic development. The Assembly encourages the East African Community (EAC), the AU and the United Nations to closely align efforts in order to give the much-needed impetus to the political process in Burundi. The Assembly commends the work of the AU human rights observers and military experts deployed in the country since 2015 for contributing to promoting cohesion and peace in the country. The Assembly reiterates its call on the European Union to lift the sanctions imposed on Burundi, in order to create conducive conditions for facilitating socio-economic recovery in the country;

4. *Urges* all Central African stakeholders to ensure that the 2020-2021 general elections are organized as scheduled, in strict compliance with Central African laws and the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation of 6 February 2019. In this context, the Assembly commends President Faustin Archange Touadera for his efforts to build inclusive consensus in his country, notably through dialogue he initiated with the former Heads of State of CAR, namely, François Bozizé, Michel Djotodia and Catherine Samba-Panza, based on the Peace Agreement as the sole reference of this dialogue. The Assembly acknowledges the progress made in the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, commends the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smaïl Chergui for his continuous efforts together with the United Nations Under-Secretary for Peacekeeping and urges the Central African parties to intensify dialogue, with the support of the Guarantors of the Agreement. The Assembly commends the countries of the region for their support to the implementation of the Peace Agreement and the convening of the Joint Commissions to this end. The Assembly urges the MINUSCA to support the deployment of the AU observers; further urges the Peacebuilding Commission, in particular, Egypt, in its capacity as Vice-Chairman of the UNPBC, and the Kingdom of Morocco, Chair of the United Nations Configuration of the Central African Republic (CAR), for their efforts in support of the CAR and in defending the interests of African countries on the UNPBC agenda, including through the African Group in New York, as well as the international partners to deliver the support promised to the AU Mission in Bangui and the launching of development projects. The Assembly requests the AU Member States and the larger international community to provide technical and financial support to the Central African authorities, in order to facilitate the successful organization of the upcoming elections and the economic reconstruction in the CAR;

5. *Commends* the Government of Cameroon for adopting a set of measures to usher in peaceful solutions to the socio-political unrest in the North West and South West regions; measures which include the successful organization of a Major National Dialogue (from 30 September to 4 October 2019) involving all stakeholders from within the country and from the diaspora with a view to restoring lasting peace; sending a peace caravan led by the Prime Minister, Head of Government, to the two regions concerned; adopting a law to institute a general code of regional and local authorities which confers, in particular, a special status to the two English-speaking regions of the North West and the South West to take into account their specificities in terms of the educational and judicial systems; setting up a National Commission on the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism; adopting a law on the promotion of national languages, as well as promoting the use of English and French as official languages of equal value; and establishing a National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Committee; also commends the Government for releasing, on the one hand, certain political leaders or activists who were prosecuted before the military courts for their involvement in organizing irregular demonstrations, and, on the other hand, hundreds of other individuals who were prosecuted for crimes committed as part of the unrest in the two regions of the North West and the South West; requests the Chairperson of the AU Commission to continue to

support the efforts of the Cameroonian Government to find a lasting solution to the crisis in the two regions of the North West and the South West;

6. *Reiterates* the readiness of the AU to continue its facilitation role in Comoros, with a view to strengthening and consolidating social cohesion; encourages the PSC, with the support of the AU Commission, to continue to support the Comoros in its efforts to advance political dialogue; also encourages President Azali Assoumani for his commitment to launch an inclusive dialogue with all the actors of the country; commends the President of the Union of the Comoros and his Government for the appeasement measures taken by granting a presidential pardon to several prisoners, including common law prisoners;

7. *Takes note* of the steady progress in Somalia and, in this regard, encourages the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), as well as the Federal Member States (FMS), to continue to promote consensual solutions to the challenges facing their country. The Assembly appeals to international partners to continue to assist the Somalis and to refrain from any actions that may undermine current efforts to end the conflict in that country. The Assembly underscores the need to expedite the generation of adequate Somali Security Forces to undertake joint operations with AMISOM, hold newly liberated territories, protect population centres, and secure the main supply routes (MSRs), with a view to creating conducive conditions that will enable the Somali national defence and security forces to effectively takeover security responsibilities from AMISOM by 2021. The Assembly commends AMISOM and the Somali Security Forces for downgrading the capacities of the Al Shabaab terrorist group and looks forward to continuing this close collaboration in the fight. The Assembly strongly condemns the terrorist attacks perpetrated in Somalia and against AMISOM. Furthermore, the Assembly expresses its condolences to the bereaved families and wishes speedy recovery to the injured. The Assembly further commends the troop and police contributing countries of AMISOM for their sacrifices and commitments towards the restoration of peace and stability in Somalia;

8. *Congratulates* Sudan for having been elected as Chair of IGAD and reaffirms its support for the new role of Sudan and its continued cooperation in working for peace, stability and development of the region and the continent. The Assembly commends the Transitional Sovereign Council and the Transitional Government of Sudan for their ongoing cooperation, commitment and coordinated engagement in addressing the multiple challenges facing the country. The Assembly encourages all Sudanese stakeholders to maintain the momentum thus far mobilized, particularly strong coordination and cooperation among the transitional authorities, as this would restore the confidence of the people of Sudan in national institutions. The Assembly pays tribute to the efforts deployed by the Chairperson of the Union, H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, in his capacity as Chair of IGAD, as well as by the Chairperson of the Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, for their coordinated efforts towards finding a solution to the crisis in Sudan. The Assembly welcomes the hosting in the Republic of South Sudan, under the auspices of President Salvar Kiir Mayardit, of the negotiations between the Sudan Transitional Government and Sudan armed movements, and expresses its appreciation for the efforts being deployed by the IGAD and countries of the region. The Assembly strongly appeals to those countries which imposed economic and financial sanctions on the Republic of Sudan to immediately and totally remove the sanctions. In this context, the Assembly calls on the Government of the United States of America to remove Sudan from its List of State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST), in order to facilitate the flow of investments in Sudan to promote sustainable peace and development. The Assembly also welcomes the steps being taken by the Government of Sudan to attract investors and in this context acknowledges the dialogue that has been opened between the Governments of the United States of America and Sudan to address these issues. The Assembly requests the Chairperson of the Commission, in coordination with IGAD, to continue with his efforts in supporting Sudan during the transitional period;

9. *Commends* the Government of Sudan and UNAMID for their collaborative efforts and commitment in implementing the United Nations Security Council resolution 2429 on the drawdown and also commends the PSC and the United Nations Security Council for extending the mandate of UNAMID until 31 October 2020. The Assembly underscores the significance of sustaining peace in Darfur through investment in sustainable development projects. In this regard, the Assembly strongly encourages the AU Commission, together with the United Nations, to undertake strategic initiatives that will ensure effective resource mobilization, including funds

for Darfur's stabilization and development. In this regard, the Assembly stresses that the draw down should be completed in such a way that it preserves the gains being made in Darfur, within the overall search for peace, stability and development in Sudan;

10. *Acknowledges* the efforts deployed by H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda and the Head of the Sovereign Council of Sudan, H.E. Abdel-Fatah Al-Burhan, in convening the Entebbe Summit in November 2019, which, among other, extended by a hundred days the pre-transitional period for the South Sudanese stakeholders to address pending issues before the formation of a Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU). The Assembly commends H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit and Dr. Riek Machar for reaching consensus during the Entebbe Summit. The Assembly commends the Government of South Sudan for the disbursements made for the implementation of the Peace Agreement and encourages it to complete the disbursement. The Assembly commends the African Union High-Level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan (C5) comprising its Members namely, South Africa as Chair, Algeria, Chad, Nigeria and Rwanda, for their continued support to the South Sudan peace process, including through regular visits undertaken in the course of 2019. The Assembly also commends all Member States which have extended financial and material support to the Government of South Sudan, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Africa, and, in this context, the Assembly appeals to other Member States to also make contributions. In the same context, the Assembly also appeals to the larger international community to further extend financial, material and logistical support to the South Sudan Peace Process, especially the transitional security arrangements to facilitate the process of cantonment, screening, training and deployment of the South Sudanese Necessary United Forces (NUF), for the protection of officials during the implementation of the Peace Agreement;

11. *Underscores* the imperative of the formation of the Transitional Government by 22 February 2020 and expresses concern over the delays in pending pre-transitional tasks that are crucial for the formation of the R-TGoNU, particularly those relating to transitional security arrangements and the determination of the number and boundaries of states. The Assembly strongly calls on the South Sudanese parties to continue dialogue to address pending issues, critical to the full implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and the establishment of the R-TGoNU. The Assembly reaffirms the solidarity of the AU with the people and the Government of South Sudan in their aspirations to restore lasting peace and stability, and advance development in their country;

12. *Welcomes* the cessation of hostilities by the Libyan parties and encourages the parties to finalize a permanent ceasefire. The Assembly endorses the communiqué of the eighth meeting of the AU High-Level Committee for Libya, held on 30 January 2020, in Brazzaville, Congo, which, among others, underlines the imperative for an inclusive national dialogue and reconciliation, strongly condemned the continued fighting in Libya that resulted in hundreds of civilian victims, and the external interference that undermines peace efforts in Libya. The Assembly also welcomes the outcomes of the Conference on Libya held in Berlin in January 2020, especially the commitment by international partners to respect the embargo on arms and to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Libya. The Assembly calls upon the AU High-Level Committee for Libya to continue to support the all-inclusive Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process as a way forward to a permanent ceasefire, and also, as a prior condition to the reconciliation forum. The Assembly expresses its appreciation to H.E Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo and Chair of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya, for his tireless efforts towards finding a solution to the crisis in Libya. In this respect, the Assembly encourages him to remain seized with the matter. The Assembly underlines the role of the neighbouring countries of Libya, in the search for a solution to the current crisis, and welcomes the recent meeting held on 23 January 2020 in Algiers, Algeria. The Assembly reaffirms the AU position that there is no military solution to the current crisis in Libya and calls for enhancement of efforts, including a permanent ceasefire, towards finding a political and peaceful settlement of the conflict in Libya in line with the provisions of the Agreement signed by the Libyan parties in 2015, in Skhirat, Morocco. The Assembly requests the Chairperson of the Commission to play his role and to take the necessary concrete measures, in close consultation with the United Nations, to ensure the effective involvement of the AU, with a view to resolving the Libyan crisis;

13. *Commends* the countries of the Southern Africa region for sustaining peace and stability, including through enhancement of good governance, combating corruption and illicit financial flows and reinforced inter-

State cooperation, which manifests the collective commitment in the region to silencing the guns. The Assembly encourages the countries of the region to further enhance mitigation strategies against natural disasters and drought and to continue working together to counter terrorism, violent extremism, radicalization, trafficking and transnational organized crime. The Assembly applauds the Mozambicans for the successful organization of peaceful elections in October 2019 and encourages them to continue their efforts in implementing the Peace Agreement and advance peace, reconciliation and stability in the country, which would generate conditions more conducive for socio-economic recovery and development;

14. *Applauds* the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Authority of Heads of State and Government for their continued commitment and efforts in finding a lasting solution to the prolonged political and institutional crisis in Guinea-Bissau. The Assembly congratulates the people and Government of Guinea-Bissau for the successful holding of a peaceful first round of presidential elections in Guinea-Bissau on 24 November 2019 and the run-off on 29 December 2019. The Assembly strongly calls for a genuine all-inclusive dialogue, among all political actors, as the only viable alternative for finding durable solutions and strengthening the institutions of the State, in line with the announcement made by the National Electoral Commission of Guinea-Bissau;

15. *Commends* the efforts of the Republic of the Gambia towards consolidating democracy in the country through the current reforms process which will significantly contribute towards promoting stability and economic growth. The Assembly also commends the AU Commission for its continued support, through the African Union Technical Support Team to Gambia (AUTSTG) and other mechanisms, to the efforts of the Government of Gambia, towards consolidating peace and security, particularly with regard to strengthening public institutions, in the country. The Assembly encourages the Government of Gambia to continue engaging in dialogue with the ex-coalition members and political parties, in order to promote political stability and create a conducive environment for peace and economic development in the country;

16. *Expresses condolences* to the countries of the Sahel region for the lives lost due to terrorist attacks and other incidences of inter-communal violence and affirms the continued support of the AU through its various organs and programmes. The Assembly expresses deep concern over the persistent acts of terrorism, the growth of banditry, trafficking of all types and cross-border crime in the Sahel region. The Assembly commends the Malian parties for the progress in the inclusive national dialogue and encourages them to continue with the reforms process, with a view to building confidence among communities, within the framework of the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, which emanated from the Algiers Process. The Assembly urges the Malian parties to redouble efforts in the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. The Assembly emphasizes the need for continued support and advocacy efforts for regional initiatives, notably the ECOWAS initiatives to counter the spread of terrorism in the Sahel, through enhanced financing with the pledge of US\$ 1 billion made during the Ouagadougou Summit held on 14 September 2019. In this context, the Assembly encourages ECOWAS Member States to honour their pledges in order to enhance the fight against terrorism in the Sahel. Furthermore, the Assembly urges the partners, on the basis of priorities defined by the AU, to continue providing support to the efforts against terrorism, banditry, trafficking and transnational organized crime. In this regard, the Assembly welcomes the Bamako Declaration on Access to Natural Resources and Conflict between Communities adopted on 29 November 2019, in Bamako, Mali, as adopted by the AU Ministerial Meeting; decides to organize an Extraordinary Summit focusing on the challenges of terrorism and violent extremism, with a view to taking urgent action and measures necessary to support the countries which are facing the severe effects of terrorism; and requests the Commission, in coordination with the Chairperson of the Union, to carry out the consultations necessary for holding the Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, or in another Member State;

17. *Commends* the PSC for its continued efforts towards the full operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF), including the continued provision of strategic guidance for the harmonization of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) within the ASF Framework. The Assembly further commends the Commission for the efforts deployed in the development of various policies for the functioning of the ASF, including the new Doctrine for Peace Support Operations and the new Concept of Operations, as well as for efforts towards the establishment of the ASF Regional Logistic Depots. In the same context, the Assembly commends the

ASF Regional Standby Brigades for the continued efforts to ensure readiness for deployment; takes note of the proposal on forming a special unit within the African Standby Force for combatting terrorism and directs the AUPSC to consider all the aspects related to the proposed special unit and to present the conclusions and recommendations thereon at the next ordinary session in February 2021, while taking note of the offer by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host a future Extraordinary Summit dedicated to this subject;

18. *Welcomes* the initiatives by AFRIPOL in combating transnational organized crime, including fighting trafficking of illicit arms, drugs, and contraband. The Assembly calls upon the Commission to expedite the staffing of the AFRIPOL Secretariat to enable it to more effectively deliver on its mandate. In this regard, the Assembly commends Algeria for seconding officers to the AFRIPOL Secretariat and encourages all other Member States also to second officers to the AFRIPOL Secretariat;

19. *Encourages* the Member States, with the support of the AU Commission, as well as the RECs/RMs to redouble their efforts in mainstreaming child protection in their programmes. In this regard, the Assembly requests the AU Commission to integrate child protection into the Silencing the Guns campaign and the theme of the AU for the year 2020, as well as to develop a comprehensive policy on child protection in AU peace support operations. The Assembly reiterates its call for the Chairperson of the Commission to appoint a special envoy for children in armed conflict;

20. *Commends* the Commission for the steps taken to fully operationalize the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FEM-WISE AFRICA), in particular the training and the deployment of young women mediators, and requests the Commission to continue mobilizing support for the deployment of members of FEM-WISE in different AU liaison offices;

21. *Requests* the AU Commission to institutionalize the Youth for Peace Programme within the Peace and Security Department with the designation of a dedicated desk to coordinate the efforts of all stakeholders and facilitate its full operationalization, with a view to meet the increasing expectations of youth across the continent. The Assembly endorses the five African Youth Ambassadors for Peace representing each of the five regions of the AU and encourages them to continue to promote the role of the youth on the continent on peace and security issues in line with the relevant AU instruments;

22. *Notes with deep concern* the growing insecurity posed by the negative effects of climate change in Africa. In this regard, the Assembly reiterates the call for sustained support for international commitments and agreements on climate change, in particular the Paris Agreement. The Assembly also calls upon the international community to fulfil the pledge of US\$ 100 billion per year, to finance climate change actions at national, regional and international levels. Furthermore, the Assembly requests the Chairperson of the AU Commission, the relevant AU organs, working in consultation with Member States, to explore innovative means and ways of financing climate actions in Africa. In this context, the Assembly underscores the importance of promoting on Member States territories the integrated pursuit of peace, security and development with a view to deactivating the root causes of conflicts and advancing mitigation of negative effects of climate change on the continent. To this effect, the Assembly encourages the PSC to continue providing strategic guidance. Furthermore, the Assembly requests the Chairperson of the Commission to submit an annual report in the course of 2020 on the measures taken towards giving expression on the ground to this interlinkage;

23. *Encourages* enhancement of efforts towards resource mobilization towards the operation of the AU Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development; implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), as well as security sector reform (SSR) in countries emerging from conflict; sustenance of the Mediation Support Unit (MSU), in order to optimize successes in preventing, managing and resolving conflicts in Africa; building more synergy in the fight against illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW);

24. *Strongly condemns* all violations of arms embargoes currently in force in Africa, particularly as they contribute to illicit supplies to terrorist groups and criminal networks, thereby undermining the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of Member States. In this context, the Assembly urges the PSC, working closely

with the United Nations system, particularly its Security Council, to consider measures to be taken to curb violations of United Nations arms embargo in Africa. Furthermore, the Assembly warns that punitive measures will be taken against all those that continue to commit such violations, including naming and shaming, in line with PSC decisions;

25. *Strongly condemns* all forms of foreign interference in the internal affairs of the AU Member States, which undermines the efforts of the continent to silence the guns and aggravates crises with devastating effects on Africa's development and stability. The Assembly requests the PSC to remain seized with the matter and activate its policy of "naming and shaming" the peace spoilers;

26. *Commends* the PSC for holding of its Eleventh Retreat on the "Comprehensive African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) Study and the Working Methods of the PSC", from 29 to 31 October 2018, in Cairo, Egypt, and the Twelfth Retreat on the theme "Strengthening the Work of the Peace and Security Council on Conflict Prevention and Peace Consolidation in Africa", from 24 to 26 June 2019, in Rabat, Morocco. The Assembly endorses the conclusions of the two retreats and requests the AU relevant policy organs to follow up on the implementation of the contents of the conclusions of the retreats. Furthermore, the Assembly commends the Commission for the successful conduct of the Comprehensive APSA Study. The Assembly congratulates the PSC for the development of the Manual on Working Methods of the PSC which was adopted by the PSC at its 861st meeting held on 22 July 2019, and also endorses the Manual. Furthermore, the Assembly welcomes the convening of the PSC Annual High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa on the theme "Silencing the Guns in Africa: Creating a Conducive Environment for Children in Conflict Situations" from 13 to 14 January 2020, in Libreville, Gabon, and endorses the conclusions of the Seminar;

27. *Commends* the African members in the United Nations Security Council ((A3) members) for a significant role played in bridging the gap between the AU and the United Nations, particularly, in articulating, defending and promoting African perspectives and common positions on issues of peace and security on the continent. The Assembly also commends the outgoing A3 members, namely, Côte d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea, for their exemplary work during their tenure in the United Nations Security Council and congratulates Niger and Tunisia for their election as non-permanent members of the Security Council. The Assembly encourages the A3 members to continue strengthening their unity and coordination with a view to more effectively amplify and spearhead the African voice and common positions on African peace and security issues on the United Nations Security Council agenda.

Assembly/AU/Dec.754 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Outcome of the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the
Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) held in Cairo, Egypt, from 15 to 19 December 2019;
2. *Adopts*¹ the Declaration of the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security and the outcomes contained therein, as annexed;
3. *Requests* the Commission, working with Member States and with the Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Mechanisms, to follow up on the activities outlined in the Declaration.

Declaration on the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the

¹ Morocco expressed its reservation.

**Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS)
Cairo, Egypt, 19 December 2019**

1. *We, the members of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) of the African Union (AU), met at the Twelfth Meeting in Cairo, Egypt, and considered the Conclusions of the African Chiefs of Defence Staff and Heads of Safety and Security (ACDSS).*
2. Our meeting was preceded by the Fifteenth Meeting of the ACDSS, held from 18 December 2019, and a Meeting of Experts held from 15 to 17 December 2019.
3. On the basis of our deliberations, we declare as follows:
 - (a) In respect of the AU flagship project on “Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020” and implementation of the African Union Master Road Map (AUMR) of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa, the timeframe for its full implementation should be extended to give additional time for Member States and Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanism (RECs/RMs), with the support of relevant stakeholders such as civil society organizations and the private sector, as well as the United Nations system, to continue implementing the various aspects in the AU Master Road Map. This extension should be informed by a review of what has been done on this issue thus far. In addition, within the framework of the ongoing laudable efforts on silencing the guns on the continent, there is need to create conducive conditions for sustainable development, promotion of inclusive political dialogue for the settlement of disputes using AU mechanisms on mediation, good neighbourliness, dialogue, reconciliation and pacific settlement of disputes provided for within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA). In this regard, the efforts towards silencing the guns should ensure the rejection of all forms of external military intervention and interference in the continent’s affairs. Therefore, we look forward to the report of the Peace and Security Council on Silencing the Guns, in which stocktaking of the implementation of the AU Master Road Map since its adoption by the Assembly in January 2017 will be embedded, to be submitted to the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union to be held on 9 and 10 February 2020. We welcome the offer by the Republic of Kenya to host a meeting on the review of the implementation of the AU Master Road Map;
 - (b) Encourage Member States to continue implementing the Africa Amnesty Month in the context of Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020. To this effect, Member States are encouraged to further intensify their efforts towards ensuring the Africa Amnesty Month and its opportunities are popularized on their national territories;
 - (c) Adopt, provisionally, the AU Doctrine on Peace Support Operations (PSO), as a strategic working document, and request the AUC to gather inputs by 1 March 2020, from the RECs/RMs and Member States in order to further enrich the document and resubmit the enriched document for consideration in the next STCDSS meeting in 2020;
 - (d) Adopt the African Standby Force (ASF) Pledged Capabilities Verification Guidelines with the proposed amendments. In this regard, Member States to continue with self-verification of these pledged capabilities and report to RECs/RMs to conduct annual verification and report to the African Union Commission (AUC), while AUC should conduct verification every three years. Additionally, interoperability should be incorporated as a criterion in the evaluation/verification of the readiness of pledged capabilities;
 - (e) Adopt the Report of the Eleventh ASF Training Implementation Workshop and reconfirm that the ASF Planning Elements (AU, RECs/RMs) shall meet at least once a year to enhance cooperation, coordination and complementarity of efforts;
 - (f) Adopt the AU Policy on the Management of Recovered Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in PSO with the following amendments, and encourage Member States to domesticate the policy:
 - (i) Marking of arms should not be optional but mandatory;

- (ii) Sharing of information and data on recovered weapons among the mission, host government, other Member States, RECs/RMs and the AUC should be mandatory;
- (iii) Implementation of the policy should be harmonized with host government, Member States and RECs/RMs policies on SALW;
- (iv) The policy should reflect the host country as the key stakeholder, with the first responsibility on the implementation of the policy;
- (v) PSO should ensure proper management of recovered arms and ammunition to include storage, transportation, marking, recycling and disposal;
- (vi) The policy should incorporate a sanctions regime against any actors that violate these regulations;
- (g) Express deep concern over the intensification of terrorism and violent extremism, which are causing enormous losses of human lives and widespread destruction, especially in the most affected regions of the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin and the Horn of Africa; further express concern that this phenomena are fast outspreading to many other parts of Africa, particularly to Western, Central and Southern Africa; in this context, agree to rapidly and fully operationalize the ASF as part of the comprehensive approach being implemented on the continent against terrorism and violent extremism; also urge all Member States, as well as RECs/RMs, to proactively engage to ensure that the efforts against terrorism are deployed in tandem with practical steps to promote socio-economic development, especially employment for youths; eradicate poverty; mitigate effects of climate change and uproot causes of inter-communal violence, doing all these in a set-up of renewed African solidarity and inter-State cooperation on all fronts;
- (h) Direct the AUC to conduct a second phase of the Mapping Study on Small Arms and Light Weapons focusing more on illicit weapons flows as linked to terrorist activities, working in close cooperation with Member States and the RECs/RMs;
- (i) Adopt, in principle, the Cairo Road Map on Enhancing Peacekeeping Operations: from Mandate to Exit, and provide Member States a two-month period to communicate their inputs to the AUC, in order to be presented to the AU policy organs;
- (j) Direct the AUC to review the 1977 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism and submit to the next STCDSS for consideration;
- (k) Encourage Member States to continue supporting implementation of the mandates of current AU-mandated and authorized PSOs and urge the United Nations to provide additional resources towards achievement of PSO mandates;
- (l) Adopt the draft Regulations on Data Processing for the African Police Communication System (AFSECOM) and submit to the next meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs (STCJLA);
- (m) Direct the AUC to develop a draft Five Year (2021-2025) successor plan to the Maputo Work Plan on the Enhancement of the ASF 2016-2020; and welcome the offer by the Republic of South Africa to host a meeting to this effect;
- (n) Encourage Member States to support the AU's efforts in mobilizing funding for preventing and combating terrorism and extremism in Africa, including endowing the AU Special Fund created for this purpose; further recall

the overall¹ responsibility of the United Nations Security Council on peace and security and call on it to provide the requisite support and resources for restoration of peace, security and stability and for implementing post-conflict reconstruction and development activities;

(o) Adopt the African Union Strategy for a Better Integrated Border Governance with amendments. Member States are encouraged to ratify the Niamey Convention, adopted on 27 June 2014. Furthermore, implementation of the Border Governance Strategy should take cognizance² of the AU Constitutive Act, particularly its Article 4, subparagraph (b), which provides for the respect of borders existing on achievement of independence;

4. *Express gratitude* to the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the Twelfth meeting of the STCDSS, including the hospitality accorded to the AU Commission and delegates as well as the excellent facilities provided for the meeting;

5. *Appreciate* the efforts made by AU Member States in providing support to the ASF Continental Logistics Base (CLB), including secondment of additional officers and renewal of tenure by the Republic of Cameroon, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Zimbabwe, respectively;

6. *Thank* all delegations for their participation and the AUC for facilitating the meeting;

7. *Encourage* the Commission to continue to provide regular updates and reports on progress towards the implementation of our decisions in the next meetings of the STCDSS;

8. *Further reiterate* the role of the STCDSS as per Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) and in line with the provisions of Article 15 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (2000). In this regard, we hereby submit this Declaration to the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the AU for onward transmission to the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, scheduled to take place on 9 and 10 February 2020.

Assembly/AU/Dec.755 (XXXIII)

Decision on the Fifth Report of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the Implementation of the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020 (Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XXXIII))

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the Fifth Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) on the Implementation of the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020 (AUMR) and commends the PSC for its continued constant guidance on the implementation of the AUMR, particularly through its decisions on peace and security issues on the continent;

2. *Recalls* the Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted on 25 May 2013, in Addis Ababa, in which the Assembly of the Union pledged not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020, as well as Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII) by which the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in

¹ Morocco expressed its reservation on paragraph 3 (n) as the wording used is not in line with the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council which refers to the United Nations Security Council's "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security".

² Morocco expressed its reservation on paragraph 3 (o) as the Moroccan delegation was not given the opportunity to discuss the reworded paragraph and as a reference to a specific article and paragraph of the Constitutive Act was inserted while the STC adopted other documents and no reference to the Act was made.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 to 31 January 2017, adopted, following submission by the PSC, the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020;

3. *Underscores* the progress made, so far, on the implementation of the AUMR, in particular the political aspect, and calls on Member States to redouble their efforts to ensure other aspects in the AUMR, namely, economic, social, environmental and legal, are also implemented and well reported. In this context, the Assembly commends all AU Member States, the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), civil society organizations and the private sector, as well as the United Nations and other partners for their efforts and commitments towards implementation of the AUMR, which gives support to Africa's efforts in silencing the guns and creating a conflict-free Africa;

4. *Welcomes* the AU Theme of the Year 2020 "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development" and encourages all Member States, RECs/RMs, civil society organizations and private sectors, United Nations and partners to use the opportunity of the Theme of the Year 2020 to focus on implementing targeted activities with specific objectives and outcomes, with a view to accelerate and concentrate efforts in the implementation of the AUMR; the Assembly further reiterates the imperative to expeditiously create conditions for promoting a conflict-free Africa;

5. *Also welcomes* the United Nations Security Council resolution 2457 adopted on 27 February 2019 under the Presidency of Equatorial Guinea. In this context, the Assembly commends the African Members in the United Nations Security Council (A3) who jointly promoted and championed the adoption of the resolution, as well as the PSC and the AU Commission for their support to the A3. In this regard, the Assembly underlines that the resolution is a step forward in mobilizing international support with a view to achieving the goal of a conflict-free Africa. The Assembly appeals to all Member States and all stakeholders involved to ensure fully implementation of the resolution as Africa marks the end of AUMR implementation in December 2020;

6. *Commends* Member States for the gains achieved in advancing democratic elections and consolidating good governance as essential conditions for responding to the need of their citizens, particularly through improved socio-economic delivery and encourages them to continue on this path. The Assembly also commends those Member States which have seized the opportunity of the technical support availed by the Commission and encourages others to emulate. To this effect, the Assembly applauds the AU Commission for the efforts deployed and support provided in assisting Member States in implementing their national programmes and requests the Commission to continue providing support. The Assembly encourages Member States, with the support of the AU Commission, to continue mobilizing the necessary resources for their national programmes, especially those relating to silencing the guns. The Assembly strongly condemns any external political and military interference in the affairs of the continent and calls on Member States to further enhance and consolidate cooperation and solidarity among themselves with a view to ensuring that Africa shapes its destiny, in line with AU instruments, particularly the African Common Defence and Security Policy. The Assembly encourages the PSC to continue providing strategic leadership and guidance in advancing the conduct of peaceful elections and enhancing good governance within the continent;

7. *Commends* the PSC for its continued efforts towards the full operationalization and deployment of the African Standby Force (ASF), including the continued provision of strategic guidance for the harmonization of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) within the ASF Framework. The Assembly also commends the ACIRC Volunteer Nations for their commitment to comply with the relevant decisions of the Assembly and the communiqués of the PSC and ensure the rapid harmonization of the ACIRC within the framework of the ASF. The Assembly further commends the Commission for the efforts deployed in the development of various policies for the functioning of the ASF, particularly the new Doctrine for Peace Support Operations, as well as towards the establishment of the ASF Regional Logistic Depots. The Assembly encourages the ASF Regional Standby Brigades for the continued efforts to ensure readiness for deployment;

8. *Urges* Member States to fully adhere to AU instruments and policies, particularly the Common African Defence and Security Policy and also to the AU Non-Aggression Pact, taking into consideration that the defence and security of one country in Africa is directly linked to that of others;

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress made in revitalizing the AU Peace Fund and commends all Member States who have made contribution to the Fund, with a view to ensuring that Africa become self-reliant on its peace and security agenda and enhance the ability for timely response to situations on the continent which will greatly contribute to silencing the guns and create conducive conditions for socio-economic development. The Assembly calls upon those Member States who have not yet paid up, to expeditiously make their contributions to consolidate Africa's efforts towards self-reliance. Furthermore, the Assembly congratulates the following Member States for their pledges to financially support the Peace Fund:

(a) Senegal: US\$ 500,000 allocated for the Women, Peace and Security programme and \$500,000 for the Peace Fund;

(b) Nigeria: US\$ 1,000,000 for combatting terrorism in the Sahel;

(c) South Africa: US\$ 1,000,000 for humanitarian assistance in the Sahel;

(d) Ghana: US\$ 1,000,000 for the Peace Fund;

10. *Requests* the PSC, working with other AU organs and RECs/RMs policy organs, to take appropriate action and put in place a format of interaction to address early warning and early response issues, in order to prevent full-blown conflicts in order to enhance opportunities for silencing the guns in Africa. In this regard, the Assembly also requests the PSC and the RECs/RMs policy organs to reflect on the development of such a format in their upcoming Consultative Meeting on Peace and Security in May 2020. The Assembly reiterates its call upon Member States to take advantage of the AU Structural Vulnerability Assessment Tools in a way that contributes to sustaining national cohesion and stability and, in this context, commends Ghana for its efforts. The Assembly encourages Member States to take evidence-based early warning information, as gathered by the Commission and the RECs/RMs Secretariats, and engage the necessary measures to maintain stability, including extending the necessary cooperation to the PSC and the Commission;

11. *Commends* the PSC, with the support of the AU Commission, in enhancing cooperation and synergy in the implementation of the DDR and SSR programmes, as well in the fight against illicit small arms and light weapons; also commends the AU Commission for the continental study mapping illicit arms flows in Africa and endorses the recommendations of the joint mapping study as endorsed by the PSC at its 860th meeting, held on 18 July 2019. The Assembly urges Member States, the Commission, and RECs/RMs, with a small arms mandate, to further enhance their respective capacities towards undertaking integrated and comprehensive measures to address this scourge in line with the regional and international instruments. Furthermore, the Assembly strongly condemns all violations of arms embargoes currently in effect in Africa, particularly as they result in illegal supplies to terrorist groups and armed groups, as well as criminal networks, undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States, and threaten regional security and stability. The Assembly stresses the urgency for Member States to eliminate the supply of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized non-State actors and act for the disarmament of these armed groups and put to an end their actions. The Assembly urges all Member States to put in place measures to curb illicit proliferation of arms/weapons and also other measures to arrest the persistent inflow of illegal arms/weapons into various parts of the continent. The Assembly calls for naming and shaming of any entity or persons engaged in illegal supply of arms/weapons, including financing and safe havens for this traffic. The Assembly requests the PSC to increase its collaboration with the United Nations Security Council to address implementation gaps, including through the framework of the annual joint consultative meeting between the two Councils;

12. *Calls upon* the PSC to continue providing strategic guidance on the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR) in those Member States emerging from

conflict, upon their request. The Assembly encourages the Commission to continue providing technical assistance to Member States to facilitate their DDR and SSR programmes and urges it to continue with these efforts;

13. *Condemns in the strongest terms possible* the acts of terrorisms and all its forms in Africa and advises against the propagation of this scourge on the continent. The Assembly appeals to Member States to continue developing their national action plans, with the support of the ACSRT, and strengthening their national institutional structures dedicated to fighting terrorism and violent extremism, as well as sharing best practices and experiences in the fight against extremist speeches. The Assembly commends the Kingdom of Morocco for its initiative to host the next United Nations Global Forum for Alliance of Civilization in 2020 and looks forward to the outcomes of the Forum which are expected to contribute significantly to the promotion of a culture of peace in Africa; welcomes the Conference on “The Role of Islam in Africa: Tolerance and Moderation in the Face of Internal Struggles”, organized by the International Forum for the Strengthening of Peace in Muslim Societies, which was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, on 21 January 2020; also takes note of the Declaration adopted at the end of the Conference by the Imams, Ulemas and Muslim religious leaders from all over Africa;

14. *Emphasizes* the need to differentiate the message of hate purportedly from Islam which is disseminated by terrorist groups and violent extremists from the message of authentic Islam which is structured around the universal values of tolerance, peace and brotherhood;

15. *Urges* Member States to strengthen efforts to promote the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and to raise awareness of the African values of religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence, which are essential to the achievement of the objectives of peace and development included in Agenda 2063;

16. *Requests* the AU, working closely with the RECs/RMs Secretariats, to propose further technical measures in support of AU Member States to enhance their capacity to improve maritime security and safety, as well as the development of the Blue Economy. The Assembly also requests the AU Commission, while awaiting entry into force of the Lomé Charter, to take the initiative to put in place a consultative forum that will facilitate periods for review of progress in Africa’s maritime domain. The Assembly further requests the AU Commission to finalize the review of the draft annexes to the Lomé Charter, as an integral part of the Charter, with a view to facilitating its rapid signature and ratification by Member States. The Assembly encourages Member States to conduct joint patrols in their respective territorial waters and appeals to partners to extend their support to the AU in addressing maritime insecurity in Africa;

17. *Calls on* Member States to undertake regular cyber security risk assessments, with the support of the Commission, especially AFRIPOL, and commends those Member States that have already signed and ratified, and are already implementing the AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention of 2014). In this respect, the Assembly encourages those Member States, which have not yet done so, to also do the same without further delay. The Assembly requests the AU Commission to establish platforms, such as regional forums, dedicated to discussing cyber security-related issues, with a view to facilitating sharing of experiences, lessons learned and best practices, as well as promoting regional and international cooperation in promoting cyber security. The Assembly also requests the Department of Infrastructure and Energy of the AU Commission, working in close collaboration with the RECs/RMs Secretariats, to expeditiously develop a Continental Cyber Security Strategy and a Cyber Security Model Law for submission to the PSC for its consideration;

18. *Applauds* the PSC and those Member States which have conducted the Africa Amnesty Month (AAM) and calls for other Member States to also carry out this activity within the collective responsibility to ensure the silencing of the guns on the continent. The Assembly calls upon the RECs/RMs with their Member States, to intensify efforts to ensure success of the AAM in their regions. Furthermore, the Assembly encourages the PSC to conduct the AAM in the field to create public awareness and for the citizens to appreciate the initiative and its contribution towards peace. The Assembly commends the AU Commission for its technical and financial support to Member States and appeals to partners to continue providing support to the AU Commission in the implementation of this activity;

19. *Expresses gratitude* to the Government of Egypt for its commitment and support, as well as to the AU Commission for the efforts deployed towards the operationalization of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development. The Assembly calls upon Member States to fund the Centre as part of the regular budget beginning in 2021, with a view to ensuring that the Centre functions in a sustainable manner. In this regard, the Assembly requests the AU Commission to undertake a review of PCRD implementation and establish a data base of PCRD experts, in line with PSC decisions;

20. *Encourages* Member States to engage further in implementing the practical steps outlined under the Economic Aspect of the AUMR, in order to generate the conditions necessary for advancing economic activities, as well as job creation, particularly for the youth. The Assembly urges Member States to continue implementing AU instruments and policies, with particular attention to promoting the role of women and youth in peace processes and development. The Assembly commends the PSC for the progress made in ensuring that the issues of youth and women are cross-cutting in the peace, security and development agenda of the continent. The Assembly requests the PSC to continue mainstreaming the dimension of peace, security and development in the implementation of the AUMR, given its positive impact on the stabilization of the continent;

21. *Applauds* the PSC for its leadership with regard to prevention and responses to epidemic/pandemic outbreaks in Africa, in particular the authorization of the immediate deployment of an AU Mission Against Ebola in DRC (MAEC), to provide support to the relevant DRC authorities in the fight against the Ebola virus in that country. The Assembly commends the AU Commission for its technical support provided to countries affected by the Ebola outbreak and underscores that the establishment of the Africa CDC is one of the major achievements of Africa in creating a conducive social environment for African citizens. In this regard, the Assembly requests Member States to continue providing their support to the activities of the Africa CDC;

22. *Urges* Member States to continue promoting zero-tolerance of sexual abuse, in particular in AU peace support operations. The Assembly requests Member States to protect IDPs and refugee camps, against any form of militarization and to maintain the civilian character of these camps and public infrastructures. The Assembly appeals to all private sectors and the international community as a whole, to extend the necessary financial and technical support to the promotion of social activities on the continent;

23. With regard to the response to natural disasters, the Assembly requests the Chairperson of the AU Commission to make recommendations on how to enable the Permanent Representatives Committee's Subcommittee on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs to respond swiftly in cases of occurrence of natural disasters and humanitarian situations on the continent. The Assembly also requests the Commission to expedite the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency (AfHA) as provided for in the African Common Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness, with a view to supporting Member States on disaster risk preparedness and management. Furthermore, the Assembly underscores the important role of the ASF in providing humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of civilian population in conflict areas and support efforts to address effects of natural disasters on the continent, in line with Article 13, paragraph 3 (f), of the PSC Protocol. The Assembly encourages Member States to implement the AU Kigali Action Plan on Water and Sanitation in Africa adopted in Malabo in 2014 and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods adopted in 2014;

24. *Commends* the operationalization of the climate commissions dedicated to the Sahel and Congo Basin regions, emanating from the African Summit of Action held in Marrakesh in 2016, and requests the AU Commission, in full collaboration with Member States, to support the operationalization of the Commissions on the Sahel and the Congo Basin, as well as the Commission on Small Island States, in line with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.723 (XXXII). In line with the PSC decisions, the Assembly requests the Chairperson of the AU Commission to explore innovative means of financing climate actions in Africa such as the African Adaptation Initiative (AAI), the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), the Initiative for Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA), and the Commissions on the Sahel and Congo Basin, as well as on Small Island States. In this regard, the Assembly also requests the Chairperson of the Commission to report to the Assembly on this initiative.

Furthermore, the Assembly reiterates its request to the Chairperson of the AU Commission to appoint a Special Envoy on climate change and security in Africa;

25. *Expresses appreciation* on the progress made in signing and ratification of OAU/AU treaties and legal instruments by Member States and commends the AU Commission for the Study it has undertaken to this effect. The Assembly encourages Member States to continue signing, ratifying and domesticating these treaties and instruments in order to ensure advancement towards the realization of AU visions and goals, including silencing the guns on the continent. The Assembly requests the AU Commission to continue providing capacity-building support to Member States in areas of legal and legislative drafting with a view to facilitating application of OAU/AU treaties;

26. *Welcomes* the planned AU meetings and events, namely that to be hosted by Equatorial Guinea, in March 2020, under the umbrella of the PSC, to reflect on more innovative ways of enhancing action of implementing the AUMR; to be hosted by Kenya in March/April 2020 to take stock of the implementation of the AUMR in order to lay a foundation for forging a way forward; and the Extraordinary AU Summit on Silencing the Guns, back-to-back with the Extraordinary AU Summit on AfCFTA, both to be hosted by South Africa in May 2020, to provide an opportunity for Heads of State and Government to review the implementation of the AUMR, and undertake an in-depth reflection, especially on root causes of conflicts, among others;

27. *Takes note* of the Orientation Concept Note and its matrix of activities on the Theme of the Year 2020 and stresses that the activities of the AUMR and the Theme of the Year 2020 need to be provided for through funding from the Member States budget, in order to achieve sustainability. In regard, the Assembly authorizes the use of the supplementary budget process in 2020, which passes through the relevant PRC Subcommittees and the PRC itself, to assist in providing this funding in order to ensure full implementation of the ongoing activities of the AUMR and the Theme of the Year 2020;

28. *Requests* the PSC, as marking the end of the AUMR in December 2020, to submit to the Assembly in the January/February 2021 summit, a comprehensive Report on the Status of the Implementation of the AUMR, taking into account of the achievements made, challenges encountered and the way forward with a view to ensuring that Africa is free from crises and conflicts.

Assembly/AU/Dec.756 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.710 (XXXI) on
the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development
(Doc. EX.CL/1192 (XXXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.710 (XXXI) on the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development;

2. *Welcomes* the signing of the host country agreement on the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, and H.E. Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 11 December 2019;

3. *Expresses appreciation* to President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt for efforts deployed in his role as the African Union Champion on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development and, in particular, in hosting, in December 2019, the inaugural session of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development in Aswan, Egypt which focused on post-conflict reconstruction, education, climate change and sustainable development in Africa;

4. *Commends* the Arab Republic of Egypt for all the preparations made in Cairo to ensure the full operationalization of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development and welcomes the efforts of the Commission, in collaboration with the Arab Republic of Egypt, towards the operationalization of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development;
5. *Requests* the Commission to make the necessary efforts for the full operationalization and functioning of the Centre;
6. *Directs* the Commission to:
 - (i) Spearhead efforts to mobilize resources, including adequate and sustainable funding, for the full operationalization of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development to further consolidate and sustain peace in Africa;
 - (ii) Complete the process of launching the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, including the recruitment of its staff in 2020-2021;
 - (iii) Expedite the commencement of programme of activities of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development to ensure that it demonstrates its contribution to PCRD efforts on the continent from the onset;
7. *Appeals* to Member States, as well as the United Nations, through its Peacebuilding Commission (UNPBC), and other partners to extend support to the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development to facilitate its operation and implementation of its programme of activities.

Assembly/AU/Dec.757 (XXXIII)

Decision on Consequence Management and the Oversight Role of the Chairperson of the AU Commission within the Union on the Functioning of the AUC and Other AU Organs

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chairperson on the implementation of the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1057 (XXXV), paragraph 40, adopted by the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Niamey, Niger, in July 2019;
2. *Also takes note* of the sanctions, including dismissal and separation, taken against staff found guilty of irregularities and violations of AU Staff and Financial Regulations and Rules, after having followed due process;
3. *Directs* the AUC Chairperson to continue to take effective actions to address all acts of misconduct in the African Union, and to use his financial and administrative statutory oversight authority over all non-policy organs and institutions of the Union, including the Pan-African Parliament, the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and their elected officials;
4. *Also directs* the Office of the Legal Counsel to examine the legal instruments and rules of procedure of AU organs and identify areas of incoherence or conflict with other AU legal instruments, and advise AU policy organs on the amendments and alignment, as appropriate, and report to the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2020;
5. *Requests* the Commission to:
 - (i) Present a report on the operationalization of the Court of Justice of the Union which is mandated to consider appeals from the AU Administrative Tribunal by July 2020;

- (ii) Submit a report on the implementation of this decision to the Executive Council by July 2020.

Assembly/AU/Dec.758 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Draft Legal Instruments
(Doc. Assembly/AU/26 (XXXIII))**

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 following legal instruments¹:
 - (i) Statute of the African Peer Review Mechanism;
 - (ii) Rules of Procedure of the Heads of State and Government of Participating States of the African Peer Review Mechanism;
 - (iii) Revised Protocol on Relations between the AU and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
 - (iv) Rules of Procedures of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting;
 - (v) Statute for the Establishment of African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration;
 - (vi) Statute for the Establishment of African Migration Observatory;
 - (vii) Statute for the Establishment of the Continental Operational Centre in Sudan for Combating Irregular Migration;
3. *Takes note* of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1074 (XXXVI), adopted by the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2020, approving the proposal of the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs to hold an extraordinary session prior to the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
4. *Delegates* to the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, its authority to consider and adopt draft legal instruments, that will be considered by the Fifth Extraordinary Session of the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs;
5. *Directs* all STCs of the African Union and the African Union Commission to strictly adhere to AU decisions, and the AU Rules and Regulations, including the Rules of Procedure of the various STCs, and the moratorium placed on submission of proposals by STCs for the establishment of new bodies without submitting their financial, legal and structural implications.

¹ The Kingdom of Morocco entered reservations against the following common Articles: Article 7 of the Draft Statute for the Establishment of African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration; Article 8 of the Draft Statute for the Establishment of African Migration Observatory; and Article 8 of the Draft Statute for the Establishment of Continental Operational Centre in Sudan for Combating Irregular Migration. The reservations relate to the two-year term of office of the Board Members of the migration institutions. The Kingdom of Morocco preferred to retain the five-year term as adopted by the STC on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons and considered that the composition of the board of the three institutions is disproportionate to the nature of the centres and would not be helpful with their smooth and efficient operation.

Assembly/AU/Dec.759 (XXXIII)

Decision on the Realignment of the Legal Instruments

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XI) requesting the Commission to align all relevant legal instruments, in line with the Institutional Reform;
2. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the alignment of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Executive Council, the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Statute of the Commission;
3. *Delegates* to the Executive Council, its authority to consider and adopt provisionally the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and the Statute of the Commission during its Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session in June/July 2020;
4. *Notes* that this is a transitional period from the old electoral system of the Members of the Commission to the new modalities adopted as per Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1;
5. *Decides* to provide flexibility within the timeline prescribed by Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XI), for the electoral process leading to the upcoming elections of the Members of the Commission in February 2021, and that this flexibility should not exceed a total of 75 days;
6. *Requests* the Commission to undertake all necessary steps in meeting future deadlines as prescribed under Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XI).

Assembly/AU/Dec.760 (XXXIII)

Decision on Delegation of Authority for the Election and Appointment of Members of AU Institutions within the Framework of One Ordinary Summit a Year

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report on the Transitional Arrangements for the Election of Members of AU Institutions within the Framework of One Ordinary Summit a Year;
2. *Recalls* Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which mandates the Assembly to delegate any of its powers and functions to any organ of the Union;
3. *Decides* to delegate its authority to appoint members of the following AU organs and institutions to the Executive Council:
 - (a) African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;
 - (b) African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
 - (c) African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights;
 - (d) African Union Advisory Board on Corruption;
 - (e) African Union Commission on International Law;

- (f) President and Vice-President of the Pan-African University; and
- (g) African Space Agency.

Assembly/AU/Dec.761 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Eminent Person's Panel for the Selection of the Senior Leadership
(Doc. Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1-4 (XI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the November 2018 AU Extraordinary Assembly of Heads of State and Government Decision on the Institutional Reform of the African Union (AU) Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1-4 (XI):
 - (a) Establishing a Panel of Eminent Africans, composed of five eminent personalities, one per region, to oversee the preselection of candidatures of the senior leadership of the Commission;
 - (b) Requesting Member States to propose their regional nominations for the Panel of Eminent Africans to the Commission by January 2019. The Commission shall present such nominations to the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly from 10 to 11 February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and
 - (c) Deciding that the Panel of Eminent Africans shall be technically assisted by an independent African consultancy firm, to be selected by the Panel;
2. *Takes note* of the nomination of Eminent Persons from the following regions:
 - (a) Central Africa: H.E Yang Philemon (Cameroon);
 - (b) East Africa: Ambassador Konjit Sinegiorgis (Ethiopia);
 - (c) Southern Africa: Ambassador Tuliameni Kalomoh (Namibia);
 - (d) West Africa: Hon. Hassan Bubacar Jallow (Gambia);
3. *Welcomes* the first meeting of the Eminent Person's Panel and requests them to expedite the preparation of the senior leadership job profiles, competency requirements and assessment process; and
4. *Urges* the Northern Region to conclude their consultations and nominate an Eminent Person to the Panel.

Assembly/AU/Dec.762 (XXXIII)

Decision on Multilateral Cooperation

The Assembly,

- A. On the Host Countries of Partnerships Summits and Events
 1. *Endorses* the offer made by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to host the Fourth Africa-India Summit to be held in 2021 and requests the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission and India, to agree on the date of the said Summit;
 2. *Also endorses* the offer made by the Republic of Tunisia to host the TICAD 8 Summit to be held in 2022;

3. *Encourages* partners or designated host countries to ensure that statutory preparatory meetings (senior officials and ministerial) are held at the same venue and immediately precede respective Partnership Summits as per Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII)Rev.2⁷, paragraph 19, of January 2016;

B. On Participation and Representation in Partnerships Statutory Meetings

4. *Recalls* Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1057 (XXXIV) of July 2019 on the AU representation in partnership meetings which decided to refer the item back to the PRC Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation for further consideration with a view to reaching consensus regarding this issue, and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII), paragraph 5 (c) (v), taken in January 2017, which states that: “Partnership Summits convened by external parties shall be reviewed with a view to providing an effective framework for African Union partnerships. Africa will be represented by the Troika, (namely the current, incoming and outgoing Chairpersons of the African Union), the Chairperson of the AU Commission, and the Chairpersons of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as the Chairperson of NEPAD”, and Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.877 (XXVII), paragraph 10, taken in June 2015, which “Reaffirms the right of all AU Member States to participate without discrimination in all meetings, activities and events organized within the framework of the partnership in which the AU is a stakeholder”;

5. *Reaffirms* the right of all AU Member States to participate in Statutory Meetings, related to partnerships between the African Union/African continent and another continent or regional organization;

6. *Decides* that African Union/African continent shall be represented at the Statutory Meetings of partnership between the African Union/African continent and a partner country by the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, the Chairpersons of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of AUDA-NEPAD and the Chairperson of the AU Commission;

7. *Further decides* that the internal preparatory process of the Statutory Meetings between the African Union/African continent and a partner country shall be inclusive with the participation of all AU Member States;

8. *Directs* the PRC, in collaboration with the Commission, to define the mandate for representatives in Statutory Meetings between the African Union/African continent and a partner country, for consideration by the Executive Council, in June/July 2020;

C. Africa-Arab Partnership

9. *Takes note* of the request of the League of Arab States to postpone the Fifth Africa-Arab Summit from 2019 to 2020;

10. *Approves* the holding of the Fifth Africa-Arab Summit on a mutually agreed upon date in 2020, and to be preceded by the preparatory senior officials and ministerial meetings, respectively, in line with Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII) Rev.2, paragraph 20⁸, of January 2016;

⁷ Decision EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII), paragraph 19: “Encourages partners or designated host countries to ensure that other Partnership Summits’ meetings (senior officials and ministerial meetings) are held at the same venue and immediately precede respective Partnership Summits”. (Editor’s note: Footnote 1 is followed by footnote 7.)

⁸ Decision EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII) Rev.2 of January 2016, paragraph 20: “Approves a five-year cycle and to organize two partnership meetings per year as from 2017 for all strategic partnerships and requests the Commission to adopt its gradual implementation taking into consideration the need to reschedule previously adopted partnership meetings accordingly, including at the Summit level, and in consultation with the respective partners and host countries.

11. *Also takes note* of the launch of the preparatory process and requests the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, to develop the working documents of the Fifth Africa-Arab Summit and to finalize the draft Joint Africa-Arab Partnership Action Plan and its Financing Mechanism for consideration by the Fifth Africa-Arab Summit;

D. Africa-Turkey Partnership

12. *Takes note* of the request of Turkey to postpone the Third Africa-Turkey Summit from 2019 to 2020, and the proposal by Turkey to hold the Summit on 20 April 2020, in Istanbul, Turkey;

13. *Directs* the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission and Turkey, to propose new dates starting in 2021, for the hosting of the Third Africa-Turkey Summit, in line with Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII) Rev.2, paragraph 20⁹, of January 2016;

E. Africa-India Partnership

14. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to postpone to 2021 the Fourth Africa-India Summit;

15. *Directs* the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission, India and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, to propose suitable dates for the Fourth Africa-India Summit, in 2021, and to commence preparation for the Summit as soon as possible;

F. AU-EU Partnership

16. *Approves* the dates of 4 to 5 May 2020 for the Senior Officials Meeting and the Second AU-EU Ministerial Meeting, respectively, to be held in Kigali, Rwanda, and directs the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission, the Republic of Rwanda and the European Union (EU), to commence preparations as soon as possible;

17. *Also directs* the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission, to work closely with the European Union for timely preparations for the Sixth AU-EU Summit, to be held in 2020 in Europe.

Assembly/AU/Dec.763 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Report of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XXXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report by the outgoing Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee, H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Thirty-seventh NEPAD HSGOC Summit;

⁹ Decision EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII) Rev.2 of January 2016, paragraph 20: "Approves a five-year cycle and to organize two partnership meetings per year as from 2017 for all Strategic Partnerships and requests the Commission to adopt its gradual implementation taking into consideration the need to reschedule previously adopted partnership meetings accordingly, including at the Summit level, and in consultation with the respective partners and host countries.

3. *Recalls* 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 AUDA-NEPAD Secretariat to continue to harmonize their work programmes to prevent duplication of roles;
4. *Notes with appreciation* the progress report presented on behalf of H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa as Chair of the HSGOC High-Level Subcommittee on the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI). While commending the Presidential Champions for their commitment, the Assembly underscores the critical need for PICI projects to advance inter-connectivity among African countries and subregions in order to address infrastructure deficits and boost intra-African trade; takes note that financing in Africa infrastructure reveals a gap of US\$ 90 billion, thus, impeding the continent's ability to deliver on critical development objectives. In this regard, the Assembly calls for the implementation of urgent measures aimed at unlocking access to finance, and requests AUDA-NEPAD to work closely with the African Development Bank (AfDB) in order to support the Africa Co-Guarantee Platform (CGP) in view of increasing the amount of finance available to Africa for its infrastructure and trade by scaling up risk mitigation;
5. *Takes note* of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1063 (XXXV) adopting the legal instruments of AUDA-NEPAD and notes the issues raised by some Member States of the HSGOC and decides that the principle of non-rotation of the five initiating Member States be retained;
6. *Further notes* Decision Assembly/AU/691 (XXXI) nominating the Chairperson of the Commission to Co-Chair the Steering Committee and decides to replace the Chairperson of the African Union Commission with the Chairperson of the Union;
7. *Requests* the Commission to amend all relevant AUDA-NEPAD legal instruments to include the decisions in paragraphs 5 and 6 above;
8. *Having acknowledged* the exceptional leadership, competency and continued improved performance of the AUDA-NEPAD under the auspices of Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, endorses the extension of his appointment until the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and urges the African Union Commission to complete the process of the appointment of the CEO for the AUDA-NEPAD by the next African Union summit in January/February 2021 along the lines of the Maputo Declaration of July 2003, January 2008 AU Assembly Decision, in compliance with the African Union Staff Rules and Regulations, and calls on Member States to encourage their citizens to submit applications for the post;
9. *Endorses* the election of H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, as HSGOC Chairperson, as well as the four Vice-Chairpersons for a single term of two years. The position of Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur will be held by the outgoing Chairperson of the HSGOC, and the three other Vice-Chairpersons are nominated after regional consultations; commends H.E. President Macky Sall for the results achieved during his mandate and expresses its profound gratitude for his exceptional leadership as the Head of the HSGOC;
10. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.691 (XXXI) and Article 7 of the AUDA-NEPAD Statute on the new membership of 33 Member States as follows: eight Heads of State and Government representing the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and five Member States per region:

Central Africa	East Africa	North Africa	Southern Africa	West Africa
1. Cameroon	6. Kenya *	11. Algeria	16. Lesotho*	21. Benin
2. Chad	7. Mauritius	12. Egypt	17. Malawi	22. Mali
3. D R Congo	8. Rwanda	13. Mauritania	18. South Africa	23. Nigeria
4. Equatorial Guinea*	9. Sudan	14. Morocco*	19. Zambia	24. Senegal
5. Gabon	10. Uganda	15. Tunisia*	20. Zimbabwe	25. Togo*

Note: * Newly elected members.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES		
26.	ECOWAS	
27.	ECCAS	
28.	IGAD	
29.	UMA	
30.	COMESA	
31.	SADC	
32.	EAC	
33.	CENSAD	

Assembly/AU/Dec.764 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Report of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on
Climate Change (CAHOSCC)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/10 (XXXIII))**

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. Cyril Ramaphosa, the President of the Republic of South Africa, on the outcomes of the Twenty-fifth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 25); Fifteenth Meeting of the Parties serving as the Conference of the Parties to its Kyoto Protocol (CMP 15) and the Second Session Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 2) and endorses the recommendations therein;
2. *Further takes note with appreciation* of the preparatory meetings convened by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and meetings of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) in preparation for the COP, in particular, the two AMCEN meetings in Durban, South Africa, and Madrid, Spain;
3. *Expresses appreciation* to the Republic of Gabon for coordinating the work of CAHOSCC from 2017-19 and acknowledges the utmost commitment of CAHOSCC in the provision of the political oversight and guidance in facilitating Africa to be stronger, unified in the spirit of Pan-Africanism and speaking with one voice in the global climate change negotiations;
4. *Welcomes* the Republic of South Africa as incoming Coordinator of CAHOSCC and supports the ongoing work of CAHOSCC in advancing the interests of the African continent; and expresses appreciation to the Republic of South Africa, as the President of the AMCEN, for the outstanding achievements in providing political direction and maintaining the unity of Africa in the pursuit of its interest in the climate change negotiations at COP 25;
5. *Further expresses appreciation* to the Republic of Congo and the Republic of Niger, Presidents of the Congo Basin Climate Commission and of the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region, as well as to the Republic of Gabon and the Republic of Guinea, as Champion of the Africa Adaptation Initiative and as Coordinator of the Africa Renewable Initiative, for their committed leadership in expediting the operationalization and scaling-up of Africa's climate initiatives;
6. *Congratulates* the Republic of Seychelles on the successful launch of the African Island States Climate Commission on the margins of the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of Assembly of the African Union;
7. *Recognizes* the continued commendable role of the African Group of Negotiators in representing the interests of Africa in the UNFCCC negotiations, speaking with one voice to advance the interest of Africans, and

notes with appreciation the support provided by the African Union Commission (AUC) and all the partners, in particular by AfDB, UNDP, UNEP and the Republic of Germany;

8. *Congratulates* the Republic of Chile for successfully leading COP 25/CMP 15 and CMA 2, and welcomes the holding of COP 26 in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

9. *Acknowledges* the importance of the recent findings of the international scientific community regarding climate change, including the three recent special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees, Climate Change and Land Report, Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, and recognizes that the reports call for ambitious action to address climate change and its impacts on Africa;

10. *Concerned* that the total global emission has increased and parties with historical responsibility to act and the capacity to respond to climate change have not fulfilled their commitments, while the African continent, a continent comprising of 55 countries, contributes only 4 per cent of the total global emissions;

11. *Reiterates* the need to ensure a practical multilateral approach for addressing the global challenge of climate change through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), reaffirming our commitment to implement the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, in the best interest of African countries, while ensuring eradication of poverty and promoting sustainable development; and stresses the importance of ensuring adequate support for Africa's sustainable development path including through policies to allow the sustainable use of Africa's stranded assets;

12. *Emphasizes* that the African continent as a whole is facing unprecedented pressure owing to various extreme weather events and slow-onset events accentuated by climate change, including flash floods, heavy rainfall, water scarcity and drought, which has displaced thousands of people and caused deaths in North Africa; landslides, which have caused thousands of deaths in Central Africa; severe drought, affecting livestock, water, crops, wildlife and the energy sector in East Africa; extreme events in the Western Africa region, which have caused flash floods, resulting in the loss of lives, displacing thousands and destroying infrastructure; and cyclones and drought, which have caused the deaths of thousands and destroyed homes and properties in Southern Africa, and express solidarity with countries and people that have been impacted by climate-related disasters around the world;

13. *Further reiterates* the mounting vulnerability of the African continent to current and projected impacts of climate change, and associated economic and non-economic loss and damage under all temperature-rise scenarios, and calls upon parties to fully implement and strengthen the loss and damage mechanism under the Convention and its Paris Agreement, including through support to enable African countries to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts;

14. *Welcomes with appreciation* the call by H.E. Minister Schmidt, Minister of Environment of Chile, as COP 25 President, to UNFCCC parties to consider the special circumstances and needs of Africa, and urges parties to the Paris Agreement to recognize the particular circumstances and needs of African countries, in line with the relevant and previous decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and calls upon the incoming presidency of the COP to continue the consultations, to reach a decision in that regard by COP 26;

15. *Emphasizes* that the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement depends on the fulfilment of the established pre-2020 obligations and urges developed country parties to continue to fulfil their commitments under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol;

16. *Recognizing* that the implementation of the Paris Agreement will begin in 2021, stresses the importance of balance in both the organization and outcome of COP 26, to reflect the three goals of the Paris Agreement, that are related and equally important aspects to ambition: ambition concerning nationally determined contribution

(NDCs), ambition about the adaptation goal and ambition on means of implementation, to effectively implement the Paris Agreement;

17. *Welcomes* the simple pledges of the first Replenishment of the Green Climate Funds (GCF) of US\$ 9.658 billion for the next four years, and expresses appreciation to the countries that have contributed to the GCF to promote low-emission and climate-resilient development; and further calls upon developed countries to provide new, additional, adequate and predictable financial resources from both public and private entities to the climate-related funds, in particular, the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and the Green Climate Fund, for developing countries to reflect the level of ambition and climate action by African countries;

18. *Urges* developed countries to continue to scale up the mobilization and provision of climate finance towards achieving the 2020 finance goal through public funds to deliver on the US\$ 100 billion, and further urges all developed country parties to the Convention to provide climate finance in line with Article 9 of the Paris Agreement, and to initiate the discussion on the new collective goal on finance from a flow of US\$ 100 billion per year, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries;

19. *Acknowledges* the decision of the UNFCCC that calls on parties to revise and enhance NDCs in 2020 in accordance with 1/CP.21 and in line with Article 3 of the Paris Agreement. The NDCs should include mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation, reflecting equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities of parties, and concerned with the US\$ 3 trillion estimated finance gap to implement NDCs;

20. *Highlights* the urgency to adapt to the devastating impacts of climate change on the continent and its impact on national budgets of African countries with regard to their efforts to eliminate hunger, eradicate poverty, improve health and better education in the context of achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

21. *Stresses* the need for further elaboration of adaptation planning and implementation under the Paris Agreement to address extreme weather events and slow-onset events, and calls upon parties to continue the elaboration of Article 7 of the Paris Agreement, including the operationalization of the global goal of adaptation, adaptation needs and associated costs, and the recognition of the contributions made by African countries from their own budgets, and encourages African countries to report their adaptation needs, gaps, planning, efforts and action; and further notes that according to UNEP reports, African countries have already contributed some 20 per cent of the annual cost of adaptation from their own budgets;

22. *Urges* the consideration of the market mechanism of the Paris Agreement in terms of raising ambition in mitigation and adaptation actions and help to meet the cost of adaptation for developing countries, and to emphasize the need for the market and non-market-based approaches to ensure environmental integrity, avoid duplication and double counting, and support fair regional distribution and inclusiveness, and stresses the importance to ensure no discrimination between the different new market mechanisms, and that all the market mechanisms should provide proceeds to adaptation primarily through the Adaptation Fund;

23. *Stresses* that measures are taken to combat climate change, including unilateral measures, and such measures should not constitute discrimination or a restriction on exports from African countries, taking into consideration African trade initiatives and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, as means to enhance trade among African countries;

24. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the United Nations Secretary-General on climate change and convening the Climate Action Summit for enhancing ambition and accelerating action and calls upon the Secretary-General and partner organizations to follow up on the implementation of the initiatives;

25. *Recalls* Decision 28 of the 2019 Session of CAHOSCC, which urged the Commission, in collaboration with Pan-African agencies, to organize an African Summit on Climate Change in 2020 prior to COP 26, as the year 2020 is critical in the global climate change calendar; and requests the involved institutions to operationalize this

decision; and further calls upon African Union Member States to offer to host the proposed summit before COP 26;

26. *Welcomes* the holding of the Africa Day on the margins of COP 25 as an essential event to raise awareness among different stakeholders on Africa's efforts, priorities and needs in relation to climate change, and commends the AUC and African partners for their efforts in this regard; and further welcomes the holding of the side event on the Congo Basin Blue Fund by H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, on the margins of COP 25;

27. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the work of the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), the Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA) Initiative and the African Climate Commissions (Congo Basin Climate Commission, the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region and the African Island States Climate Commission) in coordinating the implementation of Africa's response to climate change; and calls for additional support to scale up the implementation of these initiatives;

28. *Invites* the Republic of Niger, Chair of the Climate Commission of the Sahel Region, and the Republic of Seychelles, Chair of the African Island States Climate Commission, as well as the Republic of Gabon, Chair of the Africa Adaptation Initiative, and the Republic of Guinea, Chair of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, to join the CAHOSCC with a view to strengthen the coordination and enhance synergies between these initiatives;

29. *Reiterates* the 2019 Decision for the Commission to develop, in consultation with AMCEN, as appropriate, the rules of procedure for CAHOSCC to enhance effective operations of this high-level committee for the consideration of the CAHOSCC at its next session.

Assembly/AU/Dec.765 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Report of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (XXXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Twenty-ninth Summit of the African Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and Government of the Participating States to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) held on 8 February 2020;

2. *Congratulates* H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, for his election as the new Chairperson of the African Peer Review (APR) Forum of Heads of State and Government, and commends H.E. Idriss Déby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, for his sterling leadership of the mechanism, including ensuring financial sustainability through the full integration of the APRM budget into the AU overall statutory budget; conducting five country reviews; conducting four targeted reviews; accession to the APRM of more AU Member States and the preparation and presentation of the African Governance Report to the Assembly;

3. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.198 (XI) in which the Assembly decided 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, and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.527 (XXIII) on the integration of the APRM into the African Union system, in which the Assembly decided that the APRM shall be an autonomous entity within the AU system;

4. *Further recalls* Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1-4 (XI), in which the Assembly decided to integrate the APRM budget in the statutory Union budget funded by Member States, and reaffirmed the need to strengthen the capacity of the APRM to deliver on its extended mandate and enhance its functional autonomy;

5. *Acknowledges with appreciation* progress made in the implementation of the integration of the APRM into the AU, including the full integration of the APRM budget into the 2020 AU budget, and adoption of the

provisional organizational structure of the APRM Continental Secretariat, as well as the adoption of the APRM draft legal instruments on the integration into the AU;

6. *Commends* the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E Moussa Faki, and the Chief Executive Officer of the APRM Continental Secretariat, Prof. Eddy Maloka, for their steadfast and sustained efforts in fast tracking the integration of the APRM into the AU system;

7. *Further commends* the APRM for implementing the expanded mandate that covers all Member States of the AU conferred on it by the Assembly;

8. *Reiterates* Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1-4 (XI), in which the Assembly reaffirmed the need to strengthen the capacity of the APRM to deliver on its expanded mandate and enhance its functional autonomy;

9. *Stresses* the need for the APRM to be provided with adequate and sufficient human resources and budget allocations so as to execute its mandate without hindrance and enhance its functional autonomy;

10. *Welcomes with appreciation* the Peer Review Report of the Arab Republic of Egypt and congratulates H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for his steadfast and sustained leadership in promotion of good governance in his country and on the continent;

11. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the targeted review reports of the Republic of Djibouti, and the Republic of Namibia, and expresses gratitude to H.E. Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti, and H.E. Hage GEINGOB, President of the Republic of Namibia, for their dedication to the cause of good governance with all its four manifestations including sustainable and broad-based socio-economic development;

12. *Encourages* the Arab Republic of Egypt to take into account observations of Members States on the country review presented to the Twenty-ninth APR Forum as well as the recommendations contained in the report in the development and implementation of the national programme of action as a necessary step in furthering the goals and objectives of the APRM;

13. *Urges* the Republic of Djibouti and the Republic of Namibia to consider the recommendations of Member States on their targeted review reports presented to the Twenty-ninth APR Forum including the recommendations contained in the reports in the development and implementation of their national programme of actions as a necessary step towards attaining sustainable and broad-based socio-economic development;

14. *Congratulates* the Panel of Eminent Persons that led the conduct of the country review of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the conduct of the targeted review of the Republic of Djibouti, for their resilience and commitment to the APRM review process;

15. *Encourages* APRM Participating States that have not been peer reviewed to take the necessary measures to ensure that country peer reviews are undertaken and their reports are presented to the APR Forum;

16. *Further urges* APRM Participating States that have been reviewed to implement their national plans of action and recommendations to inform institutional reform at the national level and avert highlighted challenges in their peer reviews;

17. *Takes note with appreciation* of an update report by H.E. Dr. Abdalla Hamdok, Prime Minister of the Republic of Sudan, on the reforms aimed at improving governance in the country including of the preparation of the APRM national progress report;

18. *Reaffirms* the solidarity of the AU with the Sudanese people and the Transitional Government in their aspiration to attain constitutional order that will enable them to make progress in their efforts towards peace, stability, good governance, democratic transformation and sustainable development;

19. *Further takes note with satisfaction* of the Report by H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, on the 13 Bottlenecks to Africa's Development; and requests APRM Participating States to volunteer for the pilot phase of rolling out the study;
20. *Supports* the decision of the Twenty-ninth APR Forum of Heads of State and Government for the APRM to organize an African Migration Governance Conference focusing on migration governance and sharing of best practices among AU Member States, and requests the APRM to organize the African Migration Governance Conference in collaboration with the AU Commission and relevant stakeholders;
21. *Further supports* the decision of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government to convene an Extraordinary APR Forum Summit on deepening the review during the first half year of 2020;
22. *Congratulates* the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Republic of Seychelles for their accession as new members of the APRM;
23. *Expresses appreciation* to H.E. Danny Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles, and H.E. Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, for their courageous decision in joining the APRM, the premier homegrown, African good governance mechanism;
24. *Encourages* all Member States of the AU that have not yet joined the APRM to accede to the APRM in line with the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 so as to attain universality by 2023;
25. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the full implementation of the Five-Year Strategic Plan of the APRM 2016-2020, and commends the APRM for realizing all its key priority areas;
26. *Endorses* the Five-Year Strategic Plan of the APRM 2020-2024 and commits to support the APRM to ensure its full implementation;
27. *Encourages* the APRM to take the necessary measures to realize the key priority areas of the Five-Year Strategic Plan of the APRM 2020-2024;
28. *Reiterates* that the APRM remains the premier homegrown, African good governance tool conceived in 2003, and voluntarily acceded to by 40 Member States representing more than two thirds of the AU Member States;
29. *Welcomes with appreciation* the appointment by the Twenty-ninth APR Forum of new APR Panel Members, Dr. Honoré Mobanda from the Republic of Congo, Dr. Ousmane M. Diallo from the Republic of Mali, Dr. Hope Kivengere from the Republic of Uganda, and Dr. Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika from the Republic of Zambia;
30. *Expresses appreciation* to the retiring APR Panel Members, Hon. Brigitte Sylvia Mabandla from South Africa and Prof. Abu Manga from Sudan, for their unwavering commitment to the realization of the mandate of the APRM;
31. *Welcomes with appreciation* the appointment by the Twenty-ninth APR Forum of Prof. Fatma Zohra Karadja as the Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and Ambassador Ombeni Yohana Sefue as the Vice-Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons for a period of one year;
32. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the adoption by the Twenty-ninth APR Forum of the APRM National Governance Reporting Framework which will guide the production of national governance reports pursuant to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.720 (XXXII) in which the Assembly urged Member States to develop national governance reports as a self-assessment tool, for promoting good governance, in line with the recommendations

of the Africa Governance Report and the APRM Secretariat to provide technical support to Member States in developing country self-assessment reports (CSAR) on governance;

33. *Endorses* the Decision of the Twenty-ninth APR Forum which declared the founding day of the APRM, 9 March as the APRM Day which should be celebrated by the continent and the AU family;

34. *Takes note* that improved governance is a key prerequisite for creating conducive conditions for Africa's development, and requests the APRM to celebrate the seventeenth anniversary of the founding of the APRM, on 9 March 2020, under the AU Theme of the Year 2020: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development;

35. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.720 (XXXII) in which the Assembly decided that the Africa Governance Report shall be developed by APRM, in collaboration with AGA, and shall be presented every two years for consideration by the Assembly at its ordinary sessions;

36. *Decides* that the APRM should develop, in collaboration with AGA, the African Governance Report and present it to the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, scheduled to take place in February 2021.

Assembly/AU/Dec.766 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council
(Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (XXXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the Twenty-first Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council, by H.E. Mr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone;

2. *Recalls* Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.564 (XXIV), Assembly/AU/Dec.573 (XXIII), Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (IV), Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (V), Assembly/AU/Dec.617 (XXVII), and Assembly/AU/Dec.724 (XXXII);

3. *Takes note* of the high-level meetings of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government, including the Eighth Ministerial Meeting held in Dakar, Senegal, in January 2020, and the High-Level Outreach with the P-5 and other stakeholders on the reform of the United Nations Security Council;

4. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the progress made by the Committee of Ten in promoting and canvassing support for the Common African Position as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 2005 Sirte Declaration on the United Nations Security Council Reform;

5. *Welcomes*, in that regard, the growing acceptance of the legitimacy of the Common African Position on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;

6. *Encourages* the Committee to continue holding its high-level and outreach meetings with a view to further intensify efforts aimed at promoting and canvassing the Common African Position on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;

7. *Reaffirms* that the Common African Position espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 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, as the only viable option for Africa's full representation at the United Nations Security Council;

8. *Reiterates* that full representation of Africa in the United Nations Security Council means:

(i) Not less than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership including the right of veto;

(ii) Five non-permanent seats;

(iii) That the African Union reserves the right to select its representatives for election to the United Nations Security Council to act in its name and on its behalf;

9. *Also reiterates* that even though Africa is opposed, in principle, to the veto, it is of the view that so long as it exists, and as a matter of common justice, it should be made available to all permanent members of the United Nations Security Council;

10. *Further reiterates* the firm commitment to preserve Africa's unity and solidarity on all aspects of the United Nations Security Council reform process, including participation within and outside the intergovernmental negotiations, and to continue to speak cohesively with one voice in unity of purpose on all aspects of the reform process;

11. In that regard, reiterates that African Union Member States in New York with dual membership, should withdraw such membership from all other interest groups, in order to further consolidate the Common African Position as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;

12. *Requests:*

(i) The Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government to continue to intensify its engagement at the highest level with other interest and regional groups and key stakeholders, including the permanent five members of the United Nations Security Council, with a view to building on progress made in advancing and canvassing the Common African Position contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;

(ii) All African Union Member States, to reflect in their respective national statements at the opening of the seventy-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2020, a concise common language to promote and canvass the Common African Position, and to reiterate the call for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council;

(iii) African Union Member States to include the issue of the United Nations Security Council reform among their foreign policy priorities in their engagements with non-African partners, in particular, the need to correct without further delay, the historical injustice that the African continent continues to endure;

13. *Directs* the Commission to make provision in the Commission's proposed budget for the purpose of funding and facilitating the activities of the Committee of Ten on United Nations Reforms;

14. *Decides* 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 Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.767 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Follow-up to the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between
the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) of January 2017, that mentioned, inter alia:

- (a) That there should be a clear division of labour and effective collaboration among the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Regional Mechanisms (RMs), the Member States, and other continental institutions, in line with the principle of subsidiarity;
- (b) That in place of the June/July Summit, the Bureau of the African Union Assembly shall hold a Coordination Meeting with the Regional Economic Communities, with the participation of the Chairpersons of the Regional Economic Communities, the AU Commission and Regional Mechanisms. Ahead of this meeting, the AU Commission shall play a more active coordination and harmonization role with the Regional Economic Communities, in line with the Treaty Establishing of the African Economic Community (the Abuja Treaty);
2. *Further recalls* that the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting is the principal forum for the African Union and RECs to align their work and coordinate the implementation of the continental integration agenda;
3. *Expresses appreciation* to H.E. Abdel Fattah El Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Chairperson of the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting that was held on 8 July 2019 in Niamey, Niger, and also to H.E Issoufou Mahamadou, the President of the Republic of Niger, as well as the Government and people of Niger for hosting the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting;
4. *Takes note* of the Report of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting that was held on 8 July 2019 in Niamey, Niger, as well as of the Niamey Declaration and the conclusions and recommendations therein;
5. *Adopts* the Protocol on Relations between the African Union (AU) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and authorizes the Chairperson of the Commission to sign the Protocol on behalf of the African Union;
6. *Also adopts* the Rules of Procedure for the Mid-Year Coordination Meetings;
7. *Further adopts* the recommendations of the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting that H.E Issoufou Mahamadou, President of Niger, Leader of the AfCFTA and the Secretary-General of the AfCFTA Secretariat, attend the Mid- Year Coordination Meetings between the AU and RECs;
8. *Welcomes with appreciation*, the offer by the Republic of Chad to host the Second Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
9. *Decides* that the date and venue of the next Mid-Year Coordination Meeting shall be on 4 July 2020, in N'Djamena, Chad;
10. *Requests* the Commission of the African Union to consult with the RECs, RMs and Member States with a view to finalize the detailed proposal for an effective division of labour between the AU and RECs and present it to the 2020 Mid-Year Coordination meeting, after due consideration by the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.768 (XXXIII)

Decision on the Reports of the Heads of State and Government Leaders

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the progress reports presented by the following leaders on strategic issues:
- (i) H.M. King Mswati III, King of Eswatini, Chairperson of the African Leaders of Malaria Alliance (ALMA);

- (ii) H.M. Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, Leader of the African Union on Migration on the Follow-up of the Establishment of the African Migration Observatory in Morocco;
- (iii) H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Leader of the Theme of the Year 2019;
- (iv) H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, Leader of the African Union Institutional Reforms;
- (v) H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, Leader of the AFCFTA;
- (vi) H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, Leader of Domestic Health Financing;
- (vii) H.E. Alassane Dramane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Leader on the Follow-up of the Implementation of African Union Agenda 2063;
- (viii) H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, Leader on Arts, Culture and Heritage;
- (ix) H.E. Abdel Fattah El Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Leader on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD);
- (x) H.E. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, Leader of Ending Child Marriage in Africa;
- (xi) H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kabore, President of Burkina Faso, Leader for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation;
- (xii) H.E. Danny Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles, Leader on the Blue Economy;
- (xiii) H.E. Nana Akufo Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, Leader of Gender and Development Issues in Africa;
- (xiv) H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, Leader on Aids Watch Africa (AWA);
- (xv) H.E. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Leader for the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP);

2. *Commends* the leaders for their relentless efforts and invaluable contributions in advancing continental priorities within the framework of Agenda 2063 and encourages them to continue advocating towards the achievement of Africa's aspirations and goals;

3. *Requests* the Commission to continue supporting the leaders in their work and report on the outcomes in the annual report of the African Union and its organs.

Assembly/AU/Dec.769 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Nomination of H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo,
President of the Republic of Ghana, as the Champion of the AU Financial Institutions**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the Abuja Treaty and Article 19 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union on the establishment of the African Union financial institutions, a flagship project of Agenda 2063;

2. *Notes* the report of the PRC on the establishment of the African Union financial institutions (AUI), namely, the African Monetary Fund (AMF), the African Investment Bank (AIB), the African Central Bank (ACB), and the Pan-African Stock Exchange (PASE);
3. *Expresses concern* of the slow pace of the establishment of the AUI and recognizes the determination of Africa to be a financially self-reliant continent;
4. *Acknowledges* the urgent need to accelerate the establishment of the AUI to finance national and regional infrastructure deficits and ensure the successful implementation of AfCFTA;
5. *Takes note* of the ongoing study aimed at providing insights on accelerating signature and ratification of instruments creating the African Union financial institutions;
6. *Calls upon* Member States that have not signed and ratified the legal instruments of AUI to do so in order to expedite creation of these institutions;
7. *Requests* the Commission to continue working with the Association of African Central Banks (AACB) and the African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA) to implement the macroeconomic convergence criteria for the establishment of the African Central Bank (ACB) and fast track the establishment of the Pan-African Stock Exchange;
8. *Decides* to appoint H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, as the Champion of AUI, to provide political leadership and awareness to accelerate their establishment as scheduled in the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

Assembly/AU/Dec.770 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Report on Malaria
(Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XXXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the 2019 Africa Progress Report on Malaria and the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Commends* His Majesty King Mswati III, King of Eswatini, for the leadership he has provided for the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), and welcomes the assumption of the leadership of ALMA for 2020 by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya;
3. *Commends* the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for eliminating malaria in Algeria;
4. *Also commends:*
 - (i) The Member States that have launched and implemented national "Zero Malaria Starts with Me" campaigns;
 - (ii) African Heads of State and Government for advocating for sustained and increased domestic financing for malaria; and
 - (iii) The global community for committing US\$ 14.02 billion to the Global Fund to End HIV, TB and Malaria, including the Member States that committed over US\$ 75.2 million to the Fund;
5. *Expresses concern* that despite concerted action across Member States against malaria, progress towards malaria control and elimination continues to stall threatening decades of progress;

6. *Urges* the Heads of State and Government of Member States to maintain malaria high on the financing and development agenda, and advocate for and support multisectoral actions;
7. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the RBM Partnership to End Malaria and the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, to:
 - (i) Support the roll-out and implementation of the “Zero Malaria Starts with Me” campaign in additional Member States; and
 - (ii) Implement regional malaria scorecards through the Regional Economic Communities; and
8. *Calls upon* Member States to:
 - (i) Expand domestic funding for malaria control and elimination through innovative mechanisms, including end malaria funds, to close budget gaps under their national malaria strategic plans;
 - (ii) Maintaining the country’s disease split under the country’s Global Fund allocation and meet the required co-financing;
 - (iii) Use national malaria scorecards, action trackers and engage stakeholders to align their activities with these tools at all levels to enhance accountability, transparency and action; and
 - (iv) Scale up the implementation of the Decision on the establishment of national End Malaria Councils.

Assembly/AU/Dec.771 (XXXIII)

Decision on Ending Child Marriage

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* H.E Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, for the commitment and continued efforts to the fight against child marriage;
2. *Recalls* African Union Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.727 (XXXII) on the African Union Campaign on Ending Child Marriage in Africa;
3. *Reaffirms* the Assembly’s commitment to the AU Campaign on Ending Child Marriage, including keeping the fight against child marriage on national, regional, and continental agendas;
4. *Welcomes* the Cairo Call to Action for the Elimination of Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation in Africa adopted on 20 June 2019 in Cairo, Egypt, and considers it an important boost for the continental efforts towards eradicating harmful practices against women and girls in Africa;
5. *Requests* Member States to report regularly to the African Union Commission on progress made towards the implementation of policies on ending child marriage;
6. *Commits* to keeping the issue of child marriage at the top of our agenda;
7. *Takes note* of the report of H.E Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia and AU Leader on Ending Child Marriage, and commits to the implementation of the recommendations of the report.

Assembly/AU/Dec.772 (XXXIII)

**Decision on Arts, Culture and Heritage
(Doc. Assembly/AU/17 (XXXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, African Union Champion for the Promotion of Arts, Culture and Heritage, on the continent and commends him for his commitment and personal contribution, as well as the significant results achieved since his nomination by his peers in February 2019;
2. *Welcomes* and appreciates the unprecedented initiative by the Champion to establish a Panel of Peers on Arts, Culture and Heritage, in charge of formulating strategic orientations, ensuring that the orientations are taken into consideration in the activities of the African Union, and at the regional level, playing the role of leadership, advocacy and facilitation;
3. *Stresses* the importance of culture, arts and heritage in the achievement of the objectives and the flagship projects of the African Union Agenda 2063;
4. *Welcomes* the ratification by 14 Member States of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance, adopted in January 2006, and urges Member States that have not yet done so, to sign and/or ratify the Charter with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;
5. *Takes note* of the inadequacy of the budget allocations of Member States to the culture, arts and heritage sectors, and therefore calls on Member States to allocate at least 1 per cent of their national budget to the sectors by 2030;
6. *Urges* the Commission to take the necessary steps to strengthen the AU structures responsible for culture, arts and heritage issues, within the framework of the ongoing AU institutional reform process, and to report thereon to the Executive Council in June/July 2021;
7. *Endorses* the proposal by H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, to declare 2021 the AU Year of the Arts, Culture and Heritage, and requests the Commission, in collaboration with the Champion, to propose the related theme, for consideration and adoption by the Executive Council at its June/July 2020 session;
8. *Requests* the Champion/Leader nominated by his peers to promote the arts, culture and heritage, to submit a mid-term report at the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government, scheduled for January/February 2021;
9. *Congratulates* H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, for his engagement as African Union Leader for the Arts, Culture and Heritage for an improved protection and promotion of African cultural and natural heritage;
10. *Declares* that the African rich and diverse heritage is an essential asset to profile the continent in the global arena and to build sustainable development, integration and peace in Africa;
11. *Calls upon* African Union Member States and the private sector to support the work of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) for the profiling, protection and promotion of African natural and cultural heritage;
12. *Requests* the African World Heritage Fund to propose a sustainable funding mechanism to protect African heritage of outstanding value and to organize a fundraising event in 2021 under the leadership of the African Union Leader for the Arts, Culture and Heritage, in collaboration with the African Union Commission.

Assembly/AU/Dec.773 (XXXIII)

**Decision on Ending Female Genital Mutilation
(Doc. Assembly/AU/20 (XXXIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso, for the commitment and effort to end female genital mutilation;
2. *Recalls* African Union Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.383 (XVII) on “Support of a Draft Resolution at the Sixty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the United Nations General Assembly to Ban Female Genital Mutilation in the World” adopted at the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in July 2011;
3. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.737 (XXXII) on “Galvanizing Political Commitment towards the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation in Africa” adopted at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2019, which designated H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso, as African Union Leader on Ending Female Genital Mutilation;
4. *Takes note* of the report by the African Union Leader on Ending Female Genital Mutilation to the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government;
5. *Welcomes* the Cairo Call to Action for the Elimination of Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation in Africa adopted on 20 June 2019 in Cairo, and considers it an important boost for the continental efforts towards eradicating harmful practices against women and girls in Africa;
6. *Commits* to implementing recommendations from the report of the African Union Leader on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation, including:
 - (a) Political and community level action;
 - (b) Strengthening of legislative frameworks that seek to encourage community engagement and ownership;
 - (c) Allocation of sufficient domestic resources to drive national and local action to eliminate the harmful practice;
 - (d) Strengthening partnership, information and knowledge sharing between Member States; and
 - (e) Member States to report regularly to the African Union Commission on action to eliminate harmful practices.

Assembly/AU/Dec.774 (XXXIII)

Decision on the Common African Position on Asset Recovery

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Decl.5 (XXIV) of the Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which endorsed the Report of the AU/ECA High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows and the outcomes of the 2018 AU annual theme on “Winning the Fight Against Corruption - A Sustainable Path to Africa’s Transformation”, particularly the Nouakchott Declaration on Anti-Corruption Year Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXXI),

through the championing of H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as Leader of the thematic year;

2. *Commends* the follow-up work of the African Union Commission, the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AU-ABC) and the Consortium to Stem Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) from Africa towards developing a Common African Position on Asset Recovery as part of the implementation of the Special Declaration on Illicit Financial Flows (Assembly/AU/Decl.5 (XXIV));
3. *Reemphasizes* that the development of the Common African Position on Asset Recovery is a critical and important step towards combatting and reversing illicit financial flows, which have and continue to drain annually, large amounts of financial resources and assets that are required for Africa's sustainable peace, stability and development;
4. *Recognizes* that the non-recovery and non-repatriation of African assets, including the proceeds of corruption and tax evasion, illicit enrichment, consigned to foreign jurisdictions, has a severe and negative impact on the fulfilment of the African development agenda, particularly the ambition of silencing the guns, the enjoyment of human rights, with a special emphasis on the right to development;
5. *Acknowledges* that efforts and strategies towards the recovery of African assets must be situated and contextualized in the broader historical, political, economic and social narrative of Africa including the theft of African artefacts, slavery and colonialism;
6. *Endorses* the draft Common African Position on Asset Recovery as a continental policy and advocacy tool to strengthen the combat of illicit financial flows;
7. *Expresses concern* on the present practices by destination countries of keeping identified African assets in foreign jurisdictions during the lengthy processes involved in recovery which result in source/such countries losing out on the potential monetization, use and enjoyment of such assets to the detriment of Africa's development;
8. *Calls on* the international community to support and collaborate with the African Union and Member States to recover African assets, including the proceeds of corruption and illicit enrichment as well as to repatriate the proceeds of tax evasion;
9. *Emphasizes* that the use and disposal of recovered and returned African assets, is the sovereign right of individual Member States, which are entitled to use assets for the common good of citizens in accordance with Africa's development agenda, domestic laws and other legitimate government purposes;
10. *Requests* the Commission, the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption, the African Development Bank, the UNECA, the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa and other stakeholders in the Consortium, to scale up their collaborative work, in partnership with the national anti-corruption agencies;
11. *Expresses appreciation* to H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Leader of the 2018 thematic year, for his steadfast commitment on winning the fight against corruption and, in particular, the recovery of African assets;
12. *Requests* the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption and the AU Commission to report regularly to the Assembly on the implementation of this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.775 (XXXIII)

Decision on Strengthening National Capacities for Effective Management of Weapon Stockpiles

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the agenda item “Strengthening National Capacities for Effective Management of Weapon Stockpiles” proffered by the Republic of the Gambia and aimed at augmenting the effective implementation of the 2020 Theme of the Year “Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa’s Development”;
2. *Recalls* the pledge made in the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration of the OAU/AU not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020 and, the commitments made in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa on mitigating the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons;
3. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.719 (XXXII) in which the Commission was directed to intensify its support to the Member States for the effective implementation of the Lusaka Road Map;
4. *Further recalls* the request made by the Peace and Security Council through the communiqué PSC/PR/Comm.(DCCCXXXII) for the Commission to continue to promote collaborative synergies with the Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Mechanisms (RMs) to effectively address the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons;
5. *Reiterates* the commitment of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities to sustainably address the conditions leading to illicit proliferation, circulation, trafficking and destructive use of small arms and light weapons;
6. *Commits* to support the initiatives critical in the strengthening of the capacities of Member States to manage their weapon stockpiles as a means of mitigating the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons;
7. *Calls for* continued and concerted engagements with international partners through agreed platforms in addressing the regulatory, financial, technical and monitoring loopholes that exacerbate the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons into and within the African continent;
8. *Directs* the Commission:
 - (i) To provide more support, within the broader spectrum of implementing the 2020 Theme of the Year, to Member States including training, awareness and the building of technical capabilities and regulatory frameworks to strengthen the management of national weapon stockpiles;
 - (ii) To harness the institutional and technical partnerships of the African Union to support and deploy technological systems to assist Member States in monitoring and tracking SALW and through the enhancement of coordinative efforts at subregional and international levels taking cognizance of the mandate of the Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organizations, the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) and the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT);
 - (iii) To further consolidate and strengthen with Regional Economic Communities the collaborative mechanisms on geometrically implementing the regional and continental initiatives to strengthen Member States’ capacities in addressing the phenomena of illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons;
 - (iv) To assist with Regional Economic Communities in mobilizing resources from international and African partners to support Member States with capacity deficiencies to construct standard infrastructure for the safe storage, physical security and disposal of their small arms and light weapons;

(v) To ensure that the resulting financial implications on the African Union from these undertakings are initially financed from available resources;

9. *Urges* Member States with comparative technical advantages and successful national experiences to assist the Member States with capacity deficiencies in the management of their weapon stockpiles.

Assembly/AU/Dec.776 (XXXIII)

Decision on the Election of the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union for 2020

The Assembly,

1. *Elects* the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union for 2020, as follows:
 - (i) Chairperson: Republic of South Africa;
 - (ii) First Vice-Chairperson: Democratic Republic of Congo;
 - (iii) Second Vice-Chairperson: Republic of Mali;
 - (iv) Third Vice-Chairperson: Republic of Kenya;
 - (v) Rapporteur: Arab Republic of Egypt.

Assembly/AU/Dec.777 (XXXIII)

Decision on the Appointment of the Chairperson of the African Union for 2021

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) that in order to ensure continuity and effective implementation of Assembly decisions, a troika arrangement among the outgoing, the current, and the incoming African Union Chairpersons shall be established, and that in this regard, the incoming Chairperson shall be selected one year in advance;
2. *Also recalls* the principle of rotation for the Chairpersonship of the African Union, and taking into account that 2021 will be the turn of the Central Region;
3. *Takes note* of the outcome of the consultations by the Central Region, as reported by the Republic of the Congo, Dean of the latter;
4. *Decides* that the incoming Chairperson of the African Union for 2021 will be the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Assembly/AU/Dec.778 (XXXIII)

Decision on the Dates and Venues of the Second Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the Fortieth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC)

The Assembly,

THIRTY-THIRD ORDINARY SESSION (2020)

1. *Recalls* Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.687 (XXX) adopted in January 2017 and January 2018 ,respectively, regarding the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting;
2. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.558 (XXIV) adopted at the Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in January 2015, endorsing the offer of the Kingdom of Eswatini to host the 2020 June/July Ordinary Summit of the Union;
3. *Takes note* of Eswatini’s withdrawal of the aforementioned offer, pursuant to the Assembly decision suspending the convening of the June/July ordinary session of the Assembly;
4. *Welcomes* with appreciation, the offer by the Republic of Chad to host the second Mid-Year Coordination meeting of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
5. *Decides* that the dates and venues of the sessions shall be as follows:
 - (i) The Fortieth Ordinary Session of the PRC from 15 to 16 June 2020 at AU Headquarters;
 - (ii) The Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council from 2 to 3 July 2020, in N’Djamena, Chad;
 - (iii) The Second Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union and the RECs on 4 July 2020, in N’Djamena, Chad;
6. *Requests* the Commission, in close collaboration with the Republic of Chad, to make all the necessary arrangements for the successful holding of the meetings.

Assembly/AU/Dec.779 (XXXIII)

Decision on the Dates and Venue of the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in February 2021

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the dates of the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, shall be the following:
 - (i) Forty-first Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC): 18 to 19 January 2021;
 - (ii) Thirty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 3 to 4 February 2021; and
 - (iii) Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 6 and 7 February 2021;
2. *Requests* the Commission to make all the necessary arrangements for the successful hosting of the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly and the preparatory meetings according to the aforementioned dates.

Assembly/AU/Dec.780 (XXXIII)

Decision on the Hosting of the African Inclusive Market Excellence Centre (AIMEC)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the Technical Evaluation Mission Report on the Hosting of the African Inclusive Market Excellence Centre (AIMEC);

2. *Decides* that the Republic of Tunisia shall host the AIMEC;
3. *Congratulates* the people and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia;
4. *Requests* the Commission, in collaboration with the Republic of Tunisia, to finalize the host country agreement in accordance with the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/195 (VII) Rev.1 of July 2005 on hosting AU organs;
5. *Mandates* the Commission to submit a progress report on the operationalization of the AIMEC to the ordinary session of the Assembly of the AU in February 2021.

Assembly/AU/Dec.781 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Appointment of One Male Member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child from the Islamic Republic Of Mauritania
(Doc. EX.CL/1122 (XXXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the nomination of one male member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child from the Islamic Republic of Mauritania;
2. *Approves* the following member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to serve the remainder of the term of the late Hon. Mohamed Ould Ahmedou dit H'meyada, until January 2021:

No.	Name	Country	Region	Gender
1	Aboubekrine El Jera	Mauritania	North	Male

Assembly/AU/Dec.782 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Appointment of Six Members of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL)
(Doc. EX.CL/1223 (XXXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of the six members of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL);
2. *Appoints* the following members of the AUCIL for a term of five years:

No.	Name	Country	Region	Gender
1	Abdi Ismail Hersi	Djibouti	Eastern	Male
2	Juliet Semambo Kalema	Uganda	Eastern	Female
3	Mohamed S. Helal	Egypt	Northern	Male

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4	Sebastião da Silva Isata	Angola	Southern	Male
5	Kathleen Quartey Ayensu	Ghana	Western	Female
6	Bélibi Sébastien Daila	Burkina Faso	Western	Male

Assembly/AU/Dec.783 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Appointment of One Member of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption
(Doc. EX.CL/1124 (XXXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of one member of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC) by the Executive Council;
2. *Appoints* the following member of the AUABC for a term of two years:

No.	Name	Gender	Country	Region
1	Amal Mahmoud Atta Ammar	Female	Egypt	Northern

Assembly/AU/Dec.784 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Appointment of Four Members of the
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)
(Doc. EX.CL/1225 (XXXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of the four members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;
2. *Appoints* the following members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for a term of six years:

No.	Name	Country	Region	Gender
1	Marie Louise Abomo	Cameroon	Central	Female
2	Mudford Zachariah Mwandenga	Zambia	Southern	Male
3	Ndiamé Gaye	Senegal	Western	Male
4	Alexia Amesbury (floating seat)	Seychelles	Eastern	Female

Assembly/AU/Dec.785 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Appointment of Ten Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
(Doc. EX.CL/1226 (XXXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of ten members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union by the Executive Council;

2. *Appoints* the following ten Member States of the Peace and Security Council for a term of two years:

No.	Country	Region
(1)	Cameroon	Central;
(2)	Chad	Central;
(3)	Djibouti	Eastern;
(4)	Ethiopia	Eastern;
(5)	Egypt	Northern;
(6)	Malawi	Southern;
(7)	Mozambique	Southern;
(8)	Benin	Western;
(9)	Ghana	Western;
(10)	Senegal	Western.

Assembly/AU/Dec.786 (XXXIII)

Decision on the Report of Aids Watch Africa (AWA)

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.395 (XVIII) on the revitalization of AWA as an AU Heads of State and Government Advocacy and Accountability Platform, as well as the mobilization of resources to fight these diseases;

2. *Also recalls* Member States commitments to further strengthen their health systems and align their national strategic plans with the Africa Health Strategy and the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030;

3. *Further recalls* the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases of 2001 during which AIDS was considered as a state of emergency on the continent and placed the fight against HIV/AIDS at the forefront and as the highest priority issue in our respective national development plans;

4. *Takes note* that 2021 will mark the twentieth anniversary of the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases and that this provides the opportunity to undertake a critical review of the situation and the consequences of these diseases in Africa;

5. *Also takes note* of the 2019 AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) Report and the recommendations contained therein;

6. *Notes* the continued efforts by AU Member States and partners in the fight against AIDS, TB and Malaria, and urges them to redouble their efforts to end these three diseases as public health threats by 2030 in line with the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria targets;
7. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration of the Africa Leadership Meeting – Investing in Health;
8. *Commends* the 24 AU Member States which have pledged US\$ 75.2 million to the Sixth Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Replenishment;
9. *Requests* the Commission and relevant partners to report on the status of implementation of the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030;
10. *Further requests* the African Union Commission to update the AWA Concept Document (2012-2015) for the period 2020-2023;
11. *Endorses* the 2019 tuberculosis scorecard and urges Member States to accelerate efforts in addressing tuberculosis threats in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.787 (XXXIII)

Decision on Fast Tracking the CAADP-Malabo Commitments for Accelerating Agriculture Transformation in Africa through the Biennial Review Mechanism and the Africa Agricultural Transformation Scorecard

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIII) adopting the Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods in Africa, which also calls on the Commission and NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), in collaboration with partners, to conduct on a biennial basis, an Agricultural Review Process, and report on progress to the Assembly;
2. *Takes note* of the Second CAADP Biennial Review Report on the Implementation of the June 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, and the highlights of its findings on “Resilience and Livelihoods”;
3. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Commission in mobilizing key stakeholders and development partners to build partnerships with Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for establishing a mechanism for monitoring, evaluation and reporting, in a more aligned manner, on the progress made in implementing the commitments of the Malabo Declaration;
4. *Commends* the efforts of the Commission in supporting Member States to use the biennial review report as a planning tool to accelerate achievement of the commitments made in the Malabo Declaration, and recognizes Rwanda, Morocco and Mali for being the first, second and third best performers, respectively, in progressing towards the achievement of the CAADP Malabo goals and targets;
5. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts invested by some Member States in domesticating the Malabo commitments in national agriculture investment plans and urges Member States that have not, to do so before the third biennial review report in 2022;
6. *Recommits* to take further actions in implementing the Africa Agriculture Transformation Agenda within the CAADP framework by increasing investment finance for agriculture, strengthening institutional capacity for implementation, improving coordination mechanisms to achieve concrete results and impacts leading to shared prosperity and improved livelihoods for African citizens;

7. *Calls upon* all Member States to mobilize adequate technical and financial resources in supporting agricultural data systems, monitoring and evaluation systems and strengthen mutual accountability structures to trigger evidence-based planning for agriculture transformation;

8. *Requests* the Commission to work closely with Member States, technical and financial development partners, to mobilize the required support to strengthen mutual accountability, agricultural data systems and knowledge management, institutionalize the biennial review mechanisms and the Africa Agricultural Transformation Scorecard to ensure peer learning and scaling up of the Agriculture Transformation Agenda embedded in the Malabo Declaration.

Assembly/AU/Dec.788 (XXXIII)

Decision on Decolonization of Mauritius

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the introductory note of the Chairperson of the Commission to the annual report on the activities of the African Union, and welcomes his statement issued on 22 November 2019 calling upon the United Kingdom to carry out their obligations under United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/295 of 22 May 2019;

2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.747 (XXXII), adopted at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2019, which requested the Commission to report on the progress and implementation of this decision to the Assembly in February 2020;

3. *Congratulates and commends* the AU Member States and other States Members of the international community which participated in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) legal proceedings on the Chagos Archipelago;

4. *Commends* the Commission for the excellent work done on behalf of the African Union in the ICJ legal proceedings in both the written submissions and oral hearings;

5. *Welcomes* the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 25 February 2019 on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 and United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/295, which affirms, in accordance with the Advisory Opinion of the Court, that:

(a) Because the detachment of the Chagos Archipelago was not based on the free and genuine expression of the will of the people of Mauritius, the decolonization of Mauritius has not been lawfully completed;

(b) The Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of Mauritius;

(c) Since the decolonization of Mauritius was not conducted in a manner consistent with the right of the people to self-determination, it follows that the continued administration of the Chagos Archipelago by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland constitutes a wrongful act entailing the international responsibility of that State;

(d) The United Kingdom is under an obligation to bring to an end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as soon as possible;

(e) Since respect for the right to self-determination is an obligation erga omnes, all States have a legal interest in protecting that right and all Member States are under an obligation to cooperate with the United Nations in order to complete the decolonization of Mauritius;

- (f) The resettlement of Mauritian nationals, including those of Chagossian origin, must be addressed as a matter of urgency during the completion of the decolonization process;
6. *Expresses its deep concern* at the failure of the United Kingdom to respect United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/295, which demands that the United Kingdom withdraw its colonial administration from the Chagos Archipelago unconditionally within a period of no more than six months from the adoption of the resolution, thereby enabling Mauritius to complete the decolonization of its territory as rapidly as possible;
7. *Expresses further concern* that the United Kingdom continues to challenge both the International Court of Justice and the United Nations General Assembly resolution;
8. *Directs* Member States of the African Union to support, at the United Nations General Assembly and at all international, regional and intergovernmental organizations, such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, actions that are necessary to contribute to the complete decolonization of Mauritius in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/295;
9. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission, through the Office of the Legal Counsel, to maintain the efforts to follow up on the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/295, and consider participation in any proceedings that will contribute to the decolonization of Mauritius and the safeguard of the right of return of the former inhabitants of the Chagos Archipelago, and to report on the results of these efforts in the next Assembly session in February 2021;
10. *Authorizes* the PRC to adopt the necessary budget for the implementation of this Decision, and decides to remain actively seized with the matter.

Assembly/AU/Dec.789 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the International Criminal Court
(Doc. EX.CL/1218 (XXXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of the Decisions of the Assembly on the International Criminal Court (“ICC”), namely, Assembly/AU/Dec.245 (XIII) (July 2009); Assembly/AU/Dec.270 (XIV) (February 2010); Assembly/AU/Dec.296 (XV) (July 2010); Assembly/AU/Dec.334 (XVI) (January 2011); Assembly/AU/Dec.366 (XVII) (July 2011); Assembly/AU/Dec.397 (XVIII) (January 2012); Assembly/AU/Dec.419 (XIX) (July 2012); Assembly/AU/Dec.482 (XXI) (May 2013); Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (October 2013); Assembly/AU/Dec.493 (XXII) (January 2014); Assembly/AU/Dec.547 (XXIV) (January 2015); Assembly/AU/Dec.586 (XXV) (June 2015); Assembly/AU/Dec.590 (XXVI) (January 2016); Assembly/AU/Dec.616 (XXVII) (July 2016); Assembly/AU/Dec.622 (XXVIII) (January 2017); Assembly/AU/Dec.672 (XXX) (January 2018); and Assembly/AU/Dec.738 (XXXII) (February 2019), and the recommendations of the Open-Ended Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the International Criminal Court (“the Open-Ended Ministerial Committee”);
2. *Reiterates:*
- (a) 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;
- (b) The need for all Member States, in particular, those that are also State parties to the Rome Statute, to continue to comply with Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.245 (XIII) (July 2009); Assembly/AU/Dec.270 (XIV) (February 2010); Assembly/AU/Dec.296 (XV) (July 2010); Assembly/AU/Dec.334 (XVI) (January 2011); Assembly/AU/Dec.366 (XVII) (July 2011); Assembly/AU/Dec.397 (XVIII) (January 2012); Assembly/AU/Dec.419 (XIX) (July 2012);

Assembly/AU/Dec.482 (XXI) (May 2013); Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (October 2013); Assembly/AU/Dec.493 (XXII) (January 2014); Assembly/AU/Dec.547 (XXIV) (January 2015); Assembly/AU/Dec.586 (XXV) (June 2015); Assembly/AU/Dec.590 (XXVI) (January 2016); Assembly/AU/Dec.616 (XXVII) (July 2016); Assembly/AU/Dec.622 (XXVIII) (January 2017); Assembly/AU/Dec.672 (XXX) (January 2018); and Assembly/AU/Dec.738 (XXXII) (February 2019), on the ICC;

(c) The call for the ICC to respect the duty of all States parties to the Rome Statute to honour their other international obligations as stipulated in Article 98, which includes the right to host international meetings and to ensure the participation of all invited delegations and high officials; and

(d) The call for Member States to ratify the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol of the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights (Malabo Protocol);

3. *Expresses deep concern* with:

(a) The double standards applied by the ICC in its selection of cases as evidenced in the decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber II to reject the Prosecutor's request to proceed with investigations into the alleged crimes committed in Afghanistan; and

(b) The absence of Ministers at meetings of the Open-ended Ministerial Committee on the ICC;

4. *Takes note* of the outcome of the Experts' Workshop to discuss the impasse in the Sixth Committee as it relates to the scope and application of universal jurisdiction;

5. *Commends* the efforts of the Commission in finalizing the draft Questions on the "Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the consequences of legal obligations of States under different sources of international law with respect to immunities of Heads of State and Government and other senior officials";

6. *Further commends* the Republic of Zambia and the Commission for their efforts in remobilizing the African Group of States Parties to the Rome Statute in The Hague;

7. *Calls upon* all Member States to oppose the Decision of the Appeals Chamber in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's Appeal Against the 'Decision under Article 87 (7) of the Rome Statute on the Non-Compliance by Jordan with the Request by the Court for the Arrest and Surrender of Omar Al-Bashir', which is at variance with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, customary international law and the AU Common Position;

8. *Urges* States parties to the Rome Statute, in particular, African States, to stand against the increasing politicization of the Court;

9. *Requests* Member States to prioritize the implementation of Assembly decisions on the ICC and submit recommendations on the way forward with key issues raised by this Decision;

10. *Further requests* the Commission, in consultation with the African Groups in The Hague and New York, to develop a matrix of issues of concern to African States, including issues relating to the rights of the accused and the immunities of Heads of State and Government and other senior officials, and to propose the necessary amendments to the Rome Statute within the ambit of ongoing discussions on reform of the ICC by the Assembly of States Parties (ASP);

11. *Decides* to maintain the African Position to keep the discussions on universal jurisdiction in the Sixth Committee;

12. *Requests* the African Group in New York, in collaboration with the Commission, to remove the “Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the consequences of legal obligations of States under different sources of international law with respect to immunities of Heads of State and Government and other senior officials” from the Agenda of the United Nations General Assembly until further notice;

13. *Directs* the Commission to provide technical support to the African Group in New York and The Hague in order to develop and promote the AU Common Position on the ICC and universal jurisdiction, and further directs the Executive Council and the PRC to make available the necessary financial resources for the implementation of this Decision by February 2021.

Assembly/AU/Dec.790 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government
Championing Education, Science and Technology**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.572 (XXV), whereby the Assembly committed to the establishment of a team of ten Heads of State and Government as African Champions of Education, Science and Technology;

2. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.761 (XXX) whereby the Assembly endorses the list of ten Heads of State and Government as the first team of ten Champions for Africa’s Education, Science and Technology;

3. *Commends* the Republic of Malawi for successfully hosting the First Extraordinary Summit of the C10 on the theme: Strengthen Education, Science and Technology in November 2018;

4. *Endorses* the Action Plan of the C10 and the Lilongwe Declaration on Education, Science and Technology;

5. *Approves* the proposal to extend the mandate of the Members of the C10 until such time as the Rules of Procedure of the Committees of the Assembly are harmonized;

6. *Calls upon* the Member States, the RECs and all development partners including UNECA, AfDB, the EU, the World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, AAS, AAU, RUFORUM and FAWE to support the implementation of the Action Plan of the C10;

7. *Congratulates* the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) on the launch of their Strategic Plan 2019-2023.

Annex

Lilongwe Declaration on Education, Science, and Technology

We, the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government (C10) Championing Education, Science, and Technology, meeting at the First Extraordinary Summit in Lilongwe, Malawi, on 3 November 2018,

Noting with concern the underperformance of the education, training, research and innovation systems across many African countries and its inability to support the implementation of AU Agenda 2063,

Recalling the Assembly Decisions, of June 2015 on the establishment of a Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government as Champions of Education, Science and Technology, and of January 2018 that endorsed the members¹⁰ of the first team,

¹⁰ C10: Chad, Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Tunisia.

Noting with appreciation the efforts by African universities to support Africa's development agenda through the Africa's Universities' Agenda for Higher Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa and efforts to increase staff capacities in universities through the Graduate Teaching Assistantship Programme,

Stressing the pivotal role of education and training, science, technology and innovation, in empowering African people to steer socio-economic development and growth towards realizing the aspirations of AU Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Cognizant of the need to effectively implement the continental strategies:

- (a) Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25),
- (b) Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024), and
- (c) Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET),

Highlighting the important need for African countries to intensify collaboration in the implementation of the continental strategies,

Hereby:

1. *Adopt* the C10 Action Plan;
2. *Establish* a Think Tank of African Expertise to support the C10;

Agree to:

- I. On Investing in Education, Science and Technology
 1. *Reiterate and urge* Member States to meet the original commitment of 1 per cent GDP Allocation to R and D and 4 to 6 per cent on education and commit our C10 countries to lead by example;
 2. *Increase* investments in education, science and technology in Africa and support the operationalization of (i) an Education Fund and (ii) an STI fund;
 3. *Commit* to pursue resource mobilization strategies and invite the private sector and philanthropists to contribute to the Education and Science, Technology and Innovation Funds;
- II. On Promoting Education in Africa
 4. *Promote* assurance of well-being in children's most formative years, through early childhood education and development to better prepare them in their education and for their careers;
 5. *Implement* affirmative action to encourage equity and inclusiveness on gender, disability and disadvantaged groups;
 6. *Eliminate* gender stereotypes and provide financial support in STEM careers for girls and women to pursue scientific careers and implement accompanying measures that will contribute to provide them with quality training in ICT, mentoring, leadership and entrepreneurship and provide them employment opportunities;

7. *Advance* the implementation of the Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework and its domestication at regional and national levels to ensure cross-border recognition of qualifications thereby enhancing mobility of skills and competencies across the continent;
 8. *Strengthen* teacher development, retention and mobility to address the significant shortage of qualified teachers particularly in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and innovation;
 9. *Invest* in rebranding and modernizing TVET sector to be attractive and relevant, create linkages between universities and TVET institutions and promote partnerships with the private sector to foster skills development (including new digital skills), innovation, entrepreneurship and employability;
 10. *Build* human resources capacity and intellectual capital in universities and research institutions by fast tracking post-graduation training through collaborative programmes and brain circulation, including diaspora capacity;
 11. *Improve* ICT capacity including use of ICT platforms at all levels of education, to promote education access and quality, research, knowledge generation, and innovation, develop ICT infrastructure to improve access to computer tools and take advantage of the industrial revolution 4.0;
 12. *Strengthen* foresight capacity at African universities and other partners institutions and support capacity-building in this important area to support planning and future implementation of key programmes;
 13. *Commit* to improving infrastructure and increasing staff capacity development, including female research leaders, in Africa's universities to support the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063;
- III. On Engaging the Private Sector
14. *Promote* the creation of private-public multisectoral partnerships on education, science, technology and innovation to spur among others collaboration, industrialization, technology incubation, value chain promotion and financing for start-ups;
 15. *Develop* innovative mechanisms for supporting science, technology and innovation in Africa such as tax breaks to industries that support education training, research grants, scholarships and support to innovation hubs;
 16. *Promote* the use of the intellectual property rights system, including patent and trademarks, for stimulating and supporting innovators;
 17. *Convene* annually an event for African Youth in innovation (Africa Innovators) including innovating education in Africa.*

Assembly/AU/Dec.791 (XXXIII)

**Decision on the Implementation Progress Report of the
Africa Leadership Meeting – Investing in Health Declaration
(Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XXXIII))**

The Assembly,

* Adopted on 3 November 2018, Lilongwe, Malawi.

1. *Recalls* the AU Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXXII) on the “Addis Ababa Commitment towards Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for Increased Health Financing Declaration” appointing H.E. President Paul Kagame, Leader for Domestic Health Financing;
2. *Takes note* of the Implementation Progress Report of the Leader for Domestic Health Financing in Africa;
3. *Commends* the Commission on the progress made in the implementation of the Africa Leadership Investing in Health Declaration;
4. *Requests* Regional Economic Communities and partners to support financially and technically the implementation of the Health Financing Hubs and Tracker, to be housed in the Regional Economics Communities;
5. *Urges* Member States and requests Regional Economic Communities to further fast track the implementation of the agreed road map of the ALM Declaration on Domestic Health Financing in Africa;
6. *Requests* the Leader for Domestic Health Financing, H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, to report on the progress made to the January 2021 ordinary session of the Assembly, and further requests the Commission to support the Leader in this regard.

Assembly/AU/Dec.792 (XXXIII)

Decision on Libya and the Sahel

The Assembly,

1. *Reaffirms* its unwavering commitment to the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Libya and the Sahel countries;
2. *Decides* as follows:

On the Sahel

3. *Underlines* the urgent imperative for concrete manifestations of African solidarity towards the government and people of the Sahel, given the gravity of the challenges facing lives and institutions;
4. *Requests* the Commission to develop, in consultation with the Ministries of Defense of G5 Sahel Countries and the ECOWAS Commission, a framework on a possible deployment, within the relevant provisions of the PSC Protocol related to the African Standby Force (ASF), of a force composed of the Joint-Multinational Task Force (JMTF) and 3000 troops for six months, in order to further degrade terrorist groups in the Sahel; further requests the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) to explore funding options available to cover the costs of this deployment. Meanwhile, the Assembly also requests ECOWAS to take the necessary steps for the urgent disbursement of its pledged US\$ 100 million in support to Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso in order to support this deployment;
5. *Urges* Member States to extend support, through voluntary financial contributions, training, expertise and equipment, to the efforts of the countries of the G5 Sahel Joint Force, which have and continue to make huge sacrifices in combating terrorism;
6. *Requests* the United Nations Security Council, in line with its mandate, to take new measures commensurate with the gravity of the threat in the Sahel region and in the Lake Chad Basin;
7. *Welcomes* the adoption by ECOWAS, of a Plan of Action for the period 2020-2024, estimated at US\$ 2.3 billion, to eradicate terrorism in the region, including US\$ 1 billion to be mobilized by the region for support in

terms of equipment and training activities for the defence and security forces of the Member States of the region, as well as sharing of intelligence; and calls upon the Chairperson of the Commission to take necessary measures, working with the ECOWAS Commission, to support the implementation of the ECOWAS Plan of Action;

8. *Requests* the Commission, in close coordination with countries of the region, and in support to the G5 Sahel efforts, to scale up the use of all African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) frameworks and other cooperation mechanisms, particularly the Nouakchott Process; the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT); the Joint Operational Centre (CEMOC); the Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL); and the Committee on Intelligence and Security Services in Africa (CISSA), in order to consolidate coordination and enhance actions in the fight against terrorist and criminal groups;

9. *Welcomes* the Bamako Declaration emanating from the AU ministerial meeting held on 29 November 2019, on access to natural resources and intercommunity conflicts. In this respect, the Assembly looks forward to the implementation of the action plan as contained in the Declaration;

10. *Also requests* the Commission to review and, on that basis, take necessary measures to further strengthen the African Union Mission in Mali and the Sahel (MISAHEL), in order to enable the mission to efficiently and effectively carry out its mandate within the Sahel;

On Libya

11. *Expresses grave concern* over the situation prevailing in Libya, characterized by military confrontations between the Libyan parties, as well as over the delay in the signing of a permanent ceasefire and the continuous external political and military interference that has created a very dangerous situation for the country, the region and the African continent as a whole;

12. *Reiterates* the call by the AU High-Level Ad Hoc Committee on Libya to put an end to all military engagements by, or in direct support of, the warring parties, in and over the entire territory of Libya, within the framework of the permanent ceasefire that should be emanating from the ongoing process of the Libya Joint Military Commission in Geneva, Switzerland;

13. *Commends* the neighbouring countries of Libya for the efforts they continue to deploy towards finding a lasting and Libyan-owned solution to the current crisis;

14. *Strongly condemns* all forms of violations of the United Nations arms embargo by whomsoever and calls on the United Nations, through its Security Council, to fully assume its responsibility to ensure that the embargo is effectively implemented and monitored as part of the efforts to end fighting and create the necessary conditions for a permanent ceasefire, in accordance with the Agreement reached in Skhirat, Morocco, leading to a peaceful resolution of the crisis in Libya. The Assembly affirms its readiness to work with the United Nations towards the full and scrupulous compliance with the arms embargo in force in Libya by the United Nations Security Council resolution 1973 (2011);

15. *Recalling* the outcomes of the Berlin Conference of 19 January 2020, affirms the imperative for all those external actors that are interfering politically and militarily in Libya to immediately and permanently put an end to their interventions that continue to undermine the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Libya and obstruct the search for peace;

16. *Stresses* the imperative, in line with the relevant African and international conventions and instruments, to take immediate steps aimed at holding to account all Libyan and other actors, both civilian and military, which will be found to have committed war crimes and other acts in violation of freedoms and human rights in Libya;

17. *Recollects* that the African Standby Force (ASF), as provided for in the AU Constitutive Act and the PSC Protocol, has attained full operational capacity and therefore the requisite readiness for operation. Further, the

Assembly highlights the operationalization of the ASF Continental Logistic Base, in Douala, Cameroon, which is holding military equipment. The Assembly decides that a Contact Group, chaired by the Republic of Congo, deriving from the Members of the AU High-Level Committee on Libya, and any other country the Chair of the Contact Group may wish to add, be established to provide political leadership, as well promote coordination of international efforts in the search for a solution to the Libyan crisis. In this context, the Contact Group will meet at the level of Heads of State and Government and that of ministers to ensure continuity in the efforts;

18. In view of the grave military and security situation prevailing in Libya, as well as the prospect of an immediate permanent ceasefire within the perspective of speedily reaching a lasting solution, in collaboration with the neighbouring countries, to the crisis in Libya, further decides as follows:

(a) AU to immediately dispatch, jointly with the United Nations, a military and security reconnaissance mission to Libya comprising African Chiefs of Defence Staff, to be led by the Chair of the PSC Military Staff Committee (MSC) and composed of one Chief of Defence Staff from each of the five AU geographic regions, as well as United Nations personnel, to consult with the Libyan parties and gather information on the ground;

(b) Upgrade to the level of mission the current AU Liaison Office in Libya, and to equip it with the necessary political, diplomatic and military capacity, with a view to ensuring greater contribution and participation of the AU in the efforts aimed at finding a lasting solution to the crisis in Libya; and

(c) Request the Chairperson of the Commission to urgently submit to the PRC and its relevant subcommittees, funding options for consideration and authorization of the above.

Assembly/AU/Dec.793 (XXXIII)

Decision on the New African Women's Decade on the Financial and Economic Inclusion of African Women

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the end of the African Women's Decade 2010-2020 under the theme "Grassroots Approach to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE);

2. *Also takes notes* of the outcome Declaration of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment High-Level Meeting;

3. *Notes with concern* the very limited access of women to finance, leadership and decision-making institutions;

4. *Decides to:*

(i) Adopt the New African Women's Decade:2020-2030 as the Decade of Women's Financial and Economic Inclusion;

(ii) Mandate the Chairperson of the Commission to develop the implementation modalities and road map for the Decade and also provide support for the effective implementation of the Decade and to report on progress biennially to the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.794 (XXXIII)

Decision on the Use of Spanish as a Working Language of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision CM/Dec.45 (LXXIV), adopted at the Seventy-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in July 2001, in Lusaka, Zambia, requesting the OAU to introduce Spanish as a working language of the Organization;
2. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.388 (XVII), adopted at the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in June 2011, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, requesting the Commission to take all necessary measures to operationalize the use of Spanish within the AU, as soon as possible;
3. *Urges* Member States and the Commission to take all necessary measures to operationalize the use of Spanish as a working language of the African Union in July 2020 at the latest.

Assembly/AU/Dec.795 (XXXIII)

Decision on African Candidatures within the International System

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System on the post of judge at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), for the period 2021-2030, which is to take place during the election scheduled for September 2020 in New York, United States of America;
2. *Also takes note* of the deliberations on the post of the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for the period 2020-2026, during the election scheduled for 5 to 6 March 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland;
3. *Decides:*
 - (i) On the matter of the candidature for the post of judge at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to request the three Member States (Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda) to consult at the highest level with a view of reaching consensus on one African candidate to this post and report to the Executive Council through the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System on the margin of the Extraordinary Summit, in May 2020, in South Africa;
 - (ii) To approve the candidature of Dr. Edward Kwakwa of the Republic of Ghana for the post of Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for the period 2020-2026, which is to take place during the election scheduled for 5 to 6 March 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland;
 - (iii) To encourage the Republic of Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso to continue consultations in respect of the post of judge at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the period 2021-2030 with the view to agree on one common African candidate at the latest by July 2020;
 - (iv) To call on Member States to uphold the Rules of Procedure of the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System and demonstrate a sense of solidarity and Pan-Africanism, predicated on consultations and consensus, by speaking with one voice in the international arena.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXXIII)

**Declaration on the 2019 Theme of the Year on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons:
towards a Durable Solution to Forced Displacement in Africa**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 10 February 2020,

Commending the AU Leader for the Theme of the Year 2019, H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, for his stewardship and leadership role towards achieving durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa, and highly appreciating his engagement in steering the planned activities in 2019 and expressing solidarity to forcibly displaced persons and host communities,

Expressing our profound appreciation to AU Member States which are generously hosting refugees and internally displaced persons and calling for renewed efforts to implement African solutions in resolving African humanitarian crises on the continent and encouraging them to continue to take practical and effective steps in the spirit of Pan-Africanism with the support of robust international cooperation,

Welcoming the outcomes and results of the various activities carried out by the AU Commission and AU organs, Member States, Regional Economic Communities, civil society and partners, in particular the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), within the framework of the 2019 theme of the year road map and call for concrete action plans to implement them,

Emphasizing the importance of addressing root causes and achieving durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa in line with relevant African Union legal and policy frameworks and calling on Member States, humanitarian and development partners, as well as frontline responders, to scale up the response beyond emergency relief,

Noting with great concern the growing challenges of the humanitarian situation in Africa exacerbated by growing impacts of climate change and, in some instances, in spite of positive developments across the continent, driven by conflicts, terrorism, political instability, and urging Member States to address the structural root causes of forced displacement, by strengthening and developing early warning and early response systems,

Underscoring the importance of effective international responsibility-sharing mechanisms in order to achieve and ensure the availability of adequate, flexible and predictable resources to help address the enormous challenges posed by forced displacement and humanitarian crises in Africa,

Guided by the vision of our Union and affirming our determination to address the root causes of forced displacement and humanitarian crises in line with international and regional standards,

We hereby:

1. *Appeal* to the AU Leader of the 2019 theme of the year, H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, to continue supporting efforts of the AU in addressing challenges of forced displacement;
2. *Undertake* measures to address specific protracted situations of forced displacement on the continent through mobilization of effective political action particularly in the context of the 2020 theme of the year;
3. *Call upon* Member States, RECs and the Commission to work closely with the AU leader of the 2019 theme of the year in convening a Continental High-Level Conference on the Humanitarian Situation in Africa in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, linked with the AU theme for 2020 on silencing the guns;
4. *Welcome* the ratification of the 2009 AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa by Equatorial Guinea, Somalia and South Sudan and call on the 15 Member States that have not signed and the 26 that have not yet ratified/acceded to the Convention to do so; also call on the 12 Member States that have not signed and nine that have not ratified/acceded to the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa to do so;
5. *Request* the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs to finalize the draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Specific Aspects on the Right to a Nationality and the

Eradication of Statelessness in Africa and present it for consideration and adoption by the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly;

6. *Urge* Member States to implement pledges and recommendations that have been made in the context of the activities of the 2019 theme of the year including by establishing stronger linkages with the 2020 theme of the year on “Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa’s Development”;

7. *Call upon* Member States to strengthen and/or establish national infrastructures for peace with a view to ensure reconciliation, social harmony and cohesion in the process of nation-building, address the specific needs of social groups in vulnerable situations, such as women, children, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons, and ensure their full and effective participation;

8. *Encourage* Member States to take measures to strengthen their national systems on disaster-related displacement, disaster risk and reduction and early warning in line with the Sendai Framework, the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa;

9. *Request* Member States to put in place sustainable mechanisms aimed at mitigating displacement related to the adverse effects of environmental degradation, extreme weather patterns and climate change; further request the Commission to provide guidance on the application of the 1969 OAU Convention and the 2009 AU Kampala Convention in the context of displacement linked to climate change;

10. *Mandate* the AU Commission, upon request by Member States, to contribute to coordination efforts and enabling internally displaced persons and refugees to make a free and informed choice between return, local integration and resettlement, in conformity with relevant African and International legal instruments;

11. *Urge* Member States, RECs, the Commission and partners to ensure that policies, strategies and mechanisms for addressing forced displacement reinforce the nexus between and among governance, peace, post-conflict reconstruction and recovery, development and climate change and request all relevant actors to ensure the effective participation of the affected population, including refugees and IDPs;

12. *Also urge* the Member States, RECs, AU Commission and partners to ensure the availability of adequate, flexible and predictable resources to help address the enormous challenges posed by forced displacement and humanitarian crises in Africa and facilitate multi-year, flexible funding that transcends the emergency relief with a view to address the humanitarian-development nexus;

13. *Urge* the Commission and stakeholders to consult and engage with AU Member States whose citizens are slated for relocation to third countries through the processes in which the Commission is party;

14. *Call for* the immediate lifting of international sanctions on African countries to ameliorate the adverse effects of humanitarian crises.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XXXIII)

Cairo Declaration on Viral Hepatitis in Africa

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 10 February 2020, adopt the declaration of the Ministers of Health, Population and Drug Control of the Member States of the African Union, held in Cairo, Egypt, on 1 and 2 August 2019, at the occasion of the Third Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control (STC-HPDC-3) (as annexed).

Annex

Declaration on Viral Hepatitis in Africa
Third Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control
(STC-HPDC-3) Cairo, Egypt, 29 July to 2 August 2019

We, the Ministers of Health of the African Union Member States, meeting at the Third Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 1 to 2 August 2019 convened by the African Union Commission under the theme “Increased Domestic Financing for Universal Health Coverage and Health Security for All African Citizens – including Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons”, reviewed the progress and challenges on viral hepatitis prevention and control in Africa,

Recalling the African Union Heads of State and Government Decision Assembly/AU/14 (XXIII) to accelerate effective implementation of the Abuja Commitments on AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Viral Hepatitis and Other Infectious Diseases,

Also recalling the two World Health Assembly resolutions (WHA63.18 and WHA67.6) of 2010 and 2014 recognizing viral hepatitis as a public health problem and the need for governments and population to prevent, diagnose and treat viral hepatitis; and the Global Health Sector Strategy (GHSS) on viral hepatitis 2016-2021 which calls for the elimination of viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030 adopted by resolution WHA 69.22,

Further recalling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target 3.3 which calls for combating hepatitis alongside eliminating of the HIV, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics,

Noting with concern that hepatitis currently affects 71 million people in Africa, yet only 18 African countries have formulated a national hepatitis strategic plan and of these countries, only three country plans are funded,

Also noting with concern that the number of deaths from viral hepatitis B and C has increased by 31 per cent since 2000 thus causing significant negative impacts on health and socioeconomic development,

Acknowledging that including testing and treatment for viral hepatitis in an ambitious universal health coverage package would increase resources use by about 1 per cent, while decreasing deaths by 5 per cent and improving healthy life years by 10 per cent leading to direct and indirect economic benefits,

Also acknowledging that investing in viral hepatitis elimination requires strengthening health systems as well as ensuring the availability of adequate, sustained financial resources and trained and motivated human resources to conduct hepatitis-specific activities,

Welcoming that generic competition, from pharmaceutical production in Africa, has significantly reduced the price of direct acting antivirals used to treat hepatitis C, in some cases to less than US\$ 100 per person for full treatment,

Congratulating, the progress made in Egypt towards fighting hepatitis, which is regarded as the main public health challenge for the country, through utilizing national resources and engaging international partners; this success in one African nation can be replicated in all African countries,

Hereby collectively and individually commit ourselves to:

1. *Ensure government leadership of the hepatitis response and officially appoint a hepatitis focal point/programme manager, preferably within an existing programme with access to adequate resources to ensure national and subnational coordination;*
2. *Implement the hepatitis programme using the Framework for Action for the Prevention, Care and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis in Africa as a contribution to achieving and ensuring the universal health coverage;*

3. *Develop* a budgeted viral hepatitis national strategic plan and ensure the inclusion of a hepatitis programme into the broader national health plan, with targets and priorities, adopting a public health approach and promoting synergies and linkages with other disease programmes in line with the Africa Health Strategy (2016-2030) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
4. *Establish* a strong viral hepatitis strategic information and surveillance system ensuring integration of core indicators within national health information systems to improve planning and monitoring of the national and continental response;
5. *Develop* a viral hepatitis national strategic plan that is aligned with the national health plan, the Africa Health Strategy (2016-2030) and the 2030 Agenda for SDGs;
6. *Unify* the mechanisms of the drug registration process for hepatitis B and C following international standards and the registration of manufacturers and production companies conforming to the requirements of the good manufacturing standard for the African continent;
7. *Raise awareness* on viral hepatitis and promote social and behaviour change, including population prevention and care-seeking, communication for viral hepatitis including celebrating the World Hepatitis Day on 28 July each year by organizing high-level events engaging political leaders, champions and communities;
8. *Strengthen* the use of the hepatitis B vaccine within the national immunization and introduce universal monovalent birth dose vaccine to prevent mother-to-child transmission of the hepatitis B virus;
9. *Provide* access and ensure scale-up of care and antiviral treatment for people with chronic viral hepatitis B and C infection as well as ensuring availability of adequate domestic financial resources and trained human resources in order to prevent deaths in the short and medium-term;
10. *Address* the inequity in hepatitis B care and treatment that prevents access to essential life-saving medication of Tenofovir to mono-infected hepatitis B patients while providing free access only for patients with HIV/hepatitis B co-infection, in addition to the introduction and scale-up of curative DAA treatment for all patients with hepatitis C infection;
11. *Strengthen and sustain* infection prevention and control measures in all health care settings, blood transfusion services, ensure counselling and linkage to care and provide access to care for key and vulnerable population including comprehensive harm reduction services for people who inject drugs (PWID);
12. *Call upon* all partners and encourage public-private partnerships, including drugs manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies, to support the implementation of this Declaration and to synergize their efforts in mobilizing national and international resources, make quality medicines and diagnostics available at affordable prices to strengthen national viral hepatitis programmes;
13. *Advocate* for inclusiveness in the strategies aimed at reducing costs and removing financial barriers for those in need of services for prevention and treatment of viral hepatitis, through bulk procurement;
14. *Work* with international organizations to support purchasing vaccines in a standardized manner in accordance with the highest quality standards from sources approved by the World Health Organization;
15. *Involve* non-governmental organizations (NGOs), professional organizations, civil society and organized patients' activists' networks in supporting advocacy at policy and community levels;
16. *Strengthen* local production of active pharmaceutical ingredients and raw materials;

17. *Accelerate* regulatory approval for WHO prequalified products or those approved by stringent regulatory authorities, in parallel to adopting a systematic approach to strengthen national regulatory authorities and expertise in Africa;
18. *Request* the African Union Commission, the Africa CDC, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as other development partners to develop the capacity of Member States, define priorities for response and innovation and facilitate operational research; as well as promote and encourage South-to-South collaboration to share experiences in the implementation of this Declaration;
19. *Also request* the African Union Commission and AUDA-NEPAD to engage all relevant stakeholders, including development partners, civil society and the private sector ,including drugs, diagnostics manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies, in the framework of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) to support the implementation of this Declaration;
20. *Further request* partners and manufacturing companies to increase their efforts to mobilize resources, make quality medicines and diagnostics available at affordable prices, and secure additional investments to strengthen national viral hepatitis programmes;
21. *Finally request* the African Union Commission and WHO to follow up the implementation of this Declaration and report back to the STC.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XXXIII)

Declaration on the African Common Position on Antimicrobial Resistance

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 10 February 2020,

Concerned that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a development that is challenging and threatening the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063, related to human, aquatic, marine and terrestrial animal health, biodiversity and ecosystems, clean water, poverty, and hunger; and that drug resistance causes an estimated 700,000 deaths each year globally, and, if current trends continue, AMR could result in over 10 million deaths per year and over US\$ 100 trillion in lost output globally by 2050,

Also concerned that many Africans lack access to high-quality antimicrobials, resulting in millions of preventable illnesses and deaths annually,

Cognizant that Member States face challenges in ensuring that national action plans on AMR are fully developed, funded, implemented, and measured, that plans include a one health approach and cover all sectors, and that plans are mainstreamed into universal health care, economic development, and other high development priorities,

1. *Adopt* the African Common Position on Antimicrobial Resistance of the Ministers of Health, Population and Drug Control of the Member States of the African Union, held in Cairo, Egypt, on 1 and 2 August 2019, at the occasion of the Third Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control (STC-HPDC-3) (as annexed).

Annex

**Declaration on the African Common Position on Antimicrobial Resistance
Third Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control
(STC-HPDC-3) Cairo, Egypt, 29 July to 2 August 2019**

Recalling the commitments, strategies, and guidance from international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and Member States regarding antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the highest level of commitment shown by Africa's Heads of State and Government to improve the health of Africans, including:

- Agenda 2063, the Africa We Want,
- The Africa Health Strategy, 2016-2030,
- Animal Health Strategy for Africa, 2018-2030,
- African Union Framework for Antimicrobial Resistance Control, 2020-2025,
- Africa Centres for Disease Control Framework for Antimicrobial Resistance Control, 2018-2023,
- Declaration of Heads of State on Accelerating Implementation of International Health Regulations in Africa (2017),
- Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on AMR (2016),
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
- Antimicrobial Framework for Action of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group,
- The WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance,
- The FAO Action Plan on AMR,
- The OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance,
- International Health Regulations IHR (2005),
- Abuja Declaration and Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health,
- Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA),

Acknowledging that addressing AMR requires action by governments, international organizations, the private sector, academia, and civil society, across human, animal, and environmental health sectors; and that African Union organs have begun implementing programmes to address AMR, including the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the African Union Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC), and the AU Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign,

Recognizing that antimicrobials are a resource shared by humans for the benefit of humans, animals, and plants, and that AMR organisms are increasing globally, threatening to render existing treatments ineffective against many infections,

Also recognizing that the emergence of AMR is accelerated by inappropriate use of antimicrobial agents in humans, animals, plants, and the environment, including:

- Self-treatment of illness by lay persons,
- Non-indicated administration to ill persons by healthcare providers and others,

- Distribution in the environment to improve crop yield,
- Addition to feed to promote growth in animals reared for food consumption,

Further recognizing that AMR control is threatened by gaps in research and development on new antimicrobials, vaccines, diagnostics, waste management tools, and other interventions,

Regretting that AMR emergence may be further amplified by substandard or falsified antimicrobials, which impair treatment of existing infections and may help select for AMR strains,

Also regretting that transmission of AMR is accelerated by inadequate infection prevention and control in healthcare facilities, by contamination of the food supply with AMR bacteria, by impaired access to potable water, and by limitations in public health prevention programmes, including immunization, sanitation, and sexual health,

Concerned that AMR is a development that is challenging and threatening the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063, related to human, aquatic, marine and terrestrial animal health, biodiversity and ecosystems, clean water, poverty, and hunger; and that drug resistance causes an estimated 700,000 deaths each year globally, and, if current trends continue, AMR could result in over 10 million deaths per year and over US\$ 100 trillion in lost output globally by 2050,

Concerned also that many Africans lack access to high-quality antimicrobials, resulting in millions of preventable illnesses and deaths annually,

Cognizant that Member States face challenges in ensuring that national action plans on AMR are fully developed, funded, implemented, and measured, that plans include a one health approach and cover all sectors, and that plans are mainstreamed into universal health care, economic development, and other high development priorities,

We recommend to African Union Member States to:

1. *Develop* policy, implement programmes, finance and train human resources to improve monitoring of AMR, including:
 - (a) Increase the number of tests performed on humans, animals, and plants for AMR organisms;
 - (b) Increase the proportion of human and animal diagnostic laboratories with quality assurance programmes and international accreditation;
 - (c) Increase the number of national laboratories conducting surveillance for AMR using standardized protocols;
 - (d) Continuously collect, analyze, report, and disseminate data about AMR and antimicrobial use for high-priority pathogens to relevant AU agencies and international organizations, such as the Tripartite Collaboration on AMR;
2. *Develop* policy, implement programmes, finance and train human resources to delay emergence of AMR, including:
 - (a) Restrict over-the-counter sales of antimicrobials classified as “watch” and “reserve” by the World Health Organization;
 - (b) Increase the proportion of healthcare providers adhering to prudent antimicrobial use guidelines;

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(c) Increase the proportion of veterinarians and food producers adhering to prudent antimicrobial use guidelines, including use of safe farming practices (e.g., good nutrition, vaccination, biosafety and biosecurity) and halting all use of medically important antimicrobials for growth promotion;

(d) Reduce availability and sales of substandard and falsified antimicrobials;

3. *Develop* policy, implement programmes, finance and train human resources to limit transmission of AMR, including:

(a) Increase the proportion of healthcare facilities implementing infection control and prevention programmes and antimicrobial stewardship programmes;

(b) Increase the availability and sales of animal products and crops produced with prudent antimicrobials use;

(c) Increase access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene in healthcare facilities, farms, schools, households, and community settings;

(d) Increase compliance with international standards for management of human, animal, and industrial waste;

4. *Develop* policy, implement programs, finance and train human resources to mitigate harm from AMR, including:

(a) Increase the number of healthcare facilities with quality diagnostic tests for infection and AMR;

(b) Reduce the availability and use of substandard diagnostic tests and supplies;

(c) Increase the proportion of healthcare providers, veterinarians, and healthcare facilities adhering to guidelines for treatment of susceptible and AMR infections in humans and animals;

(d) Maintain consistent supply of and access to essential antimicrobials that have been quality assured;

5. *Establish and strengthen* national task forces that represent human, animal, plants and environmental agencies;

6. *Develop* or revise, fund, and monitor national action plans for AMR;

7. *Engage* civil society organizations, media, and the general public to promote awareness and understanding of AMR and support for programmes to control AMR.

We recommend to Regional Economic Communities to:

1. *Harmonize* regulation of antimicrobial agents used in humans, animals and plants;

2. *Harmonize* protocols for recording, analyzing, and reporting AMR and antimicrobial use.

We request the African Union Commission to:

1. *Fully constitute*, fund, and manage an African Union Task Force on AMR, for monitoring, reviewing, coordinating, and developing policies related to AMR with representation from all relevant human, animal, plant, and environmental agencies in a one health approach;

2. *Advocate* for Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and other relevant organizations to adopt policies and laws to enable long-term prevention and control of AMR;
3. *Support* human resource development for AMR prevention and control among African Union human, animal, plant, and environmental agencies;
4. *Convene* at least one high-level meeting annually in conjunction with the AU summit to update Member States about progress in AMR prevention and control and advocate for sustained progress;
5. *Work* with African universities and research institutions to promote innovation in defining and quantifying the source and extent of AMR and the development of new antimicrobials, vaccines, diagnostics, and waste management tools to secure the future of antimicrobial resistance so no one is left behind;
6. *Strengthen* the African Union to become a unified and influential voice in global governance and accountability in AMR.

Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXXIII)

Declaration on the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF)

We, the Heads of State and Government, participating at the Thirty-third African Union Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 9 February 2020,

1. *Declare* that the rich and diverse African heritage is an essential asset to profile the continent in the global arena and to build sustainable development, integration and peace in Africa;
2. *Congratulate* H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, for his engagement as African Union Leader for the Arts, Culture and Heritage for an improved protection and promotion of African cultural and natural heritage;
3. *Call upon* African Union Member States and the private sector to support the work of the African World Heritage Fund for the profiling, protection and promotion of African natural and cultural heritage;
4. *Request* the African World Heritage Fund to propose a sustainable funding mechanism to protect African heritage of outstanding value and to organize a fundraising event in 2021 under the leadership of the African Union Leader for the Arts, Culture and Heritage, in collaboration with the African Union.

Assembly/AU/Decl.5 (XXXIII)

Declaration on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 9 and 10 February 2020,

Taking note of the report on the situation in Palestine and the Middle East and recalling all the previous resolutions and decisions adopted by the Organization of African Unity/African Union on the situation in Palestine aimed at achieving a lasting peace and security in the Middle East,

Reaffirming our full support for the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organization in their legitimate struggle against the Israeli occupation under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas in order to restore their inalienable right to establish an independent Palestinian State existing side by side with the State of Israel,

Reiterating our desire to find a peaceful political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions calling for the establishment of a Palestinian State on the borders of 4 June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital on the basis of the two-State solution and in conformity with the United Nations resolution 194 on the return of Palestinian refugees,

Renewing our call for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, support all initiatives aimed at finding a lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and negotiate through an international multilateral mechanism that includes all permanent status issues, borders, security, settlements, refugees, water, and prisoners, while ensuring compliance with international legitimacy, implementing what is agreed upon within a specified period of time and providing guarantees for implementation,

Affirming the steadfastness of our position in support of the Palestinian cause and the continued efforts of the Union to achieve a comprehensive and just peace for the Palestinian people. We expect that all Member States will work to achieve this endeavour in their international relations, and that any cooperation of the countries of the continent with the State of Israel should not be supportive of the occupying entity at the expense of the historically established Pan-Africanist solidarity with the Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for liberation, freedom and justice,

Renewing our call to all countries to uphold the legitimate legal status of the city of East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine, and to refrain from any action or act that would undermine the legitimate status of the city of Jerusalem, in particular to refrain from transferring embassies represented by Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem,

Reaffirming that all settlements in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan are null and void and condemn the policy of land confiscation, house demolitions, forced displacement of civilians, policies of racial discrimination and all measures of collective punishment implemented in the course of intensive colonial activities in the occupied Palestinian territory constitute a violation and a war crime under international law, and we express our deep concern at the subsequent declarations of resignation by the Israeli Government, which have predicted that the chances of achieving peace will decline,

Hereby declare as follows:

1. *Condemn* all repressive measures of occupation, and the policy of torture and execution of Palestinian citizens, especially targeting medical personnel, children, women and people with special needs who go out peacefully. We consider them crimes against humanity in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention. We call for the urgent international protection of the Palestinian people under occupation in full compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law;
2. *Reaffirm further* that the entire territory of East Jerusalem, within the borders of 4 June 1967, is the capital of the State of Palestine, and reiterate the previous decisions of the African Union in this regard. We call for the preservation of the sanctity of the Christian and Islamic holy sites in the holy city and the freedom to practice the religious rites of the heavenly religions, and recall the importance of upholding the historic status of the holy sites of Jerusalem under the Hashemite custodianship. We call on all Member States in their relations to take into account the specificity of East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine;
3. *Condemn* the Israeli settlement plans being implemented at an accelerated pace in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine, and the Jordan Valley in contravention of the rules of international law, in particular Security Council resolution 2334;
4. *Renew* our call on all African countries to end all forms of direct and indirect dealing with the “apartheid-style” illegal Israeli colonial settlement system in the territory of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 5 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 and the previous decisions of the African Union in this regard, and call upon Member States to take all measures to reverse this

trend, drawing from the rich history of the contribution of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the liberation struggle that ultimately dismantled the apartheid regime in Southern Africa;

5. *Deplore* the campaign of incitement and distortion aimed at Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian leadership. We refuse to hold the Palestinian leadership responsible for not responding to the call for negotiations. We renew our support for the vision and initiative of President Abbas for peace presented to the United Nations Security Council on 20 February 2018, which is based on the outcomes of international human rights and humanitarian law and the Arab peace initiative, through international multilateral mediation, within a specific time frame;

6. *Consider* that the Palestinian refugees are all Palestinians who have been displaced from the historic land of Palestine since the Nakba in 1948, or left before this date and could not return, and their successor is related to the current generation. All of them acquire the individual and absolute right to return to their lands and homes from which they have been abandoned, while retaining the right to just compensation for the harm suffered;

7. *Welcome* the decision of the United Nations General Assembly adopted in December 2019 to renew the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for another three years until 2023, and call upon the international community to further support the financial assets of the Agency with the aim of enabling it to effectuate its mandate fully;

8. *Condemn* Israel's promulgation of a law that would allow the execution of Palestinian prisoners, which constitutes a clear violation of all international laws, charters and conventions that guarantee the protection of civilians and prisoners during war, including the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Additional Protocols. The international community is called upon to stand up against these arbitrary measures;

9. *Express our deep concern* about the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip as a result of the Israeli blockade and hold the Israeli occupation fully responsible for the situation in the Gaza Strip. We believe that the crisis in the Gaza Strip is not merely a humanitarian crisis requiring emergency relief, but one of the manifestations of the colonial occupation, which should be addressed by ending the colonial occupation and enabling the geographical and political unity of the Palestinian territories between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We call on the international community to work to end this unjust Israeli blockade;

10. *Deplore* the successive Israeli policies aimed at Judaization of the city of Jerusalem and its historical, legal and demographic nature, and the continuous aggression against Islamic and Christian holy sites, which imposes strict security restrictions on the worshipers and restricts freedom of worship in the holy city. We call upon the United Nations to monitor the implementation of UNESCO's decision of 26 October 2016 concerning Jerusalem and to ensure the full implementation of the decision;

11. *Condemn* the policy of ethnic cleansing through forced displacement, house demolitions and the policy of racial discrimination practiced by the Israelis against Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem through evacuation orders for Palestinian Bedouin communities in the Red Khan in the vicinity of Jerusalem, whose aim is to isolate the holy city, cut off its geographical connection with the territories of the occupied West Bank in 1967, and achieve the demographic superiority of the settlers over the owners of the land of Jerusalem. This policy represents a case of racial segregation and contradicts the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid;

12. *Implore* all African countries to end all forms of direct and indirect dealings with the illegal Israeli colonial settlement system in the territory of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 2334 and the previous AU decisions in this regard;

13. *Reject* the racist Jewish national law, which recognizes the Jewishness of the State of Israel, restricts the State and citizenship to the Jewish people only, denying two million Arab Palestinians (Muslim and Christian) their fundamental human rights and supports the confiscation of Palestinian land in favour of Israeli settlement;

14. *Renew* our support for the vision and initiative of President Mahmoud Abbas for peace presented to the Security Council on 20 February 2018, which is based on the outcomes of international legitimacy and the Arab peace initiative, through international multilateral mediation, within a specific time frame, and deplore the campaign of incitement and distortion aimed at Palestinian President Abbas and the Palestinian leadership;
15. *Condemn* the arbitrary measures and sentences imposed on detainees, especially children and women, in Israeli jails, which deprive them of the minimum rights guaranteed by international human rights law and norms, including the Geneva Convention on the rights of women and children. We therefore call upon the Israeli Government to release all Palestinian and Arab prisoners in Israeli jails immediately and unconditionally;
16. *Affirm* that a just solution to the Palestinian cause and the achievement of comprehensive peace and an end to the Israeli conflict can only be achieved through the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian State on the borders of 4 June 1967 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital and not as a capital on the outskirts of East Jerusalem and that there is no possibility of a political settlement and an end to the conflict with the establishment of a State in the Gaza Strip or a Palestinian State without the Gaza Strip;
17. *Call for* the cessation of all actions and measures that are contrary to the international law and to the United Nations resolutions and, in this context, urge for scaling up of diplomatic action to revive the peace process and preserve the two-State solution;
18. *Reiterate* that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories to the June 1967 line, including the Syrian Golan Heights and the territories still occupied in Southern Lebanon;
19. *Reaffirm* our solidarity with the Palestinian people in rejecting the so-called deal of the century, which was announced without consulting with the Palestinian leadership. This deal transcends the basic rights of the Palestinian people, including all relevant resolutions of international legitimacy and African Union declarations. We reject this so-called deal of the century as a reference to be used for political settlement and to make sincere and determined efforts to reach to a just and lasting solution based on the two States.

Assembly/AU/Decl.6 (XXXIII)

**Declaration on Promoting Closer Collaboration and Cooperation between the African Union,
the African Diaspora, and People of African Descent in the Caribbean and Pacific Regions**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, assembled on 10 February 2020 at our Thirty-third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

Evoking the unity of the African peoples, bound together by neighbourliness, cultural affinity, historical experiences, our common struggles for independence and dignity, our civilizational heritage and our common destiny with all peoples of African descent,

Affirming our commitments to the Declaration of the Global African Diaspora Summit held in Sandton, South Africa, in May 2012,

Inspired by United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/237 by which the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent under the Theme: People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice and Development,

Further affirming the outcomes of subsequent high-level forums including: the African Union Continental Symposium on the Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent held in Accra, Ghana,

in September 2018, and the Regional Conference on the International Decade of People of African Descent held in Dakar, Senegal, in October 2019,

Noting other regional conferences on the International Decade of People of African Descent, including the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean States held in Brasilia, Brazil, in December 2015, and the Regional Conference for Europe, Central Asia and North America held in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 2017,

Reaffirming our commitment to the unity of African people, to building an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa, to forging cultural, political, social and economic linkages that further the Pan-Africanist dream among all peoples of African descent,

Further reaffirming the outcomes of various summits and high-level meetings between the Africans on the continent and representatives of the African diaspora in various regions in the world including North America, South and Latin America, Europe and elsewhere,

Recognizing the important role played by Pan-Africanists and peoples of African descent across many continents in the liberation struggles and movements in Africa,

Determined to explore and harness the historic links between Africa and all people of African descent in 2019 as part of the commemoration of 400th anniversary of transatlantic slave trade,

Recalling relevant African Union decisions including Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.5 (III) on the Development of the Diaspora Initiative adopted in Maputo, Mozambique, in July 2003; Decision EX.CL/Dec.221 (VII) on the African-Diaspora Process adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2006; Decision EX.CL/Dec.406 (XII) on the First African Union Diaspora participation in the organs and activities of the Union; Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.205 (XI) adopted in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt, in July 2008, on the African Diaspora Summit; Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.354 (XVI) adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2011, on the Road Map for the Diaspora Summit, including the convening of a Technical Experts Meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, in February 2011; Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.367 (XVII) adopted in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2011, on the convening of a second Ministerial Conference on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2011; and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.393 (XVIII) endorsing the outcome and conclusions of the Second Ministerial Conference held in New York in September 2019,

Further recalling the African Union Assembly declaration on the AU Recognition of the 400th anniversary of transatlantic slave trade adopted during our Thirty-second Ordinary Session on 11 February 2019 by which we, inter alia, urged all Member States of the Union to consider immigration, economic, cultural and social policies that allow the Africans descended from the victims and survivors of the transatlantic slave trade to reconnect and re-engage with their brethren in the African continent,

Cognizant that culture and identity inform all facets of development,

Hereby:

1. *Commit* to the implementation of the Declaration of the Global African Diaspora Summit and its Action Plan;
2. *Affirm* the strong cultural and historical linkages between the people of Africa, the African diaspora and all the people of African descent and commit to strengthen these linkages so as to realize the aspirations of all our people for peace and stability, post-conflict reconstruction and development, and the transformation of our economies to deliver a prosperity for all the African people and people of African descent;

3. *Note with appreciation* the dialogue on AU recognition of the 400th anniversary of the transatlantic slave trade, hosted by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, on 11 February 2019 during which a number of African leaders promised to upscale engagement and linkages with all people of African descent;
4. *Also note with appreciation* the programme of events and summits, organized within the framework of the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of transatlantic slave trade, including the R400 Summit held from 27 to 29 September, 2019, in Charlotte, North Carolina, which served as a forum for cultural celebration, exchange information, a space to foster leadership, a venture platform impacting on agriculture, commerce, education, female empowerment and leadership, food security, healthcare and investing in the next generation;
5. *Commend* H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, on his commitment to Pan-Africanism and ongoing efforts for the promotion of closer ties and cooperation with the African diaspora and, in this regard, recognize Kenya's efforts to build bridges with the African diaspora, and take note of the proposal of Kenya to invite the AU to host a joint meeting with the Caribbean and Pacific States and, in this regard, request the PRC to study the possibility of holding a joint summit in 2021;
6. *Welcome with appreciation* the commitment by Kenya to host an Africa-CARICOM Summit in 2020 to advance the agenda of upscaling engagement and linkages with all people of African descent;
7. *Also welcome with appreciation* the R400 Summit proposed to be held in August 2020 in Ghana;
8. *Encourage* all Member States to enhance their programmes in upscaling engagement and linkages with the diaspora and all people of African descent, and to participate in the planned activities.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXXIII)

Resolution on the Impact of Sanctions and Unilateral Coercive Measures

A. On African Union Member States

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, assembled on 10 February 2020 at our Thirty-third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Constitutive Act, inter alia, affirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the African Union Member States, as well as the commitment to promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels, for an integrated and prosperous continent,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Stressing that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the United Nations Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States,

Welcoming the adoption by the thirty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly of the resolution calling on States not to recognize unilateral coercive economic measures, and not to recognize or apply such measures or legislation imposed by any State across territorial boundaries, which were contrary to recognized principles of international law,

Cognizant of the Human Rights Council resolution 27/21 and Corr. 1 stressing that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter and the norms and

principles governing peaceful relations among States and highlighting that as long-term, these measures may result in social problems and raising humanitarian concerns in the States targeted,

Acknowledging that the socio-economic sanctions are one of the main obstacles impeding implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Expressing our grave concern at the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the right to development, international relations, trade, investment, cooperation, and peace and stability,

Alarmed by the disproportionate and indiscriminate human costs of unilateral sanctions and their negative effects on the civilian population, in particular women and children, of targeted States,

Deeply concerned at the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding, as well as on “Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa’s Development”,

1. *Strongly condemn* the continued unilateral application and enforcement by certain countries of such measures as tools of pressure, including political and economic pressure, against any country, particularly against African Union Member States, with a view to preventing these countries from exercising their right to self-determination;

2. *Urge* all States to refrain from imposing unilateral coercive measures, and urge concerned States to remove such measures, as they are contrary to the African Union Constitutive Act, the United Nations Charter and norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States at all levels, and prevent the full realization of economic and social development of nations while also affecting the full realization of human rights;

3. *Strongly object* to the extraterritorial nature of those measures which, in addition, threaten the sovereignty of States, and, in this context, call upon all States neither to recognize these measures nor to apply them, and to take measures as appropriate, to counteract the extraterritorial application or effects of unilateral coercive measures;

4. *Urge* the Government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing sanctions imposed on the Government and people of Zimbabwe, to facilitate the socio-economic recovery of the country. We acknowledge the steps already taken by the European Union towards removing sanctions, and we urge that it takes the requisite actions to ensure that all remaining sanctions are terminated;

5. *Call upon* the United States of America to lift all unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Government, its leadership and the people of South Sudan in an effort to promote post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding, and that due consideration be made by the United Nations to lift the arms embargo imposed on that country;

6. *Urge* the United States of America to lift all unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Government and people of Sudan, as well as the removal of that country from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, which are serious impediments to the full achievement of economic and social development and the ongoing political transformation;

7. *Stress* the need to lift all unilateral coercive measures, restrictions and sanctions imposed on Somalia, to allow it to continue the peacebuilding process;

8. *Urge* the European Union to lift all unilateral sanctions imposed on Burundi, in order to create the opportunity and an environment for the socio-economic recovery, peace and stability of the country, particularly as they prepare for the 2020 elections;

9. *Mandate* the Panel of the Wise to lobby the capitals of those countries that have imposed illegal economic and other sanctions against African Union Member States, for their immediate and unconditional removal;
10. *Request* the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to seize the opportunity of the platform of the United States-African Union High-Level Dialogue to call upon the United States of America to lift all unilateral coercive measures imposed on African Union Member States;
11. *Reaffirm* its solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Burundi in exercising their sovereign right to determine their own destiny.

B. On Cuba

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, assembled on 10 February 2020 at our Thirty-third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

1. *Concerned* by the continuous and illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Cuban Government and people;
2. *Acknowledge* that the blockade is the main obstacle for Cuba's implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and shares this concern due to the importance that the African Union attaches to the achievement of the objectives of the said Agenda;
3. *Reaffirm* its full support to the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, "Necessity to end the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba;
4. *Regret* the regression in the bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States and, once again, urge the Government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing and unjustifiable economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Cuban people;
5. *Further regret* the measures implemented by the Government of the United States since 9 November 2017, which strengthen the blockade and express deep concern over the widening of the extraterritorial nature of the blockade, including the full implementation of Chapter III of the Helms-Burton Act;
6. *Reaffirm* its solidarity with the people of Cuba.

Assembly/AU/Motion 1 (XXXIII)

**Motion of Appreciation to H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi,
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Outgoing Chairperson of the African Union**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government, meeting at its Thirty-third Ordinary Session, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 9 and 10 February 2019,

Taking note of the end of the mandate of H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi as a Chairperson of the African Union, and recognizing the tireless and remarkable efforts he invested during his chairmanship of the African Union (AU) in the year 2019, which contributed to strengthening the Union and its relevance in addressing Africa's needs, as well as its place in the world,

Bearing in mind the many achievements made, thanks to his dedication, vision and his full commitment to defending the principles and objectives of the Union, as well as the ideals of Pan-Africanism within the continent,

Noting in particular his dynamic and efficient stewardship of the Union's institutional reform process,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Outgoing Chairperson of our Assembly, for his vibrant, visionary and sterling leadership of the Union during his term of office;
2. *Commends* H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, for the numerous achievements the African Union was able to make during his mandate, including the adoption of the new structure of the African Union Commission, the entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area, leading the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the AU and the RECs and providing leadership for the AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development efforts as well as his tireless efforts in supporting peace and security on the continent;
3. *Reiterates* its appreciation to H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi for his significant contribution towards the continent's political, economic and social integration process.

THIRTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

**Johannesburg, South Africa
5 December 2020**

Ext/Assembly/Dec.1 (XIII)

Decision on the Start of Trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.751 (XXXIII) adopted at its Thirty-third Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 9 and 10 February 2020, to hold this Thirteenth Extraordinary Summit to approve all instruments required for the start of trading under the AfCFTA on 1 July 2020;
2. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/OSP/Dec.1 (06.20) II of 17 June 2020 adopted through silent procedure to postpone the start of preferential trade under the AfCFTA to 1 January 2021;
3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, the Leader and Champion of the AfCFTA, and adopts the recommendations thereof on the progress achieved on the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA);
4. *Commends* the role of all Member States, the African Union Ministers of Trade (AMOT) and other AfCFTA negotiating institutions, the African Union Commission (AUC), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the AU cooperating partners on the significant progress made in advancing the AfCFTA negotiations;
5. *Congratulates* Angola, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Nigeria and Tunisia for having recently deposited their instruments of ratification of the AfCFTA Agreement with the Chairperson of the Commission, thus increasing the number of State parties to 34;
6. *Reiterates* its congratulations to the 34 State parties who deposited their instruments of ratification of the AfCFTA Agreement with the Chairperson of the Commission, namely: Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe;
7. *Takes note* of the advanced stage of preparations by Algeria, the Central African Republic, Malawi, Somalia and Zambia to deposit instruments of ratification and urges them to deposit the same with the Chairperson of the Commission before 31 December 2020;
8. *Calls upon* those Member States which have not yet ratified the Agreement to do so as soon as possible and qualify as State parties, in order to increase the size of the market and the volume of trade under the AfCFTA;
9. *Approves* the schedules of tariff concessions submitted by Member States and customs unions in line with the adopted Modalities on Tariff Liberalization;
10. *Further approves* the recommendations of the AMOT that the outstanding work on rules of origin, trade in goods and trade in services be concluded before the end of June 2021;
11. *Congratulates* the 34 Member States who submitted their initial offers on trade in services, namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia and urges other Member States to make their offers to finalize bilateral negotiations;

12. *Decides* to start trading under the AfCFTA on the basis of legally implementable and reciprocal tariff schedules and concessions, with agreed rules of origin, and customs documentation as attached hereto as annexes:

- (i) Annex 1: Finalized Schedules of Tariff Concessions submitted by State parties;
- (ii) Annex 2: Finalized Schedules of Tariff Concessions submitted by Customs Unions whose Members have all ratified the AfCFTA Agreement or by those members of the Customs Unions that have ratified the AfCFTA Agreement and can legally implement the Schedule of Tariff Concessions on an individual basis;
- (iii) Annex 3: The List of Agreed Rules of Origin; and
- (iv) Annex 4: Customs Documentation required for preferential trade under the AfCFTA;

13. *Further decides* that subsequent offers and tariff schedules submitted by State parties:

- (i) Shall be provisionally implemented once approved by the Council of Ministers, pending adoption by the Assembly at its next ordinary session thereafter; and
- (ii) Must specify a schedule of tariff cuts that meets the annual tariff reduction schedule in order to achieve zero-rated duties on 90 per cent of tariffs lines with the time frames set out in the Modalities and subject to reciprocity provided that tariffs are eliminated by the end of phase-down period outlined under the adopted Modalities;

14. *Directs* the Council of Ministers, the AfCFTA Secretariat and the customs authorities to expedite the customs processes, procedures and instruments that are required for operationalization of the trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area starting 1 January 2021;

15. *Decides* that the exchange of tariff concessions between State parties will be conditioned by the principle of reciprocity in terms of product line coverage and tariff reduction schedules that are aligned with the agreed Modalities;

16. *Requests* the AfCFTA Leader and Champion to continue his efforts to ensure that all 55 African Union Member States are State parties to the AfCFTA Agreement and provide a report on the outcome of the efforts at the next session of the Assembly;

17. *Welcomes* the establishment of the African Business Council (AfBC) which is part of the Architecture of the AfCFTA and congratulates the Interim Executive Bureau led by Dr. Amany Asfour;

18. *Takes note* of the report of the Representative of the Private Sector on the outcome of the third AfCFTA Business Forum and urges the private sector to scale up trade and investment across Africa by taking advantage of the vast opportunities arising from the start of trading under the AfCFTA;

19. *Further takes note* of the ongoing logistical infrastructure and preparations at national, regional and continental levels to facilitate flow of goods and services and urges all involved to finalize the preparations by 31 December 2020;

20. *Requests* the AfCFTA Leader and Champion, H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, to submit a progress report on the AfCFTA at the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, in February 2021;

21. *Notes* the outcomes of the third meeting of the Council of Ministers to transfer the coordination of the AfCFTA negotiations from the Commission to the AfCFTA Secretariat;

22. In line with the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA and the applicable Assembly decisions, requests the Commission, in collaboration with the AfCFTA Secretariat, to prepare a draft concept note and a draft decision on the transfer of functions from the Commission to the AfCFTA Secretariat including its structural, legal, and financial implications for consideration by the PRC in January 2021 in preparation for the February 2021 ordinary sessions of the Executive Council and the Assembly.

Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XIII)

**Johannesburg Declaration on the Start of Trading under the
Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area**

Preamble

We, the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government, having held our Thirteenth Extraordinary Summit virtually on 5 December 2020,

Expressing our deep appreciation and gratitude to the people and Government of the Republic of South Africa for agreeing to earlier host this extraordinary session of our Assembly in a physical setting, and their readiness to adjust to a virtual platform in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,

Recalling:

- (a) The Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community signed in Abuja, Nigeria, 3 June 1991,
- (b) Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.392 (XVIII) on African Integration and Assembly/AU/Dec.394 (XVIII) on Boosting Intra-African Trade and Fast-Tracking the Continental Free Trade Area adopted on 30 January 2012 at the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,
- (c) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.569 (XXV) of the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2015 launching the negotiations for the establishment of the AfCFTA,
- (d) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.676 (XXX) of the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in January 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, adopting the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment and its Implementation Road Map and opening it up for signature and ratification,
- (e) Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (X) on the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area adopted at the Tenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly held on 21 March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda,
- (f) Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XII) on the Launch of the Operational Phase of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) adopted at the Twelfth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly held in July 2019 in Niamey, Niger,
- (g) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.751 (XXXIII) of the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly to hold an extraordinary summit on 30 May 2020 to approve all instruments required for the start of trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area on 1 July 2020,
- (h) Decision Assembly/AU/OSP/Dec.1 (06-20) II of 17 June 2020 adopted online through silent procedure, where the Assembly decided that the start of trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area be postponed from 1 July 2020 to 1 January 2021,

Reaffirming our solemn resolve to deepen continental integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),

Noting and appreciating the progress that has been made in developing the schedules of tariff concessions, operational instruments on customs, trade facilitation, transit and the tools on monitoring and elimination of non-tariff barriers,

Further noting the progress made in concluding negotiations on trade in services in the five priority sectors and the initial offers submitted by Member States,

Recognizing that there are outstanding Phase I negotiation issues that are necessary for the full implementation of the Protocols to the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA on Trade in Goods and Services,

Reiterating the need to conclude Phase II and III negotiations on competition policy, investment, intellectual property and e-commerce to ensure sustainable economic growth and integration of the continent into the global economy,

Determined to achieve continental integration as set out in the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community,

Therefore,

Launch of Start of Trading

1. *Declare* the start of trading, as from 1 January 2021, under the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) based on the agreed Rules of Origin;
2. *Appreciate* H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger for his determination in championing the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and leading the AfCFTA negotiations process;
3. *Commend* the African Union Ministers of Trade (AMOT) for their oversight of the negotiations towards the establishment and operationalization of the AfCFTA;
4. *Acknowledge with appreciation* the contribution of the Council of Ministers responsible for Trade for the preparations for the launch of trading on 1 January 2021 and request them to oversee the full implementation of the tariff reduction commitments on trade in goods and the schedules of commitments on trade in services;
5. *Welcome* the efforts of Member States to formulate national AfCFTA implementation strategies as these will contribute to mainstreaming intra-African trade in their national development plans, and trade and development strategies;
6. *Commit* to broaden inclusiveness in the operation of the AfCFTA through interventions that support young Africans, women, and small and medium enterprises as well as integrating informal cross-border traders into the formal economy by implementing the simplified trade regime;
7. *Recommit* to finalize work on the AfCFTA Adjustment Facility and Pan-African Payments and Settlements System, to boost intra-African trade;
8. *Further recommit* to operationalize all the modules of the African Trade Observatory (ATO) in order to enhance readily available trade information and related services as well as promote transparency, efficiency and integrity in the AfCFTA market on trade in goods and services;

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9. *Welcome* the operationalization of the online mechanism on monitoring, reporting and elimination of non-tariff barriers and urge all stakeholders to make use of it in order to make intra-African trade more efficient;

Outstanding Negotiations

10. *Congratulate* the following 41 countries who have submitted their schedules of tariff concessions: namely, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, the Central Africa Republic, the Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia;

11. *Urge* Member States that have not done so to submit tariff offers identifying 90 per cent of the tariff lines to be liberalized;

12. *Further congratulate* the 34 countries that have submitted their initial offers in respect of trade in services; namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia;

13. *Strongly urge* those Member States who have not yet submitted their initial offers to do so and engage in the negotiations of trade in services to finalize the development of schedules of specific commitments in the five priority services sectors; namely, business services, communications, finance, tourism and transport;

14. *Take note* of the outstanding work on rules of origin, tariff concessions and specific commitments on trade in goods and services and endorse the Decision of the African Ministers of Trade that all the outstanding issues in these areas be finalized by June 2021 and, in this connection, urge all parties involved to meet that deadline;

15. *Further take note* that it was not possible to conclude Phase II negotiations by the agreed deadline of December 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and endorse the decision of AMOT to conclude the negotiations on Phase II and Phase III by 31 December 2021 and urge all parties involved to meet that deadline;

Signature and Ratification of the AfCFTA Agreement

16. *Congratulate* the Member States that have ratified the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA and submitted their instruments of ratification to the Commission, making a total of 34 State parties to date;

17. *Urge* the Member States that have not signed and those that have not ratified the Agreement to do so and qualify as State parties, in order to increase the volume of our trading under the AfCFTA;

Trade Supporting Measures

18. *Acknowledge* the need and critical importance of creating an expanded and secure market for African goods and services through adequate infrastructure development and the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and investment;

19. *Further acknowledge* that free movement of capital and people across Africa is conducive to increasing intra-African trade flows, and encourage Member States that have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Establishment and Right of Residence;

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20. *Reaffirm* our commitment to the development of regional value and supply chains vital to promoting inclusive sustainable industrialization and specialization;

21. *Further urge* all Member States to promote collaboration with their respective private sectors and academic institutions in the areas of research and development and industrial properties and design, in order to build up innovation, domestic technological capabilities and competitiveness that are necessary to deepen the process of industrialization and social economic transformation across Africa;

22. *Keenly aware* of the growing importance of modernized trade-related infrastructure as being key to faster movement of goods and services across our continent, recommit to meeting Africa's infrastructure finance gap within a decade in collaboration with the African Business Council and Afro-Champions Initiative and other stakeholders;

Collaboration with Regional Economic Communities and Partners

23. *Reaffirm* the role of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as building blocks to the African Economic Community, and urge the RECs and the AfCFTA Secretariat to collaborate in the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement;

24. *Express our thanks and gratitude* to the Regional Economic Communities, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development, the African Export-Import Bank, the African Development Bank, the private sector as well as other development and cooperation partners and stakeholders for the valuable support and cooperation during the process of establishing the AfCFTA under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger and the Champion of the AfCFTA;

25. *Request* the African financial institutions, working closely with the AfCFTA Secretariat, to mobilize resources and provide technical and financial support to Member States in the implementation of the AfCFTA and to address the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic;

The Road Ahead

26. *We underscore* the fact that the start of trading under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area is a novel undertaking which requires collective responsibility to generate results that will improve the welfare of each and every African in the spirit of inclusiveness. In this vein, we call on women, youth, businesses, trade unions, civil society, cross-border traders, the academia, the African diaspora and other stakeholders to join us as governments in this historic endeavour of creating the Africa We Want in line with the African Union Agenda 2063.

FOURTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

**Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa
6 December 2020**

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

Decision on Silencing the Guns in Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson of the AU Commission on the Activities and Efforts towards Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020;
2. *Commends* the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for its leadership and engagement in the implementation of the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa, the commemoration and conduct of the Africa Amnesty Month for collection of illegally owned weapons, as well as the Theme of the Year 2020, which have resulted in significant gains in the efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts/crises on the continent;
3. *Also commends* the Member States, and the Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), the AU Commission, as well as the United Nations and other partners for their support towards silencing the guns in Africa, as espoused in the Solemn Declaration of the Fiftieth Golden Jubilee of the Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) adopted by the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 25 May 2013, and AU Agenda 2063;
4. *Commits* to redouble efforts to remove deficits in governance on the continent in line with the provisions of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development, in order to address the governance-related causes of conflicts/crises;
5. *Notes with deep concern* that the illicit flows of arms contributes to insecurity and violence in various parts of Africa, thereby undermining social cohesion, public security, socio-economic development and the normal functioning of State institutions; in this regard, urges Member States to enhance their efforts, including capacitating of their law enforcement agencies, for them to curb the illicit flow of weapons into and within Africa and to destroy any illicit weapons;
6. *Reaffirms* the AU principle of respect of borders existing at independence and the principle of prohibition of the use of force or threat to use force among Member States of the Union, in line with Article 4, subparagraphs (b) and (f), of the AU Constitutive Act; in this regard, encourages Member States to promote cross-border cooperation and to ensure peaceful resolution of border disputes in line with the provisions of the African Union Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation (Niamey Convention) adopted by the Twenty-third Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 26 to 27 June 2014, as well as the Declaration on the African Union Border Programme and its Implementation Modalities as adopted by the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues, held on 7 June 2007, in Addis Ababa;
7. *Acknowledges* the progress made in the implementation of the AU Border Programme at the national, regional and continental levels, and the Programme's important contributions to the structural prevention of conflicts, promotion of regional and continental integration, and strengthening socio-economic development in Africa;
8. *Emphasizes* the need to address all structural factors that lead to illicit financial flows through strengthening and improving financial governance, combating corruption, investing in addressing tax evasion and tax havens, secrecy jurisdictions, anonymous companies, under-invoicing of trade transactions, as well as trade-based money laundering; in this regard, agrees to promote transparency of ownership and control of companies, partnerships and other legal entities that can hold assets and bank accounts for illicitly acquired resources;
9. *Expresses deep concern* over the persistence of terrorism and violent extremism, and the surge of foreign terrorist fighters from outside the continent, as well as their linkage with transnational organized crime, drug and

human trafficking, which results in enormous losses of human lives and widespread destruction, especially in the most affected regions of the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin and the Horn of Africa, and most recently in northern Mozambique;

10. *Underscores* the urgent need for Member States to continue deploying the requisite resources to better capacitate national health institutions and the Africa Centres for Disease Control (Africa CDC) in order to create adequate preventive and intervention infrastructures, including against future outbreaks of epidemics and pandemics; stresses that these efforts should go hand-in-hand with the promotion of industries and laboratories, coupled with the relevant human resources and trainings, to support such preventions and interventions;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for accelerated action by Member States to ensure full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) with a view to realizing its potential to stimulate sustainable economic growth, job creation, strengthening of livelihoods, and improvement of standards of living which are conducive conditions for addressing the root causes of conflict on the continent; to this effect, encourages Member States, with the support of the AU Commission, to coordinate their actions in order to expedite the trade exchanges within the continent in implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement;

12. *Commits* to mobilizing the requisite resources, once a peace agreement has been signed, in order to ensure its immediate, effective and full implementation, to prevent the risk of relapse into violence; requests the AU Commission and RECs/RMs to mobilize support, through organizing joint resource mobilization initiatives, to enhance post-conflict stabilization, reconstruction and development engagements in line with the 2006 AU Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD); to this effect, the Assembly further requests the AU Commission to take all necessary steps to ensure full operationalization of the established African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in Cairo, Egypt;

13. *Agrees* to continue deploying efforts to endow the AU Peace Fund to facilitate management of peace and security activities on the continent; in this context, reiterates its request to the PSC to articulate a common African position on financing peace support operations in Africa, to guide the African Members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) in championing and mobilizing support within the Security Council for adoption of a resolution that will enable Africa to access United Nations assessed contributions for peace support operations on the continent; in this regard, takes note of the reservations regarding the use of the scale of assessment for the regular budget to assess Member States' contributions to the AU Peace Fund brought by some Member States of the Northern region;

14. *Requests* the PSC to work with all relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations, to take timely and concrete measures towards expeditiously ending the unlawful occupation of the Chagos Archipelago of Mauritius, the Comorian island of Mayotte, and the Glorious Malagasy Islands of Juan de Nova, Europa, and Bassas da India;

15. *Expresses deep concern* over the escalating military tensions between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Sahrawi Republic that have developed in Al-Guerguerat, the narrow buffer strip in Western Sahara, leading to the violation of the 1991 Ceasefire Agreement, including the military agreement Number 1, and the unfortunate resumption of war; in this context, calls for the revitalization of the Troika Mechanism in accordance with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.693 (XXXI), and requests the Peace and Security Council at the Heads of State and Government level, to make the expected contribution of the African Union in support of the efforts of the United Nations and in line with the relevant provisions of its Protocol, to engage the two parties, both of whom are Member States of the AU, to address the unfolding situation in order to prepare conditions for a new cease-fire and to reach a just and durable solution to the conflict, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in line with the relevant AU-United Nations decisions and resolutions and the objectives and principles of the Constitutive Act of the African Union; and further calls on the United Nations Secretary-General to appoint a Special Envoy for Western Sahara;

16. *Requests* all Member States to assist in completing the decolonization of Mauritius, including by supporting all efforts in all international and regional organizations through initiatives, decisions and resolutions

aimed at enabling Mauritius to assert its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago pursuant to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 25 February 2019 and United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/295;

17. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the PSC on the conduct of the Africa Amnesty Month as contained in communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.(CMXLIII) of 3 September 2020 on the extension of Africa Amnesty Month, in order to accomplish the goal of collecting and disposing of arms illegally owned by civilians; the Assembly also takes note of the Declaration of the Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting of the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security, adopted on 5 November 2020, recommending extension of the time frame for implementation of both the AU Master Road Map and the Africa Amnesty Month;

18. *Underlines* the imperative for Member States of the PSC to fully shoulder the responsibilities embodied in membership of this organ, which condition is critical in sustaining the central role of the PSC in promoting peace, security and stability on the continent in line with the Article 5 of the PSC Protocol;

19. *Hereby decides:*

(i) To extend the implementation of the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa for a period of 10 years (2021-2030), with periodic reviews every two years, within the context of Agenda 2063; also extends the commemoration and conduct of the Africa Amnesty Month during September of each year for a period of ten years (2021-2030), within the context of Agenda 2063; requests the Chairperson of the Commission to put in place an institutional mechanism to coordinate the effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Master Road Map; to continue and also enhance implementation of the AU Master Road Map, and conduct of the Africa Amnesty Month in September each year, focusing on domesticating these initiatives to silence the guns through tailored national action plans adapted to promote participation and contribution of the population, in particular women and youth; to this effect, the Assembly calls on civil society organizations, the private sector and partners to continue supporting these initiatives;

(ii) That the PSC, with the support of the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the Panel of the Wise, ensures strict adherence to the AU Constitutive Act and the PSC Protocol and other relevant policy frameworks, in undertaking timely response to looming crises on the continent to avoid escalation into violent conflict; in this regard, mandates the PSC to name and shame actors who deny emerging crises, as provided for in the AU Master Road Map on Silencing the Guns and to complete the process of building a platform/framework of engagement between the PSC and Member States in situations where a looming crisis comes to the surface;

(iii) To accelerate efforts to sign, ratify, harmonize and fully implement regional, continental and international instruments on illicit weapons, including relevant OAU/AU and RECs/RMs decisions and declarations;

(iv) That the PSC, in collaboration with policy organs on peace and security of the RECs/RMs, establishes, on a case-by-case basis, inquiry mechanisms, whenever information emerges concerning a country of origin, transit, or destination and facilitators of movement, payment, storage and use of illicit arms/weapons reaching Africa; in this regard, requests the AU Commission and the RECs/RMs Secretariats to continue providing technical assistance to Member States in disposing of the stored illicit arms/weapons;

(v) To make full use of the AU tools, such as the Early Warning System and Structural Vulnerability Assessment Tool, in order to address internal weaknesses before they translate into crisis, in accordance with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.755 (XXXIII) adopted at the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the AU held on 9 and 10 February 2020;

(vi) To fully utilize all mechanisms within the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA), as well as the cooperation mechanisms in the fight against terrorism, the surge of foreign terrorist fighters from outside the continent and transnational organized crime, including the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT); the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation

(AFRIPOL) in Algiers, Algeria; the Nouakchott and Djibouti Processes; and the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services in Africa (CISSA), and in this regard, requests the AU Commission to develop a comprehensive strategy for countering terrorism in Africa, in order to consolidate coordination and enhance actions in the fight against terrorist and criminal groups; to this effect, the AU Commission should take the necessary steps to operationalize the AU Special Fund on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa;

(vii) To accelerate AU efforts in strengthening law enforcement agencies along border areas, seaports and airports, and ensure the effective presence of State institutions throughout the country to avoid vulnerability of their peripheral areas as provided for in the AU Border Programme;

(viii) To deploy collective efforts towards addressing threats posed by foreign interferences in African peace and security matters, including those caused by imposition of unilateral sanctions, and the presence of foreign military bases on the continent; in this connection, urges Member States that intend to host foreign military bases, to engage in prior consultations with the PSC, the RECs/RMs, neighboring countries and the AU Commission, to ensure that the foreign military bases serve the interest and the objectives of the Union, in line with the Common African Defence and Security Policy and the AU Non-Aggression Pact;

(ix) To mandate the PSC to develop a mechanism for naming and shaming those foreign actors and entities which interfere in the internal affairs of the AU Member States, as well as those which sponsor the influx of illegal arms/weapons and provide covert military support to armed groups on the continent, thereby consequently undermining AU efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts;

(x) That the PSC, with the support of the AU Commission, follow up on the implementation of decisions of the Assembly and the PSC in compliance with the provisions in its Protocol. In this regard, the PSC should submit a matrix-report on the implementation of the Assembly and the AUPSC decisions, on matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security on the continent, together with its annual Report on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa;

(xi) Decides to declare the African Standby Force (ASF) fully operational and directs the PSC to utilize its framework in mandating and authorizing AU peace support operations; in this regard, also decides to dissolve the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis (ACIRC) taking note of the fact that the ASF is operational and requests the Heads of State and Government of the ACIRC Volunteering Nations to wind down the operations of ACIRC by the February 2021 ordinary session of the Assembly.

Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XIV)

**Johannesburg Declaration on Silencing the Guns in Africa:
Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, assembled to deliberate and consider the efforts deployed by African Union and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs) to silence the guns in Africa,

Guided by the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of our Union, the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the relevant provisions of the Common African Defence and Security Policy (CADSP) and other relevant policies, as well as our shared values, in particular respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our countries,

Also guided by the vision of our Union to “build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena”,

Recalling the Solemn Declaration adopted on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) on 25 May 2013, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in which the Assembly of the Union pledged not to

bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020, as well as Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII) by which the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa, on 30 and 31 January 2017, adopted, following submission by the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020,

Reaffirming our full commitment to prevent conflicts and to end existing ones in order to create conditions conducive for realizing a conflict-free Africa,

Acknowledge that:

I. The African Union and its Member States have made significant progress in addressing the root causes, triggers and drivers of conflicts/crises on the continent, working with the RECs/RMs, in the effort to achieve the AU objective to silence the guns as espoused in the Solemn Declaration adopted on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the OAU/AU on 25 May 2013, and in the AU Agenda 2063;

II. Africa still faces multiple and complex challenges, particularly gaps in governance; terrorism; violent extremism; the surge of foreign terrorist fighters from outside the continent; illicit circulation of arms/weapons; corruption; illicit financial flows; transnational organized crimes, drug trafficking, human trafficking, siphoning of benefits from natural resources away from the population; foreign political and military interference; outbreaks of epidemics and pandemics; impact of climate change and slow process of ratification of AU instruments, among others. These challenges continue to hamper efforts to accelerate integration and socio-economic development on the continent;

III. In addressing these multiple challenges, it is critical to ensure political commitment and active engagement of all Member States, including taking all necessary measures to strengthen our common institutions and provide them with the necessary powers and resources to enable them to effectively discharge their respective mandates. In this vein, it is necessary to continue tapping from the energies of the grassroots populations/African citizens. It is also imperative to fully implement our relevant normative frameworks and ensure accountability for non-compliance with these frameworks, in line with our collective responsibility and commitment to the principle of non-indifference as enshrined in our Constitutive Act.

We hereby declare:

Our unwavering commitment to the full implementation of the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration, with the objectives of preventing and ending conflicts and wars on the continent in line with the vision and aspirations in Agenda 2063. In this regard, we commit to:

1. *Take* all necessary measures to promote Africa's leadership and ownership of our peace and security agenda by strengthening our continental and regional institutions through the provision of the necessary powers and resources to enable them to discharge their respective mandates as they relate to the promotion of peace, security, good governance and development;

2. *Fully implement* the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA), which guide Member States, as well as the RECs/RMs in their efforts to consolidate governance; prevent, manage and resolve conflicts; and undertake post-conflict stabilization, reconstruction and development;

3. *Eradicate* all root causes, triggers and drivers of conflicts, particularly by ending illicit arms/weapons circulation and use; removing socio-economic disparities and the widening inequalities among our citizens, including those caused by imposition of unilateral sanctions; addressing impunity through the enhancement of continental, regional and national institutions;

4. *Redouble* efforts to control and curb the illicit flow of arms/weapons into Africa, including through commemoration and more robust conduct of the Africa Amnesty Month in September, each year, to accelerate the collection and disposal of such arms; we agree to address the flows and movements of illicit arms/weapons in Africa, and curb the inflow of illegal arms/weapons into Africa; we mandate the PSC to develop a mechanism for naming and shaming those foreign actors and entities which sponsor the influx of illegal arms/weapons into the continent;
5. *Deploy* efforts and resources necessary to prevent and defeat terrorism and violent extremism, as well as transnational organized crimes on the continent; in this respect, we commit to resource and equip the African Standby Force, including embedding within it a Special Unit for Countering Terrorism, to support Africa's efforts to eliminate the scourge of terrorism;
6. *Accelerate* efforts to address all structural factors that facilitate illicit financial flows, including weak institutional governance and corruption; in this context, we undertake to strengthen and improve governance by combating corruption, trafficking and transnational organized crime, as well as cybercrime; investing more in addressing the problems of tax evasions and tax havens, as well as trade-based money laundering;
7. *Take* strong measures, in line with the provisions in the AU Constitutive Act, the PSC Protocol and the African Common Defence and Security Policy, as well as the United Nations Charter, to rid the continent of the threat posed by foreign political and military interferences in African matters, including interference related to sponsoring armed terrorist groups and foreign terrorist fighters from outside the continent;
8. *Reaffirm* the primacy of political solutions and peaceful settlement of all conflicts, and undertake to fully implement all provisions of signed peace agreements, with a view to facilitating amicable and durable solutions to the conflicts/crises on our continent;
9. *Take* ownership of guaranteeing the nexus between peace, security and development on our continent; in this regard, we agree to continue providing the requisite support to ensure effective implementation of post-conflict stabilization, reconstruction and development activities, including through the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in Cairo, Egypt, in countries emerging from conflict and prevent relapse;
10. *Ensure* effective entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area in January 2021, with a view to ushering further opportunities for accelerating and strengthening the processes of integration and socio-economic development on the continent, as an imperative for realizing sustainable peace;
11. *Urge* all Member States to ratify the Lomé Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Africa, together with its annexes related to the development of Africa's Blue Economy, as well as the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the African Union Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation, in order to strengthen our efforts towards preventing and ending conflicts;
12. *Reiterate* our strong commitment to end all remnants of colonialism in Africa and the unlawful occupation of the Chagos Archipelago of Mauritius, the Comorian island of Mayotte, the Glorious Malagasy Islands of Juan de Nova, Europa, and Bassas da India;
13. *Continue* to create a conducive environment, including by fully implementing all available AU instruments, for the effective participation of women and youth in the peace and development processes at national, regional and continental levels, with a view to enhancing the important roles and contributions of women and youth in the promotion of sustainable peace, security and development on the continent;
14. *Totally address* the plight of the refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants, as well as other vulnerable groups in Africa and, to this effect, we recommit to eliminate root causes of this phenomenon and

ensure their protection by fully implementing the relevant regional, continental and international instruments and policies;

15. *Mobilize* resources from within the continent, to ensure predictability and sustainability of funding for our peace and security activities, within the spirit of enhancing our ownership and leadership of in the implementation of our continental peace and security agenda;

16. *Further consolidate* the strategic partnership between the AU and the United Nations in the area of peace and security, and reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism as embodied in the United Nations Charter and commit to work with international stakeholders to sustain and enhance multilateralism to address international peace and security issues;

17. *Decide*, within the context of AU Agenda 2063, to extend the implementation of the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa for a period of 10 years (2021-2030), with periodic reviews every two years; and further decide to extend the commemoration and conduct of the Africa Amnesty Month during September of each year for a period of 10 years (2021-2030).

As Heads of State and Government of the African Union, 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 aimed at achieving a conflict-free and prosperous Africa.

THIRTY-FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
6 to 7 February 2021**

Assembly/AU/Dec.796 (XXXIV)

Decision on the Launch of the Theme of the Year for 2021

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the launch of the theme of the year for 2021 as follows: “Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want”;
2. *Takes note* that the theme for 2021 aims at promoting the arts, culture and heritage sector and building a resilient Africa which provides primary health care and social services to all in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic using the creative economy as a tool;
3. *Further takes note* of the need to make use of the golden opportunity presented by the year of arts, culture and heritage to move the sector to another level by paying more and concerted attention and efforts to this critical sector which has a great potential to contribute enormously to the continent’s economy;
4. *Urges* AU Member States that have not done so to fast-track the process of ratification of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance and the Statute of the African Audio-Visual and Cinema Commission to ensure their entry into force and implementation; requests the Government of Kenya to work closely with the AU Commission in operationalizing the Temporary Secretariat of the African Audio-Visual and Cinema Commission (AACC) and report on progress to the Fortieth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
5. *Calls upon* all AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AU organs, Pan-African cultural institutions and development partners to work in collaboration with the African Union Commission in implementing the road map of the concept note on the theme of the year;
6. *Requests* all AU Member States, UNESCO and Pan-African cultural institutions to support the Government of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria and the AUC in the full realization of the Great Museum of Africa (GMA), a flagship project of the AU Agenda 2063 and invites them to participate in the continental launch of the Great Museum of Africa to be held in 2021 as part of the year of arts, culture and heritage;
7. *Further requests* all Member States and the AU Commission to support and participate in the launching of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), the Giza Museum of Cairo;
8. *Calls upon* all AU Member States to support and participate in the Second Luanda Biennale on a Culture for Peace to be held in Luanda, Angola, in 2021, an initiative which is inscribed in the road map of the concept note of the AU theme of the year for 2021, to be organized by the Republic of Angola in collaboration with UNESCO and the AUC;
9. *Requests* the AU Commission to work with Member States to take strong action towards protecting, preserving and promoting heritage sites in Africa and further requests Member States to provide support to the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) to carry out its programmes in the conservation and protection of the African rich natural and cultural heritage;
10. *Requests* the African Union Commission to include the project on the liberation routes of Southern Africa in the road map of the concept note on the theme of the year for 2021 and work with the United Republic of Tanzania for its implementation;
11. *Urges* all Member States to ratify the Statute of the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO) and ratify the Protocol on Intellectual Property Rights in Africa when it is duly completed;

12. *Urges* the African Union Commission to implement the Assembly Decision on making Kiswahili a working language of the Union and to promote Kiswahili as a language of wider communication in Africa;
13. *Calls upon* all Member States, UNESCO and Pan-African cultural institutions to support Africa and governments in the organization of festivals, the establishment of galleries and other initiatives aimed at profiling and promoting arts, culture and heritage on the continent and invites all Member States and RECs to support and participate in the international arts and culture festival which the Republic of Chad organizes annually;
14. *Further calls upon* all Member States to implement the Assembly decision related to the provision of 1 per cent of the budget to arts, culture and heritage and the development of the creative economy;
15. *Requests* the African Union Commission to link the theme of the year with deliverables on social economic development and income generation; further requests the AUC to include the African Women Decade on Economic and Financial Inclusion as a theme in the road map of the concept note on the theme of the year such that vulnerable groups, women in particular, are given urgent attention; and recognizes the date of 23 April to be observed annually as the Day of the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale;
16. *Calls on* the African Union Commission, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to inventory the African cultural properties in the museums of foreign States outside of the continent, in order to return them to the African countries of origin.

Assembly/AU/Dec.797 (XXXIV)

**Decision on the Report on the African Union Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa
(Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (XXXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Report of the Executive Council on the Report on the COVID- 19 Pandemic in Africa and the recommendations therein;
2. *Expresses deep appreciation* to H.E. Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, Chairperson of the African Union, and the members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union: H.E. Félix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, H.E. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, and H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of the Republic of Mali, for providing exemplary, timely, focused and effective leadership to Africa's response to COVID-19;
3. *Commends* the Chairperson of the AU Commission, the Members of the AU Commission and the staff of the African Union for the support they have provided to the Bureau of the Assembly and for implementing the decisions of the AU policy organs on Africa's coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
4. *Acknowledges* the notable achievements of the African Union in response to the pandemic, including the implementation of the Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19, the establishment of the African Union COVID-19 Response Fund, the formation of an African Medicines Supplies Platform, the Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing, the appointment of African Union Special Envoys for the COVID-19 Response, and the invaluable work of the newly established African Vaccines Acquisition Task Team;
5. *Commends* the efforts of African Heads of State and Government whose timely actions led to a major boost in the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa;
6. *Welcomes* the contributions by AU Member States, partners and other organizations which contributed to the AU response to the COVID-19 pandemic and calls upon other Member States and partners to provide support;

7. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Ministers responsible for Health, Finance and Transport, and all other stakeholders in their roles to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic;
8. *Expresses support* on the need for equitable and timely, access to the COVID-19 vaccine to all AU Member States which will require the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT) to ensure at least 60 per cent of the continent's population is vaccinated;
9. *Emphasizes* the need for universal, equitable and timely access to affordable medical products among others, diagnostic kits, vaccines, personal protective equipment and ventilators for a rapid and effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
10. *Acknowledging* the urgent need for continuing the AU's engagement with partners to mobilize support for Africa's efforts in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic; further decides, as proposed by the Chairperson of the Union, H.E. President Felix Tshisekedi, to appoint H.E. President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa as the African Union Champion for the COVID-19 response;
11. *Noting* that, in the light of the foregoing, exceptional circumstances exist justifying a waiver from the obligations of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) specifically for the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19;
12. *Decides* to support the proposed WTO Waiver from certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for the Prevention, Containment and Treatment of COVID-19 as contained in WTO Document IP/C/W/669;
13. *Urges* Member States to take all necessary action to deal with the ramification of the COVID-19 pandemic with regards to ending violence against women and girls in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.798 (XXXIV)

**Decision on the Institutional Reform of the African Union
(Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (XXXIV))**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the Progress Report on AU Institutional Reform by President Paul Kagame, and commends him on his excellent leadership;
2. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in the implementation of the AU Institutional Reform Process;
3. *Requests* the Commission to finalize the remaining reform priorities for consideration by policy organs in January/February 2022;
4. *Further requests* the Commission to ensure, thorough consultation with all relevant stakeholders and the use of independent African experts, the preparation of all reform proposals in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC);
5. *Reiterates* the need for urgent and immediate steps to be taken to enforce compliance and accountability, and for immediate implementation of the recommendations of the independent forensic audit including disciplinary measures against relevant staff.

Assembly/AU/Dec.799 (XXXIV)

Decision on the Election and Appointment of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission

(Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (XXXIV) and Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXXIV))

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Reports of the Commission on the Election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, respectively;
2. *Elects* the following persons for a term of four years as follows:

No.	Name	Gender	Country	Region	Portfolio
1	Moussa Faki Mahamat	Male	Chad	Central Africa	Chairperson
2	Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa	Female	Rwanda	Eastern Africa	Deputy Chairperson

3. *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;
4. *Decides* to delegate its powers to appoint Commissioners to the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.800 (XXXIV)

Decision on the African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AUDA-NEPAD) Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC)

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Assembly/AU/Dec.763 (XXXIII), which endorsed the extension of the term of Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AUDA- NEPAD) until the completion of the process of the appointment of the CEO for AUDA-NEPAD;
2. *Notes* that the process for the recruitment is ongoing and decides to extend the term of Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki until the appointment of the new CEO; further congratulates Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, the current Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for his recognized achievement, in particular, the transformation of NEPAD to AUDA/NEPAD;
3. *Requests* the AUDA-NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) to submit its recommendations on the said recruitment and exceptionally delegates the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, to endorse provisionally the CEO of AUDA-NEPAD at its Third Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in July 2021 and to submit the same for final decision by the Assembly in February 2022 in accordance with Article 10 of AUDA/NEPAD Statute.

Assembly/AU/Dec.801 (XXXIV)

Decision on the Outcome of the Second Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Mechanisms (Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (XXXIV))

The Assembly,

THIRTY-FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION (2021)

1. *Recalls* the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on the objectives of the Abuja Treaty and the Constitutive Act of the African Union to accelerate the political and economic integration of Africa stipulated in Article 4 of the said Treaty;
2. *Further recalls* that the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting is the principal forum for the African Union and RECs to align their work and coordinate the implementation of the Continental Integration Agenda;
3. *Expresses appreciation* for the commendable efforts of the AU Chairperson H.E Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa and the Bureau of the Assembly as well as the African Union Commission through H. E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Chairpersons of the RECs and the Member States on their rapid response to combat the COVID-19 pandemic;
4. *Takes note* of the Report of the Second Mid-Year Coordination Meeting that was held virtually on 22 October 2020, as well as its Declaration and the recommendations contained therein;
5. *Adopts* the Declaration of the Second Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, successfully chaired by the AU Chairperson President Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, held on 22 October 2020 and the recommendations contained therein, including:
 - (a) Commending the progress made in development of the detailed proposal on the division of labour by the AUC, the AUDA-NEPAD, the AfCFTA Secretariat, the APRM, the RECs, the RMs and the Member States on the sectors of trade, political affairs and peace and security;
 - (b) Requesting Member States, the AU Commission, the AUDA-NEPAD, and the RECs/RMs and the Member States to finalize the remaining sectors concerning the division of labour with the view of their submission during the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in February 2022 after due consideration by the Third Mid-Year Coordination Meeting to be held in July 2021 as well as the other relevant policy organs;
6. *Takes note* of the report of H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana and Champion of the Financial Institutions, on the progress made in the establishment of the financial institutions, and reiterates the call by the AU Champion for all Member States to conclude the ratification of the instruments for the establishment of these financial institutions, particularly the Pan-African Payments and Settlements Systems;
7. *Congratulates* Member States that have ratified the legal instruments related to the establishment of the relevant AU Financial Institutions and urges them to domesticate them, and also urges Member States that have not done so to consider the signing and ratification of the instruments relating to the AU Financial Institutions;
8. *Expresses appreciation* to H.E. Marshal Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, for hosting the upcoming Third Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, in N'Djamena, Chad.

Assembly/AU/Dec.802 (XXXIV)

Decision on the Scale of Assessment and Contributions

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Executive Council Decision;
2. *Commends* Member States for contributing 90 per cent of the funds assessed to them (US\$ 222,967,420) in 2020 towards the Union regular budget;
3. *Also commends* 55 Member States for contributing US\$ 204,876,199 to the AU Peace Fund since 2017 which demonstrates the high level of commitment by the Union to fully operationalize the Fund;

4. *Further commends* Member States that are up-to-date in the payment of their contributions, including those that have made advance payments towards the 2021/2022 budget, and urges Member States that have not yet done so to pay their assessed contributions in fulfilment of their financial obligations to the Union;
5. *Commends* the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of Seychelles and the Republic of Burundi for agreeing with the Commission in fulfilment of their payment plans to clear the arrears as soon as possible, within four years from the adoption of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1071 (XXXV) and endorses the said payment plans;
6. *Decides* to further delegate with immediate effect its powers to apply the AU Sanction Regime, pursuant to the provisions of Article 23, paragraph 1, of the Constitutive Act and Rule 36 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, to the Executive Council;
7. *Further decides* to grant authority to the Chairperson of the Commission to provisionally lift sanctions imposed on a Member State, and report to the PRC to take a decision in conformity with Rule 36, paragraph 3, of the revised Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.803 (XXXIV)

Decision on the Date and Venue of the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the dates of the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, shall be the following:
 - (i) Forty-third Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), from 20 to 21 January 2022;
 - (ii) Fortieth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, from 2 to 3 February 2022; and
 - (iii) Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, from 5 and 6 February 2022;
2. *Requests* the Commission to make all the necessary arrangements for the successful hosting of the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly and the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC, according to the aforementioned dates.

Assembly/AU/Dec.804 (XXXIV)

Decision on the Date and Venue of the Third Mid-Year Coordination Meeting

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.687 (XXX), adopted in January 2017 and January 2018, respectively, regarding the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting;
2. *Decides* that the dates of the Third Mid-Year Coordination Meeting and preceding Executive Council and PRC Sessions, which will be held at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, shall be as follows:
 - (i) Forty-second Ordinary Session of the PRC, from 15 to 16 June 2021, at AU Headquarters;
 - (ii) Thirty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, from 1 to 2 July 2021, in N'Djamena, Republic of Chad;

(iii) Third Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union and the RECs, on 4 July 2021, in N'Djamena, Republic of Chad;

3. *Requests* the Commission to put in place all the necessary measures in order to organize the Third Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, as well the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC, according to the aforementioned dates.

Assembly/AU/Dec.805 (XXXIV)

Decision on the New AU-Wide Quota System

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* Decision EX.CL/Dec.1107 (XXXVIII);
2. *Approves* the new AU-Wide Quota System, which is an equation based on the two fundamental principles of solidarity (membership) and equity (scale of assessment) at 50 per cent each, which shall apply to the recruitment of each category of the professional positions of regular, fixed-term, short-term and special service staff members in all Union structures, and should take into account gender and youth parity.

Assembly/AU/Dec.806 (XXXIV)

Decision on the Draft Rules of Procedures of the Assembly and the Statute of the Commission

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.3 (XI), which requested the Commission to align the relevant legal instruments of the Union, in line with the Institutional Reform of November 2018;
2. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.759 (XXXIII) of February 2020, which took note of the recommendations on the alignment of the Rules of Procedures of the Assembly, the Executive Council, the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Statute of the Commission;
3. *Takes note* of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1099 (XXXVII) of October 2020, which adopted the aligned Rules of Procedures of the Executive Council and Permanent Representatives Committee, provisionally adopted the Assembly Rules of Procedures and the Statute of the Commission, and recommended to the Assembly for final adoption;
4. *Hereby adopts* the:
 - (i) Aligned Rules of Procedures of the Assembly; and
 - (ii) Aligned Statute of the Commission;
5. *Decides* to amend Article 13 of the Aligned Rules of Procedure of the Assembly in accordance with Decision AU/Assembly Dec 635, to read as follows:

"Article 13: the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the Union, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Regional Mechanisms (RMs).

The Bureau of the AU Assembly shall hold a Mid-Year Coordination meeting with the Chairpersons of the RECs, the RMs and the AU Commission."

Assembly/AU/Dec.807 (XXXIV)

Decision on the Proposal to Decree 2021 to 2031 as the “Decade of African Roots and Diasporas”

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the proposal, presented by the Togolese Republic, to declare the period 2021—2031 as the “Decade of African Roots and Diasporas”, and the interest of this issue of the diaspora for the African continent;
2. *Also takes note* of the Declaration of the World Diaspora Summit in 2012, which recognized the need to build sustainable partnerships between the African continent and the African diaspora, through sustainable constructive dialogue and effective collaboration;
3. *Finally takes note* of the various reports and other publications of the Commission of the African Union on the contributions of members of diasporas and communities of African roots in favour of the development of the continent;
4. *Recommends* that the Commission, in coordination with all Member States, establish a formal framework for communication and exchange of information between Africa, the diaspora and Afro-descendants;
5. *Recalls Decisions:*
 - Ext/EX.CL/Dec.6 (III) of the Third Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council, held in 2003 in South Africa, on the Implementation of the Diaspora Initiative within the framework of the African Union;
 - EX.CL/Dec.221 (VII) of the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held in June/July 2005, in Sirte, on the definition of the diaspora;
 - EX.CL/406 (XII) Add.1, by which the Executive Council requests the Commission to conduct a detailed feasibility study on the idea of considering the diaspora as the sixth region of Africa, and to define the modalities of participation of the diaspora in the organs and activities of the Union;
 - Assembly/AU/Dec.393 (XVIII), adopted at the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in 2012, on the Global African Diaspora Summit, by which the Assembly decided to make the question of the diaspora a permanent item on the agenda of the sessions of the Assembly;
 - Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII), adopted at the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, relating to the implementation of African Union Agenda 2063, and the role of the diaspora, and Article 3, subparagraph (q), of the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union (2003), which already expressly invited the latter to participate as an important party in the construction of the Union;
 - EX.CL/1032 (XXXIV), which adopted the recommendations of the Third Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Youth, Culture and Sports, on the institution of the International Day of African and Afro-Descendant Culture;
6. *Further recalls* that the diaspora constitutes an important economic, social, political and cultural power, which cannot leave indifferent the African countries in the implementation of Agenda 2063 of the African Union;
7. *Takes note* that the "Lomé Framework", called "2021-2031: Decade of African Roots and Diasporas", is an initiative aimed at bringing together, federating and supporting projects, events and other initiatives to strengthen the role and contributions of people from African roots and diasporas to the economic, social and cultural development of the African continent;

8. *Emphasizes* that the Decade of African Roots and Diasporas offers the Commission, in collaboration with States and representative organizations of African diasporas, the opportunity to implement a solid plan of global actions to make it possible to materialize the return and greater involvement of the diaspora of African descent from the West Indies, the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Americas in the development process of the continent;
9. *Agrees* that the objectives of the Decade of African Roots and Diasporas, in the artistic, cultural and heritage fields as catalysts in the development of the continent, are in perfect coherence with the Theme of the African Union for the Year 2021: "Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building an Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa in the Context of Multisectoral Challenges, and in that regard, urges all Member States of the African Union to sign and ratify the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance. with a view to its entry into force;
10. *Declares* the period 2021—2031 as the "Decade of African Roots and Diasporas";
11. *Requests* Togo, in collaboration with the Commission, to:
 - Set up a High Committee in charge of the 2021-2031 Agenda, Decade of African Roots and Diasporas, and submit the draft composition and mandate of the Committee for endorsement by the policy organs, through the PRC;
 - Take the necessary measures and steps for effective implementation and completion of this "Decade of African Roots and Diasporas" project, and to support the holding of all events, such as organizing the Afro-descendants Forum in August 2021 or in March 2022 in Equatorial Guinea, an annual Congress of African Diasporas, and other initiatives involving members of diasporas and communities of African roots, wherever they are in the world;
 - Collaborate with all African Union Member States and other stakeholders (Regional Economic Communities, international institutions such as the United Nations system, IMF, World Bank, and other international partners, organizations of communities of African descent, development NGOs and the African diaspora, etc.) in order to achieve the expected results of "2021—2031, Decade African Roots and Diasporas".

Assembly/AU/Dec.808 (XXXIV)

Decision on the Structure of the AU Specialized Office

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the following decisions:
 - (a) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) of February 2020 requesting the Chairperson of the Commission to finalize the review of the other organs and institutions, and to submit its proposals to the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February 2021;
 - (b) Decision AHG/Dec.167 (XXXVII) of the Thirty-seventh Summit of the OAU African Heads of State and Government held in Lusaka, Zambia, on 11 July 2001 for the establishment of the African Energy Commission (AFREC);
2. *Adopts* the following proposed structure of AFREC as recommended by the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:

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Post	Grade	Number of Staff	Status
Office of the Executive Director			
Executive Director	P6	1	Existing
Admin. Assistant	GSA5	1	Existing
Communication Officer	P2	1	Existing
Division of Policies, Strategies and Support			
Head of Division	P5	1	Existing
Country Support & Capacity-Building Officer	P4	1	Renamed
Renewable Energy Officer	P3	1	New
Energy Efficiency Officer	P3	1	New
Research, Oil & Gas Officer	P3	1	New
Energy Product Technologies Officer	P3	1	New
Energy Economy & Modelling Officer	P3	1	New
Division of Energy Information System & Statistics			
Head of Division	P5	1	New
Energy Statisticians Officers	P3	3	1 Existing 2 New
IT & Data Management Expert	P3	1	New
Graphic Designer	P1	1	New
Unit of Administration, Finance & support			
Finance officer	P2	1	Existing
Assistant Accountant	GSA5	1	New
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1	New
Secretary Receptionist	GSA4	1	Existing
Driver	GSB7	1	Existing
Driver (Mail Runner)	GSB7	1	New
Total Number of Staff		22	

The annual estimated staff cost and other benefits (education allowance) is US\$ 2,377,843. This excludes other operational cost such as initial recruitment cost.

3. *Decides* that the implementation of the above structure should be phased and subject to budget availability;

4. *Directs* the Commission to finalize the draft structures of the Beijing office and all the other organs and institutions that are still outstanding, in conformity with the above-stated Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII), to be presented to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council in July 2021.

Assembly/AU/Dec.809 (XXXIV)

Decision on the Appointment of the Incoming Chairperson of the African Union for 2022

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) that in order to ensure continuity and effective implementation of Assembly decisions, a troika arrangement between the outgoing, the current, and the incoming African Union Chairpersons shall be established, and that in this regard, the incoming Chairperson shall be selected one year in advance;
2. *Also recalls* the principle of rotation for the Chairpersonship of the African Union, and taking into account that 2022 will be the turn of the West African Region;
3. *Takes note* of the outcome of the consultations by the West African Region as reported by the Republic of Mali, Dean of the latter;
4. *Decides* that the incoming Chairperson of the African Union for 2022 will be the Republic of Senegal.

Assembly/AU/Dec.810 (XXXIV)

Decision on Domestic Health Financing (ALM-Investing in Health)

The Assembly,

1. *Mindful* of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and the critical importance of strengthening and investing in national health systems;
2. *Recognizing* that women and girls have been disproportionately affected by the inequalities in health care provision, and that this has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic;
3. *Recalling* the Declaration on the Africa Leadership Meeting (ALM) on Investing in Health, adopted in February 2019;
4. *Commends* H.E. President Paul Kagame, AU Leader for Domestic Health Financing, for the leadership and strong commitment he continues to provide in advancing the domestic health financing mandate;
5. *Also commends* the Commission for the significant progress made in maintaining health financing high on the continental and global agenda;
6. *Takes note* of the outcomes of the virtual regional meetings of AU Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Health, held in 2020;
7. *Reiterates* the importance of regular discussions between African Ministries of Finance and Health to advance the health financing reforms;
8. *Requests* the Commission to update the presentation of the data in the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health, by grouping countries into four quartiles according to their total per capita domestic spending on health (government budget and compulsory pre-paid pools), and ranking countries within each quartile according to the WHO/World Bank Service Coverage Index to be considered by the STC on Health, Population and Drug Control (STC-HPDC) for submission to the policy organs of the AU;
9. *Also requests* the Commission to speed up implementation of Item 6 (v) of the February 2019 ALM-Investing in Health Declaration, regarding working with partners to create regional platforms to support Member

States to increase domestic health financing, by assigning responsibility for coordinating this mandate to AUDA-NEPAD.

Assembly/AU/Dec.811 (XXXIV)

**Decision on the Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa — Biennale of Luanda
(Doc. EX.CL/1265 (XXXVIII))**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the item proposed by Angola, adopted by the Thirty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, on the First Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa-Biennale of Luanda, held in Luanda, Angola, from 18 to 22 September 2019;
2. *Commends* the Angolan Government, the African Union and UNESCO for the joint organization of the First Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa-Biennale of Luanda;
3. *Recognizes* the importance of promoting the culture of peace, of this set of values, attitudes and behaviours that reflect the respect for life, for human beings and their dignity, which must be spread and practiced by each and every Member State;
4. *Underlines* that the Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa-Biennale of Luanda, as a privileged space for the promotion of cultural diversity and African unity, provides a unique platform for governments, civil society, the artistic and scientific community, the private sector and international organizations to discuss and define strategies for the prevention of violence and conflict with a view to building lasting peace in Africa;
5. *Recalls* the Decision on the Theme of the Year 2021: “Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want” (Doc.EX.CL/1231 (XXXVII)), and its road map of activities which includes the organization of the Second Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa-Biennale of Luanda;
6. *Encourages* the Government of Angola to organize the Second Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa-Biennale of Luanda; and calls on Member States to support and be actively involved;
7. *Directs* the Commission, working with the Angolan Government and UNESCO, to create the conditions for the Second Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa-Biennale of Luanda.

Assembly/AU/Dec.812 (XXXIV)

Decision on the Decolonization of Mauritius

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.788 (XXXIII) adopted at the Thirty-third Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2020, regarding the decolonization of Mauritius;
2. *Also recalls* the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of 25 February 2019 on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965, which has authoritatively determined that:
 - (a) The Chagos Archipelago is, and has always formed, an integral part of the territory of Mauritius;

(b) The process of decolonization of Mauritius was not lawfully completed upon its accession to independence in 1968, in view of the excision of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius;

(c) The United Kingdom's continued administration of the Chagos Archipelago constitutes a wrongful act entailing the international responsibility of that State, and is an unlawful act of a continuing character, which arose as a result of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius;

(d) The United Kingdom is under an obligation to bring to an end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible;

(e) All Member States are under an obligation to cooperate with the United Nations in order to complete the decolonization of Mauritius;

3. *Further recalls* United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/295 of 22 May 2019, which, inter alia, affirmed, in accordance with the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ, that the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of Mauritius, and demanded the United Kingdom to withdraw its colonial administration from the Chagos Archipelago unconditionally within a period of no more than six months from the adoption of the resolution;

4. *Welcomes* the Judgment of the Special Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) of 28 January 2021, which confirmed that Mauritius has sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and endorsed the ICJ determinations that the detachment of the Chagos Archipelago was unlawful and that the United Kingdom's administration of the Chagos Archipelago constitutes an unlawful act of a continuing character;

5. *Condemns* the continued illegal occupation of the Chagos Archipelago by the United Kingdom in disregard of the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ, and United Nations General Assembly resolutions 73/295 and 26/25 (XXV) on the United Nations Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

6. *Reiterates its calls* to the United Kingdom to comply with international law by immediately withdrawing its colonial administration from the Chagos Archipelago;

7. *Calls upon* the Member States and all partners to respect United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/295, which expressly urged Member States, United Nations bodies and regional and international organizations to refrain from any action that will impede or delay the completion of the process of decolonization of Mauritius in accordance with the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ and the United Nations resolution;

8. *Emphasizes* the commitment of the African Union and its Member States towards the full decolonization of Africa and calls upon Member States to support all efforts in (and in relations with) all international, regional and intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies (including the Universal Postal Union and the International Civil Aviation Organization), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the European Union, through initiatives, decisions, resolutions and other actions aimed at enabling Mauritius to assert its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago pursuant to the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ, United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/295 and the Judgment of the Special Chamber of ITLOS;

9. *Requests* the Commission to undertake all necessary steps towards the decolonization of Mauritius;

10. *Requests* the PRC to consider the necessary budget for the implementation of this decision, and decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXXIV)

**Declaration on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East
(Doc. EX.CL/1254 (XXXVIII))**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, held virtually from 6 to 7 February 2021,

Taking note of the report on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East and recalling all previous resolutions and decisions adopted by the Organization of African Unity and the African Union on the situation in Palestine aimed at achieving a lasting peace and security in the Middle East,

Reaffirming our full support for the Palestinian people and their representative the Palestine Liberation Organization under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas in their legitimate struggle against the Israeli occupation in order to restore their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and independence in their State of Palestine existing side by side with the State of Israel,

Reiterating our desire to find a just political solution to the question of Palestine in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions, leading to a complete end to the Israeli occupation that started in 1967, the independence of the State of Palestine on the boundaries of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees in conformity with the United Nations resolution 194 (III),

Renewing our call for the resumption of credible negotiations between the two sides to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, including through an international multilateral mechanism in accordance with the international consensus on the basis of international law and United Nations resolutions aimed at justly resolving all permanent status issues,

Further reaffirming the steadfastness of our position in support of the just Palestinian cause that is premised on the values of freedom, justice, human rights and humanitarian principles and maintaining the historically established Pan-Africanist solidarity with the Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for independence, freedom and justice,

Further renewing our call to all members of the international community to uphold the legal status of East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine, to respect international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions in this regard, and to refrain from any action or decision that would undermine the legitimate status of the city, in particular to refrain from transferring embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem,

Further reiterating that all Israeli settlements established in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan and other activities implemented as part of the occupation's colonization of the territory of the State of Palestine, including land confiscation, home demolitions, forced displacement of civilians, racist and discriminatory policies and permit regime, construction of the wall and imposition of measures of collective punishment are illegal and constitute grave violations of international humanitarian law, relevant United Nations resolutions, and are in defiance of the calls by the international community to cease all settlement activities,

Hereby declare as follows:

1. *Express its unwavering support for the inalienable, permanent and unqualified right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to live in freedom, justice and dignity and the right to their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and calls on Israel, the occupying power, to fully comply with its obligations under international law and completely end its 53 years of military occupation and cease its obstruction of the realization of Palestinian self-determination;*
2. *Regret that Israel, the occupying power, persists with the occupation in all of its illegal manifestations, including its relentless pursuit of colonization and annexation measures, and continues to act in bad faith and in*

total contradiction of ending the occupation and continues to systematically violate United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions;

3. *Stress* the duty upon all States to take all measures, necessary to ensure the respect by Israel, and all other relevant parties, of their obligations under international law to end the occupation, and that occupation of the territory of the State of Palestine will not come to an end without decisive international intervention and tangible measures of accountability in accordance with international law;

4. *Emphasize* its determination that all colonial policies and measures, including legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying power, including any activities involving the confiscation of land, the disruption of the livelihood of protected persons, the forced transfer of civilians and the annexation of land, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan, are in grave violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, contrary to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, illegal and have no validity and constitute an obstacle to peace and socio-economic development;

5. *Stress* that any actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to colonize the holy city of Jerusalem, including imposing its laws, jurisdiction and administration, are illegal and therefore null and void and have no validity whatsoever, and calls upon the occupying power, to immediately cease all such illegal and unilateral measures including, provocations and incitement against the Christian and Islamic holy sites, in particular the Haram al-Sharif, and to respect the sanctity of the holy sites and protect the unique spiritual, religious and cultural dimensions of the city, as foreseen in relevant United Nations resolutions, which represent a legitimate interest to the international community, as a whole;

6. *Demand* that Israel abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, in particular Article 49, and comply with all of its obligations under international law and cease immediately all actions aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan, and immediately terminate settlement activities, in accordance with all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution 2334 (2016) and the Advisory Opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, and as an indispensable condition for salvaging the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders;

7. *Call upon* all Member States to actively pursue policies that ensure respect for their obligations under international law and relevant United Nations and AU resolutions with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan, including, inter alia, by not recognizing, and not rendering aid or assistance in maintaining, the situation created by measures that are aimed at advancing the colonization and annexation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

8. *Implore* all African countries to end all forms of direct and indirect dealings with the illegal Israeli colonial settlement system in the territory of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, in conformity with the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 5 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 and the previous AU decisions in this regard;

9. *Condemn* the use by Israel of unlawful lethal and other excessive force against Palestinian civilians, including against civilians with special protected status under international law, who pose no imminent threat to life, and call for accountability for these illegal actions as well as for actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the occupied Palestinian territory, and stresses that Israel, the occupying power, is fully responsible for these acts of violence against Palestinian civilians and their properties and has the duty to implement measures, including the confiscation of arms, aimed at preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory;

10. *Reaffirm* the necessity of achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in all its aspects, and of intensifying all efforts towards that end, in conformity with international law and other internationally agreed parameters, including all relevant United Nations resolutions, and, in this regard, stress that all efforts to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict should be grounded in respect for international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and should ensure credible and comprehensive accountability for all violations in order to bring about sustainable peace;
11. *Reiterate* its support for the initiative of President Mahmoud Abbas for peace, presented to the United Nations Security Council on 20 February 2018, calling for the timely convening of an international conference that would launch a credible multilateral political process, based on the long-standing terms of reference and clear parameters enshrined in the relevant United Nations resolutions and within a defined time frame aimed at expediting the realization of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;
12. *Reiterate* that the Palestine refugees forcibly displaced from the land of historic Palestine since the Nakba in 1948, or who left before this date and could not return, and their ancestors, have the right to return and are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of equity and justice;
13. *Affirm* the necessity for the continuation of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the importance of its unimpeded operation and its provision of services for the well-being, protection and human development of the Palestinian refugees and for the stability of the region, pending the just resolution of the question of the Palestine refugees, and appeal to States and organizations for the maintenance of their voluntary contributions to the Agency, as well as an increase in contributions where possible, in particular to the Agency's programme budget, which remains severely underfunded;
14. *Express its grave concern* about attempts to discredit the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East despite its proven record; and denounce all acts of intimidation and threats directed at the Agency and other human rights organizations, civil society actors and human rights defenders involved in documenting and countering violations of international law and impunity in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and calls upon all States to ensure their protection;
15. *Demand* that Israel respect the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the occupied Palestinian territory and guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including movement into and from East Jerusalem, into and from the Gaza Strip, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to and from the outside world, and reiterates the need for the occupying power to cease immediately the imposition of its prolonged closures and economic and movement restrictions, including its illegal and inhumane blockade on the Gaza Strip;
16. *Express deep concern* about the continued steep deterioration of the economic and humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip as a result of the Israeli blockade and holds the Israeli occupation fully responsible for the situation in the Gaza Strip, stressing that the crisis in the Gaza Strip is not merely a humanitarian crisis requiring emergency relief, but one of the manifestations of the colonial occupation, which should be addressed by ending the colonial occupation and enabling the geographical and political unity of the Palestinian territories between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We call on the international community to work to end this unjust Israeli blockade;
17. *Condemn* the systematic and widespread policy of ethnic cleansing practiced by the Israeli occupation against Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem, through eviction orders, home demolitions, revocation of residency rights and discriminatory policies, whose aim is to isolate the holy city, sever its geographical connection with the territories of the occupied West Bank in 1967, and achieve the demographic superiority of Israeli settlers over the owners of the land of Jerusalem, policies violating the Fourth Geneva Convention, constituting racial segregation, and breaching the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and the Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

18. *Condemn* the discriminatory Israeli legal system and its arbitrary measures and sentences on Palestinian detainees and prisoners, especially children, women, the elderly and the sick, which deprive them of the minimum rights guaranteed by international human rights law and norms, including the Geneva Convention on the rights of women and children, and call upon the Israeli occupation to release all Palestinian and Arab detainees and prisoners in Israeli jails immediately and unconditionally;
19. *Reject* any unjust or partial solutions, including the so-called “deal of the century” and will work tirelessly with other international actors to ensure the independence of the State of Palestine on the borders of 4 June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital;
20. *Call for* the cessation of all actions and measures that are contrary to the international law and United Nations resolutions, and in this context, urge the mobilization of diplomatic action to revive the peace process and preserve the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders and advance the realization of a just and lasting peace;
21. *Reiterate* that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 line, including the Syrian Golan Heights and the territories still occupied in Southern Lebanon;
22. *Reaffirm* that our solidarity with the Palestinian people is premised on the values of freedom, justice and humanitarian principles that Africa unwaveringly defends in the international fora in all circumstances and alongside all those striving to ensure that Palestine regains its right to exist in independence and sovereignty as a key State in the Middle East; and reaffirm the urgency for renewed efforts to find a just and lasting solution to the conflict, based on the existence of two States, living side by side in peace and harmony, within the framework of the relevant African Union and United Nations pronouncements.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXXIV)

Resolution on the Lifting of the Economic, Commercial and Financial Blockade Imposed on the Republic of Cuba by the United States of America

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses* its serious concern about the continuous and illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade on the Cuban Government and people;
2. *Reaffirms* its full support to the resolution of the General Assembly on the “Necessity to end the Economic, Commercial and Financial Blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”;
3. *Regrets* the regressions in the bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States and, once again, urges the Government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing and unjustifiable economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Cuban people;
4. *Regrets* the measures implemented by the Government of the United States since 9 November 2017, which strengthen the blockade and expresses deep concern over the widening of the extraterritorial nature of the blockade, including the full implementation of Chapter III of the Helms-Burton Act (based on paragraph 250 of the G-77 Ministerial Declaration 2020);
5. *Acknowledges* that the negative impact of the blockade is aggravated and even crueler in the current context, when Cuba is combatting the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic;

6. *Acknowledges* that the blockade is the main obstacle for Cuba's implementation of the United Nation 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and shares this concern due to the importance that the African Union attaches to the achievements of the said Agenda;

7. *Reaffirms* its solidarity with the people of Cuba.

Assembly/AU/Motion 1 (XXXIV)

**Motion of Appreciation to H.E. President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa,
President of the Republic of South Africa and Outgoing Chairperson of the African Union**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government, meeting at its Thirty-Fourth Ordinary Session, virtually, on 6 and 7 February 2021,

Taking note of the end of the mandate of H.E. President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa as Chairperson of the African Union, and acknowledging the commendable and extraordinary efforts he invested during his chairmanship of the African Union (AU) in the year 2020, which contributed to advancing the Union and in addressing Africa's needs, as well as positioning Africa at its rightful place in the world,

Bearing in mind the achievements he made during his tenure, demonstrating great dedication, vision and commitment in the defence of the principles and objectives of the Union, as well as this rooted commitment to the ideals of Pan-Africanism and South-South solidarity,

Noting, in particular, his dynamic and efficient stewardship of the Union during the global COVID-19 pandemic,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to H.E. President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, and outgoing Chairperson of our Assembly, for his vibrant, visionary and sterling leadership of the Union during his term of office;

2. *Commends* H.E. President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, for the numerous achievements the African Union was able to make during his mandate, including the timely AU response to the COVID-19 pandemic, establishment of the AU COVID-19 Response Fund, appointment of Special Envoys, establishment of the Medical Supply Platform, appointment of the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team, the start of trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area, leading the first virtually conducted Second Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the AU and RECs, leading to the December 2020 back-to-back Extraordinary Summits on Silencing the Guns in Africa and on the African Continental Free Trade Area, both conducted virtually, for his dedication to peace and development and advancing good governance and democracy on the continent;

3. *Reiterates its appreciation* to H.E., President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa for his significant contribution towards the continent's political, economic and social integration and stability process.

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
5 to 6 February 2022**

Assembly/AU/Dec.813 (XXXV)

Decision on the African Union Theme of the Year for 2022 of Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent: Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* African Union (AU) decisions and commitments on nutrition: the establishment of the African Task Force on Food and Nutrition Development (ATFFND) in 1987; the adoption of the Maputo Declaration on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) under the NEPAD initiative in 2003 (Assembly/AU/Decl.7 (II)); the endorsement of Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) in 2010 (Assembly/AU/Dec.327 (XV)); the adoption of the Malabo Declaration in 2014 (Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXIII)); the endorsement of the African Union Nutrition Champion in 2014 (Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXIII)); the adoption of the revised African Union Regional Nutrition Strategy (2016-2025) in 2016 (EX.CL/Dec.638); the endorsement of the Africa Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) Initiative in 2018 (Assembly/AU/Dec.681 (XXX)); and the launch of the Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard in 2019 (Assembly/AU/Dec.681 (XXX)) among others;
2. *Commends* the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, for proposing nutrition as the theme of the year for 2022; further commends the ongoing efforts at the continental, regional and national levels in the implementation of the above decisions and commitments to address all forms of malnutrition;
3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts of the African Union Nutrition Champion, His Majesty King Letsie III, Head of State and Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho, in sustaining advocacy for improved food and nutrition security within the Member State, across Member States and globally;
4. *Noting with concern* that the COVID-19 pandemic has created major global health and economic shocks, with unprecedented impacts on people's health, nutrition and livelihoods, urges all stakeholders to take urgent action in preserving the gains made, particularly among the poor and vulnerable, in the area of food security and nutrition through designing the needed interventions;
5. *Acknowledges* the concept note and action plan on the proposal of the 2022 African Union Theme of the Year as nutrition under the theme "Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent: Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development";
6. *Reaffirms* the continued importance of nutrition, especially child nutrition, as a major pillar in human capital development, and the social and economic transformation of Africa, and calls on all Member States to continue prioritizing nutrition through the implementation of the priorities outlined in the 2022 theme of the year action plan;
7. *Endorses* the 2022 African Union Year of Nutrition under the theme "Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent: Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development".

Assembly/AU/Dec.814 (XXXV)

**Decision on the Subcommittee on Structural Reforms
(Doc. EX.CL/1280 (XXXIX))**

The Assembly,

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION (2022)

1. *Recalls* the following decisions that created organs, representational, technical and specialized offices:

(a) Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1057 (XXXV) taken in Niger in July 2019, requesting the Commission to submit to the PRC the financial, legal and structural implications for the opening of the Beijing Office, for onward submission to the Executive Council for consideration in February 2020, in order to regularize the legal status of the AU Beijing Office;

(b) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.750 (XXXIII) taken in Ethiopia in February 2020, approving the new AUC Departmental Structure;

(c) Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.986 (XXXII) taken in Ethiopia in February 2018, approving the proposed structure of the Secretariat for the Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), and the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1115 (XXXVIII) of February 2021, requesting the ECOSOCC Secretariat to present its structural, financial and legal implications in accordance with the due process in place and report back to the Thirty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2021;

(d) Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1057 (XXXV) taken in Niger in July 2019, adopting the provisional structure of the APRM, among others; the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1074 (XXXVI) of February 2020 adopting the (i) APRM Rules of Procedure of the African Peer Review Mechanism Panel of Eminent Persons; (ii) Rules of Procedure of the African Peer Review Mechanism Committee of Focal Points; (iii) Rules of Procedure of the African Peer Review Mechanism Secretariat Decision; the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.758 (XXXIII) of February 2020 on the adoption of the APRM Statute (2020) and the Rules of Procedure of the APR Forum; as well as Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.765 (XXXIII) on the adoption of the Five-Year Strategic Plan of the APRM 2020-2024;

(e) Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.987 (XXXII) endorsing the establishment of the distance and e-learning arm of the Pan African University (PAU) (PAVEU) in January 2018;

(f) Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1074 (XXXVI), paragraph 64, of February 2020 recommending to the Assembly that the structure and the staffing of the AfCFTA Secretariat should be done in two phases, namely:

- First Phase be initial recruitment of the Secretary-General, four Directors and essential staff; and
- Second Phase be the positions to be filled after adoption of a permanent structure and budget, reviewing the appropriate functions of the appointed Directors and their exact number;

(g) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.676 (XXX) adopting the Statute of the African Space Agency, following the recommendation by the Specialized Technical Committees on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST) in Cairo in October 2017, and the Justice and Legal Affairs (STCJLA) in November 2017. The Statute establishes the African Space Agency as an organ of the African Union;

2. *Adopts* the following proposed structures:

(a) **AU Permanent Representation Office in Beijing, China**

Position Title	Grade	Number of Posts
Permanent Representative	P6	1
Senior Policy Officer in charge of economic and commercial cooperation	P3	1
Senior Policy Officer in charge of technical cooperation, technology, science and education	P3	1
Senior Policy Officer in charge of promotion of culture, tourism and engagement of the diaspora	P3	1

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Legal Officer	P2	1
Finance and Administrative Officer	P2	1
Secretary	GSA4	1
Secretary/Receptionist	GSA4	1
Cleaner/Mail Runner	GSB6	1
Drivers	GSB7	1
Drivers	GSB7	1
Total number of posts on structure		11

The annual estimated staff cost is US\$ 1,277,164. The recruitment of those positions should be phased and subject to budget availability.

(b) Office of Safety and Security Services in AU Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Title	Grade	Number of Positions
Head, Safety and Security (P6)	P6	1
Deputy Head of OSSS in charge of Emergency Operations (P4)	P4	1
Administrative Assistant (GSA5)	GSA5	1
Secretary (GSA4)	GSA4	1
Head of Operations Unit	P3	1
Regional Operations Manager	P2	1
Local Security Assistant for each AU office (GSA5)	GSA5	1
HQ Security Operations Manager (P2)	P2	1
VIP protection (GSA5)	GSA5	5
HQ Security Operations Officer (P1)	P1	1
Accreditation and Reception (GSA4)	GSA4	4
Control room operations (GSA5)	GSA5	1
Control room operations (GSB9)	GSB9	5
Patrol and intervention (GSA5)	GSA5	1
Patrol and intervention (GSB9)	GSB9	4
Perimeter and conference Security - shift leaders (GSA5)	GSA5	6
Perimeter and conference Security (GSB9)	GSB9	64
Duty Security Driver (GSB7)	GSB7	3
Security System maintenance officer (P1)	P1	1
Threat Info Analysis (P2)	P2	2
Emergency Planning and Response System Officer (P1)	P1	1
Head of Occupational and Work Environment Safety Unit	P3	1
Occupational Safety Awareness and Operations Manager (P2)	P2	1
Safety system operations Supervisor (GSA5)	GSA5	1
Safety system operations (GSB9)	GSB9	2
Total		111

The annual estimated staff cost is US\$ 5,613,143. The recruitment of those positions should be phased as per the Transition Plan.

(c) Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) in Lusaka, Zambia

Position Title	Grade	Number of Posts
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Head of Secretariat Office

Executive Secretary	P6	1
Senior Legal Officer	P3	1
Protocol officer	P1	1
Secretary	GSA4	1
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Programmes Division

Head of Programmes	P5	1
Unit Head - Projects and Partnerships	P3	1
Unit Head - CSO Engagements	P3	1
Programme Officers	P2	2
Programme Officers	P2	5
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Administration HR and Finance Unit

Head of Administration, HR and Finance	P4	1
ICT Officer	P2	1
HR Officer	P2	1
Procurement Officer	P2	1
Finance Officer	P2	1
Security Supervisor	GSA5	1
Procurement Assistant	GSA5	1
HR Assistant	GSA5	1
Accounts Assistant	GSA5	1
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1
Drivers	GSB7	3

Communications Unit

Senior Communications Officer	P3	1
Webmaster	P2	1
Multimedia Officer	P1	1
Documentalist	GSA5	1

Total **34**

The annual estimated staff cost is US\$ 1,564,585. The recruitment of those positions should be phased and subject to budget availability.

(d) African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in Midrand, South Africa

No.	Title	Grade
CEO's Office		
1	Chief Executive Officer	SP3
2	Chief of Staff	P6
3	Technical Advisor - Governance, Reviews and Assessments	P5
4	Special Assistant to CEO	P3

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5	Private Secretary	GSA5
6	Senior Auditor	P3
7	Senior AU Liaison Officer	P3
8	Senior Early Warning and Conflict Prevention Officer	P3
9	Senior Panel and Focal Point Officer	P3
10	Protocol Officer	P2
11	Driver	GSB7
12	Household Staff	GSB5
13	Administration Assistant	GSA5
14	Administration Assistant	GSA5

Strategic Planning Unit

15	Principal Strategic Planning Officer	P4
16	Strategic Planning Officer	P2
17	Senior Risk Officer	P3

Technical Cooperation and Resource Mobilization Unit

18	Senior Technical Cooperation and Resource Mobilization Officer	P3
19	Technical Cooperation and Resource Mobilization Officer	P2
	Media and Communications Unit	
20	Senior Information and Communication Officer	P3
21	Communications Officer	P2
22	Publishing Officer	P2

Conference Management Division Unit

23	Interpreter/Translator	P4
24	Translator	P3
25	Translator	P3
26	Documentalist/Librarian	P1

Legal Unit

27	Principal Legal Counsel	P4
28	Legal Officer	P2

Directorate of Operations

29	Director	D1
30	Administrative Assistant	GSA5

Corporate Service Division

31	Head of Corporate Service Division	P5
32	Administrative Assistant	GSA5

Human Resource Unit

33	Senior HR Officer	P3
34	HR Officer	P2
35	Payroll Officer	P2

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36	HR Assistant	GSA5
IT Unit		
37	Senior IT Officer	P3
38	Infrastructure and Network Officer	P2
39	Systems and Security Officer	P2
40	IT Assistant	GSA5
Procurement and Facilities Unit		
41	Senior Procurement and Travel Officer	P3
42	Procurement Officer	P2
43	Procurement Officer – Grant	P2
44	Procurement Assistant	GSA5
45	Travel Officer	P1
46	Travel Assistant	GSA5
47	Administration and Facilities Officer	P1
48	Security and Safety Officer	P1
49	Record Controlling Assistant	GSA5
50	Secretary/Receptionist	GSA4
51	Driver/Messenger	GSB7
52	Driver/Messenger	GSB7
Finance Division		
53	Head of Division	P5
54	Senior Finance Officer – Accounting	P3
55	Finance Officer – Accounting	P2
56	Senior Budget Officer	P3
57	Finance Officer - Budget/Grant	P2
58	Treasury Officer	P2
59	Certifying Officer	P2
60	Assistant Accountant	GSA5
61	Assistant Accountant	GSA5
Directorate Country Review and Assessment		
62	Director	D1
63	Administrative Assistant	GSA5
64	Administrative Assistant	GSA5
65	Regional Coordinator North, West and Central Africa	P5
66	Regional Coordinator East and Southern Africa	P5
67	Senior Country Review Officer - Economic Governance	P3
68	Country Review Officer - Economic Governance	P2
69	Senior Country Review Officer - Democracy and Political Governance	P3
70	Country Review Officer - Democracy and Political Governance	P2
71	Senior Country Review Officer - Corporate Governance	P3
72	Country Review Officer - Corporate Governance	P2
73	Senior Country Review Officer - State Resilience	P3
74	Country Review Officer - State Resilience	P2
75	Senior Country Review Officer Socio Economic Development, Gender Officer	P3

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76	Country Review Socio-Economic Development, Gender Officer	P2
Directorate for Governance and Specialized Reporting		
77	Director	D1
78	Administrative Assistant	GSA5
Governance Reporting Division		
79	Head of Governance Reporting Division	P5
80	Administrative Assistant	GSA5
81	Senior Corporate Governance Research Officer	P3
82	Senior Political Governance Research Officer	P3
83	Senior Economic Governance Research Officer	P3
84	Senior Socio-Economic Development Research Officer	P3
85	Senior State Resilience Research Officer	P3
86	Senior Research, Methodology and Development Officer	P3
87	Senior Africa Governance Report Officer	P3
88	Africa Governance Report Officer	P2
89	Senior National Governance Report Officer	P3
90	National Governance Reporting Officer	P1
Credit Rating Division		
91	Head of Research, Credit Rating, Advisory Division	P5
92	Administrative Assistant	GSA5
93	Senior Credit Officer	P3
94	Credit Rating Agency Officer	P2
Directorate Monitoring and Evaluation		
95	Director	D1
96	Administrative Assistant	GSA5
Monitoring and Evaluation of National Governance Programmes		
97	Head of Monitoring and Evaluation of National Governance Programmes	P5
98	Administrative Assistant	GSA5
99	Senior Monitoring and Evaluation of National Governance Programmes	P3
100	Senior Monitoring and Evaluation of National Governance Programmes	P3
101	Monitoring and Evaluation of National Governance Programmes Officer	P2
102	Monitoring and Evaluation of National Governance Programmes Officer	P1
103	Senior Statistician	P3
104	Statistician	P2
105	Programme Officer	P1
106	Programme Officer	P1
107	Database Administrator	P2
108	Senior Economist	P3
Monitoring and Evaluation of Continental and Global Governance Programmes		
109	Head of Monitoring and Evaluation of Continental and Global Governance Programmes	P5

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110	Senior Programme Officer Continental and Global Governance Programmes	P3
111	Senior Programme Officer Continental and Global Governance Programmes	P3
112	Programme Officer Continental and Global Governance Programmes	P2
113	Programme Officer Continental and Global Governance Programmes	P2
114	Programme Assistant	GSA5

The annual estimated staff cost is US\$ 11,417,711. The recruitment of those positions should be phased over a period of three years and subject to budget availability.

(e) Pan-African Virtual E-University (PAVEU) in Yaoundé, Cameroon

	Title	Grade	No of Posts
1	Director	P5	1
2	Academic Affairs Coordinator	P4	1
3	Senior Content Development Officer	P3	1
4	Senior Learner Support Officer	P3	1
5	Instructional Designer	P3	1
6	Educational Technologist	P2	1
7	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	P2	1
8	IT Officer	P1	1
9	Learning Support Officer	P1	1
10	LMS Administrator	P1	1
11	Assistant LMS Administrator	GSA5	1
12	Administrative Assistant	GSA4	1
13	Bilingual Secretary	GSA4	1
14	Driver	GSB7	1
TOTAL			14

The annual estimated staff cost is US\$ 1,213,359. The recruitment of those positions should be phased and subject to budget availability.

(f) Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in Accra, Ghana

No.	Title of Position	Grade	Status
Office of the Secretary-General			
1	CSG Secretary-General (SP2)	SP2	Approved-Phase I
2	CSG Chief of Staff (D1)	D1	Approved-Phase I
3	CSG Advisor (P5)	P5	Approved-Phase I
4	CSG Advisor (P5)	P5	Approved-Phase I
5	CSG Advisor (P5)	P5	Approved-Phase I
6	CSG Advisor (P5)	P5	Approved-Phase I
7	CSG Special Assistant SG (P4)	P4	Approved-Phase I
8	CSG Policy Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
9	CSG Senior Record Assistant (GSA3)	GSA3	Phase II
10	CSG Executive Assistant (P1) - SG	P1	Approved-Phase I
11	CSG Bilingual Secretary (GSA5) - SG	GSA5	Approved-Phase I
12	CSG Bilingual Secretary (GSA5) - CoS	GSA5	Approved-Phase I
13	CSG Administrative Assistant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
14	CSG Secretary (GSA4)	GSA4	Approved-Phase I

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Communications Division

15	CSG Head of Communications (P5)	P5	Phase II
16	CSG Spokesperson and Speech Writer (P4)	P4	Phase II
17	CSG Senior Communication Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
18	CSG Senior Press Officer and Editor (P3)	P3	Phase II
19	CSG Communication and Digital Branding Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
20	CSG Web Designer and Content Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
21	CSG Knowledge Management Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
22	CSG Librarian (P1)	P1	Phase II
23	CSG Archives Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
24	CSG Archives and Administrative Assistant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II

Office of the Deputy Secretary-General

25	ODSG Deputy Secretary-General	D2	Phase II
26	ODSG Special Assistant (P3)	P3	Phase II
27	ODSG Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
28	ODSG Bilingual Secretary (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
29	ODSG Senior Record Assistant (GSA3)	GSA3	Phase II
30	ODSG Administrative Assistant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
31	ODSG Administrative Assistant – 4 Divisions (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II

Protocol Division

32	ODSG Head of Protocol (P5)	P5	Phase II
33	ODSG Principal Protocol Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
34	ODSG Senior Protocol Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
35	ODSG Protocol Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
36	ODSG Protocol Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
37	ODSG Assistant Protocol Officer (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II

Conference and Languages Division

38	ODSG Head of Conference and Languages (P5)	P5	Phase II
39	ODSG Central Planning and Coordination Unit (P3)	P3	Phase II
40	ODSG Documentation Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
41	ODSG Documents and Calendar Controller (P1)	P1	Phase II
42	ODSG Conference System Technician (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
43	ODSG Pool Secretary (GSA4)	GSA4	Phase II
44	ODSG Interpreter/Translator (P4) (Arabic)	P4	Phase II
45	ODSG Interpreter/Translator (P4) (English)	P4	Phase II
46	ODSG Interpreter/Translator (P4) (French)	P4	Phase II
47	ODSG Interpreter/Translator (P4) (Portuguese)	P4	Phase II

Directorate of Trade in Goods and Competition

48	DTIGC Director - Trade in Goods and Competition (D1)	D1	Approved-Phase I
49	DTIGC Bilingual Secretary (GSA5)	GSA5	Approved-Phase I
50	DTIGC Senior Records Assistant/Mail runner (GSA3)	GSA3	Phase II
51	DTIGC Administrative Assistant - Divisions (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
52	DTIGC Administrative Assistant - Divisions (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION (2022)

Market Access Division

53	DTIGC Head of Division of Market Access (P5)	P5	Approved-Phase I
54	DTIGC Principal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
55	DTIGC Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
56	DTIGC Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
57	DTIGC Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
58	DTIGC Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II

Rules of Origin Division

59	DTIGC Head of Division of Rules of Origin (P5)	P5	Approved-Phase I
60	DTIGC Principal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
61	DTIGC Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
62	DTIGC Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
63	DTIGC Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II

Non-Tariff Measures Division

64	DTIGC Head of Division of Non-Tariff Measures (P5)	P5	Approved-Phase I
65	DTIGC Principal Officer (P4) - SPS	P4	Approved-Phase I
66	DTIGC Principal Officer (P4) – TBT (Quality Infrastructure)	P4	Phase II
67	DTIGC Senior Programme Officer (P3) – NTBs	P3	Phase II
68	DTIGC Senior Programme Officer (P3) - TBT/SPS	P3	Phase II
69	DTIGC Programme Officer (P2) - NTBs	P2	Phase II
70	DTIGC Programme Officer (P2) - TBT/SPS	P2	Phase II
71	DTIGC Junior Programme Officer (P1) – NTBs	P1	Phase II
72	DTIGC Junior Programme Officer (P1) - TBT	P1	Phase II
73	DTIGC Junior Programme Officer (P1) - SPS	P1	Phase II

Trade Remedies Division

74	DTIGC Head of Division of Trade Remedies (P5)	P5	Approved-Phase I
75	DTIGC Principal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
76	DTIGC Principal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
77	DTIGC Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
78	DTIGC Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
79	DTIGC Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
80	DTIGC Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
81	DTIGC Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
82	DTIGC Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II

Competition Policy Division

83	DTIGC Head of Division of Competition Policy (P5)	P5	Phase II
84	DTIGC Principal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
85	DTIGC Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
86	DTIGC Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
87	DTIGC Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II

Director of Customs Administration

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION (2022)

88	DCA Director (D1)	D1	Phase II
89	DCA Bilingual Secretary (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
90	DCA Senior Records Assistant/Mail runner (GSA3)	GSA3	Phase II
91	DCA Administrative Assistant - Divisions (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
92	DCA Administrative Assistant - Divisions (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II

Customs Enforcements Division

93	DCA Head of Division of Customs Enforcements (P5)	P5	Phase II
94	DCA Principal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
95	DCA Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
96	DCA Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
97	DCA Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II

Transit and Trade Facilitation Division

98	DCA Head of Transit and Trade Facilitation (P5)	P5	Phase II
99	DCA Principal Programme Officer (P4)	P4	Approved-Phase I
100	DCA Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
101	DCA Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II

Customs Capacity Building and Training Division

102	DCA Division of Customs Capacity Building and Training (P5)	P5	Phase II
103	DCA Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
104	DCA Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
105	DCA Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II

Directorate of Trade in Services, Investment, IPR and Digital Trade

106	DSII Director of Trade in Services, Investment, IPR and Digital Trade (D1)	D1	Approved-Phase I
107	DSII Bilingual Secretary (GSA5)	GSA5	Approved-Phase I
108	DSII Senior Records Assistant/Mail runner (GSA3)	GSA3	Phase II
109	DSII Administrative Assistant - Divisions (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
110	DSII Administrative Assistant - Divisions (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II

Trade in Services Division

111	DSII Head of Division of Trade in Services (P5)	P5	Approved-Phase I
112	DSII Principal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
113	DSII Principal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
114	DSII Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
115	DSII Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
116	DSII Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
117	DSII Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
118	DSII Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
119	DSII Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
120	DSII Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
121	DSII Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
122	DSII Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II

Investment Division

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION (2022)

123	DSII Division of Investment (P5)	P5	Phase II
124	DSII Principal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
125	DSII Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
126	DSII Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
127	DSII Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
128	DSII Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
129	DSII Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II

Intellectual Property Rights Division

130	DSII Division of Intellectual Property Rights (P5)	P5	Phase II
131	DSII Principal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
132	DSII Principal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
133	DSII Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
134	DSII Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
135	DSII Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
136	DSII Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
137	DSII Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
138	DSII Junior Programme Officer (P1) P1 Phase II		

Digital Trade Division

139	DSII Division on Digital Trade (P5)	P5	Phase II
140	DSII Principal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
141	DSII Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
142	DSII Senior Programme Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
143	DSII Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
144	DSII Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
145	DSII Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II

Directorate of Dispute Settlement and Legal Affairs

146	Legal Director of Dispute Settlement and Legal Affairs (D1)	D1	Phase II
147	Legal Secretary (GSA4)	GSA4	Phase II
148	Legal Senior Record Assistant (GSA3)	GSA3	Phase II
149	Legal Administrative Assistant - Divisions (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
150	Legal Administrative Assistant - Divisions (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II

Dispute Settlement Division

151	Legal Senior Legal Counsel – Dispute Settlement (P5)	P5	Phase II
152	Legal Principal Legal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
153	Legal Senior Legal Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
154	Legal Legal Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
155	Legal Legal Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
156	Legal Associate Legal Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II

General Legal Affairs Division

157	Legal Senior Legal Counsel - General (P5)	P5	Phase II
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Legal Affairs

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION (2022)

158	Legal Principal Legal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
159	Legal Principal Legal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
160	Legal Principal Legal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
161	Legal Senior Legal Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
162	Legal Senior Legal Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
163	Legal Legal Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
164	Legal Legal Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
165	Legal Associate Legal Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
166	Legal Associate Legal Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II

Directorate of Administration of Human Resources Management

167	Director of Administration and Human Resources Management (D1)	D1	Approved-Phase I
168	AHRM Bilingual Secretary (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
169	AHRM Senior Record Assistant (GSA3)	GSA3	Phase II
170	AHRM Administrative Assistant - Divisions (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II

Administration and Human Resources Management Division

171	AHRM Head of Administration and Human Resources Management (P5)	P5	Approved-Phase I
172	AHRM Senior HR Generalist (P4)	P4	Phase II
173	AHRM Recruitment Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
174	AHRM Recruitment Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
175	AHRM HR Generalist and Payroll Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
176	AHRM HR Assistant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
177	AHRM Senior HR Records Assistant (GSA3)	GSA3	Phase II
178	AHRM Recruitment Operations Specialist (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
179	AHRM Operations and Benefits Specialist (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
180	AHRM Administrative Assistant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
181	AHRM Secretary (GSA4)	GSA4	Phase II
182	AHRM Internal Medicine/Doctor (P4)	P4	Phase II
183	AHRM Nursing Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
184	AHRM Medical Secretary (GSA4)	GSA4	Phase II
185	AHRM Senior Administration Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
186	AHRM Fleet Inspection and Controller (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
187	AHRM Drivers (GSB7)	GSB7	Approved-Phase I
188	AHRM Drivers (GSB7)	GSB7	Approved-Phase I
189	AHRM Drivers (GSB7)	GSB7	Approved-Phase I
190	AHRM Drivers (GSB7)	GSB7	Approved-Phase I
191	AHRM Drivers (GSB7)	GSB7	Phase II
192	AHRM Drivers (GSB7)	GSB7	Phase II
193	AHRM Drivers (GSB7)	GSB7	Phase II
194	AHRM Records Assistants/Mail Runners (GSB6)	GSB6	Phase II
195	AHRM Records Assistants/Mail Runners (GSB6)	GSB6	Phase II
196	AHRM Records Assistants/Mail Runners (GSB6)	GSB6	Phase II
197	AHRM Household Staff (GSB5)	GSB5	Phase II
198	AHRM Household Staff (GSB5)	GSB5	Phase II
199	AHRM Household Staff (GSB5)	GSB5	Phase II
200	AHRM Chief Procurement Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
201	AHRM Procurement Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
202	AHRM Procurement Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
203	AHRM Procurement Assistant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
204	AHRM Principal Travel Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION (2022)

205	AHRM Senior Travel Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
206	AHRM Travel Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
207	AHRM Travel Assistant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
208	AHRM Asset Management Officer (P1)	P2	Phase II
209	AHRM Stock and Asset Management Clerk (GSA4)	GSA4	Phase II
210	AHRM Senior Information Technology Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
211	AHRM Digital Apps Development Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
212	AHRM Information Technology Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
213	AHRM Information Systems Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
214	AHRM Information Technology Assistant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
215	AHRM Information Systems Assistant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
216	AHRM Security and Facility Management (P3)	P3	Phase II
217	AHRM Facilities Maintenance and Management Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
218	AHRM Facilities Management Assistant (GSA3)	GSA3	Phase II
219	AHRM Housekeeping and Functions Assistant (GSA3)	GSA3	Phase II
220	AHRM Housekeeping and Functions Helper (GSB6)	GSB6	Phase II
221	AHRM Secretary (GSA4)	GSA4	Phase II
222	AHRM Security Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
223	AHRM Assistant Security Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
224	AHRM VIP Protection (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
225	AHRM VIP Protection (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
226	AHRM VIP Protection (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
227	AHRM Security Operations Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
228	AHRM Receptionist/Secretary/Cashier (GSA4)	GSA4	Phase II
229	AHRM Receptionist/Secretary/Cashier (GSA4)	GSA4	Phase II
230	AHRM Control Room Operations (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
231	AHRM Control Room Operations (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
232	AHRM Patrol and Intervention (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
233	AHRM Security System Maintenance Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
234	AHRM Threat, Emergency, Planning and Response Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
235	AHRM Occupational and Work Environment Safety Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
236	AHRM Secretary (GSA4)	GSA4	Phase II

Directorate of Finance

237	Finance Director of Finance (D1)	D1	Approved-Phase I
238	Finance Bilingual Secretary (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
239	Finance Senior Record Assistant (GSA3)	GSA3	Phase II
240	AHRM Administrative Assistant - Divisions (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II

Accounting, Budget and Financial Management Division

241	Finance Head of Accounting, Budget and Financial Management Division (P5)	P5	Phase II
242	Finance Principal Accounting and Reporting Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
243	Finance General Ledger Payables and Receivables Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
244	Finance Assistant Accountant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
245	Finance Assistant Accountant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
246	Finance Bank Reconciliation (P2)	P2	Phase II
247	Finance Assistant Accountant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
248	Finance Fixed Assets (P2)	P2	Phase II
249	Finance Senior Disbursement Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
250	Finance Disbursement Finance Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
251	Finance Staff Benefits Section Finance Officer (P2) P2 Phase II		

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION (2022)

252	Finance Assistant Financial Management (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
253	Finance Secretary (GSA4)	GSA4	Phase II
254	Finance Assistant Accountant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
255	Finance Senior Finance Officer Treasury (P3)	P3	Phase II
256	Finance Finance Officer Treasury (P2)	P2	Phase II
257	Finance Certification Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
258	Finance Assistant Treasury Officer (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
259	Finance Principal Budget Planning and Programme Reporting Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
260	Finance Financial Review and Monitoring (P2)	P2	Phase II
261	Finance Finance Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
262	Finance Finance Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
263	Finance Assistant Budget (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
264	Finance Assistant Budget (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
265	Finance Secretary (GSA4)	GSA4	Phase II

Directorate - Institutional Matters and Programme Coordination

266	DIMPC Director of Institutional Matters and Programme Coordination (D1)	D1	Phase II
267	DIMPC Programme Management Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
268	DIMPC Administrative Assistant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
269	DIMPC Bilingual Secretary (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II

Strategic Planning, Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Division

270	DIMPC Head of Division Strategic Planning, Resource Mobilization (P5) and Partnerships	P5	Approved-Phase I
271	DIMPC Senior Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
272	DIMPC Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
273	DIMPC Senior Strategic Planning Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
274	DIMPC Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
275	DIMPC Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
276	DIMPC Head of Women and Youth in Trade (P5)	P5	Phase II
277	DIMPC Principal Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
278	DIMPC Programme Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
279	DIMPC Junior Programme Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
280	DIMPC Administrative Assistant (GSA5)	GSA5	Phase II
281	DIMPC Principal Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
282	DIMPC SMEs Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
283	DIMPC Junior SMEs Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
284	DIMPC Head of AfCFTA Policy Review and Research (P5)	P5	Phase II
285	DIMPC Value Chain Development and Implementation Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
286	DIMPC Senior AfCFTA Academy Coordinator (P4)	P4	Phase II
287	DIMPC Events and Special Projects Officer (P4)	P4	Phase II
288	DIMPC Senior Internal Auditor (P3)	P3	Phase II
289	DIMPC Senior Statistician (P3)	P3	Phase II
290	DIMPC Senior Trade Policy Review Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
291	DIMPC Senior Research Officer (P3)	P3	Phase II
292	DIMPC Trade Policy Review Officer (P2)	P2	Phase II
293	DIMPC Statistician (P2)	P2	Phase II
294	DIMPC Junior Trade Policy Review Officer (P1)	P1	Phase II
295	DIMPC Head of AU Liaison Office (P5)	P5	Phase II
296	DIMPC Coordination with RECs [P4]	P4	Approved-Phase I

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION (2022)

The annual estimated staff cost is \$29,388,489.25. The recruitment of those positions should be phased over a period of four years and subject to budget availability.

(g) African Space Agency (AfSA) in Cairo, Egypt

Position	Grade	No. of Posts
Office of the Director General		
Director General	D2-1	1
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1
Personal Assistant	P3	1
Monitoring and Evaluation Division		
Head	P5	1
Senior monitoring and evaluation Officer	P3	1
Monitoring and evaluation Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1
Audit Unit		
Senior Auditor	P3	1
Auditor	P2	2
Office of the Deputy Director General		
Deputy Director General	D1-1	1
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1
Legal Affairs Division		
Head	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	1
Legal Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1
Security Division		
Head	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	1
Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1
Security Guards	GSB9	5
Facility Management Division		
Head	P5	1
Senior Officer	P3	1
Facility Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1
Pool of Drivers	GSB7	2

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION (2022)

Space Systems IT Division

Head	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	1
Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

General IT Support Division

Head	P5	1
Senior IT officer	P3	1
IT Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Corporate Services Directorate

Director	D1	1
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Human Resource Division

Section Head	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	1
HR Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Finance Division

Section Head	P5	1
Senior Finance Officers	P3	1
Finance Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Procurement Division

Section Head	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	1
Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Policy and External Relations Directorate

Director	D1	1
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Strategic Planning, Cooperation, Partnership and Liaison Division

Head	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	1
Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Policy and Strategy Division

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION (2022)

Head	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	1
Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Communication and Outreach Division

Head	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	1
Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Space Applications Directorate

Director	D1	1
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Earth Observation Development Division

Programme Manager	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	2
Officers	P2	4
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Satellite Communications Programme Division

Programme Manager	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	2
Officers	P2	4
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Navigation and Positioning Division

Programme Manager	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	2
Officers	P2	4
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Astronomy, Space Exploration and Outer Space Science Division

Programme Manager	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	2
Officers	P2	4
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Space Operations and Technology Directorate

Director	D1	1
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Safety, Mission Planning and Assurance Division

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION (2022)

Head	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	2
Officers	P2	4
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Systems, Robotics, and Space Infrastructure Management Division

Head	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	2
Officers	P2	4
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Assembly, Integration and Testing Division

Head	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	2
Officers	P2	4
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Innovation, Research and Development Directorate

Director	D1	1
Personal Assistant	GSA5	1

Space industry and Business Development Division

Head	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	1
Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Capacity, Learning and Skills Development Division

Head	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	1
Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Knowledge Management Division

Head	P5	1
Senior Officers	P3	1
Officers	P2	2
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1

Total **156**

The annual estimated staff cost is \$13,101,302.48. The recruitment of those positions should be phased over a period of three years and subject to budget availability.

3. *Decides* that the implementation of the above structures should be phased and subject to budget availability;

4. *Also decides* that the recruitment process should be undertaken in line with the Merit Based Recruitment System (MBRS) and the AU wide quota system;
5. *Further decides* to take stock of progress in the implementation of the above-mentioned structures after each implementation phase.

Assembly/AU/Dec.815 (XXXV)

Decision on the Report on the Activities of the Peace And Security Council and the State of Peace and Security in Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* the PSC for the significant achievements made thus far, with emphasis on early warning for effective conflict prevention and mitigation; prompt response to threats to governance, peace and security including unconstitutional changes of government; intensified support to Member States in political transitions, conflicts and post-conflict situations; endorsement of the first-ever PCRD awareness week, as well as commemoration of the annual Amnesty Month; sustained engagement with Member States; increased engagement with AU organs, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), the United Nations Security Council (United NationsSC) and other strategic partners; and encourages the PSC to continue to ensure strategic timeous response to conflict situations on the continent;
2. *Underlines* the importance of Africa to speak with one voice on all matters relating to peace, security and stability on the continent, full respect of all AU Assembly and PSC decisions, including through enhanced cooperation and collaboration with the African members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) and the international community;
3. *Notes with concern* that the five regions of the continent experienced several challenges at varying degrees, which were compounded by the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic, including security and political-related tensions and violence at the intra and inter-State level, terrorism and violent extremism, transnational organized crimes, border disputes, political governance and democratic transition sectarian and resource conflicts, secessionist agitations, maritime insecurity and strained diplomatic relations; and in this context, underscores the leadership role of the Assembly in addressing these challenges;
4. *Welcomes* the progress made in addressing political and security challenges in Chad; and encourages all Chadian stakeholders to continue the implementation of the transition Road Map, in line with the decisions of the PSC, and to maintain the inclusive, consensus-driven and peaceful nature of the transition; directs the AU Commission to pursue the implementation of its commitments, particularly, the full implementation of the AU Support Mechanism (AUSM);
5. *Commends* the President of the Central African Republic (CAR) H.E. Faustin Archange Touadera for his unfailing openness to dialogue and encourages him to take concrete measures to restore confidence with the leaders of the opposition and other national political actors for the effective holding of the republican dialogue; expresses concern over the prevailing security situation in the country; and calls on the armed groups to lay down their arms in compliance with the cease-fire declared by the President of the Republic; also encourages the Government of the CAR to accelerate the proceedings of the commission of enquiry to identify the perpetrators of human rights abuses and international humanitarian law violations; recognizes the efforts of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) for its efforts in the CAR and pays tribute to the peacekeepers for their relentless commitment and sacrifices;
6. *Reiterates the call* for the immediate and unconditional cessation of hostilities in Cameroon; urges the separatists to embrace dialogue with the Government, work towards promoting national reconciliation and social cohesion and requests the Chairperson of the Commission in collaboration with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and other partners to continue engaging the Government of Cameroon with a view

to mobilizing the required support to effectively address the current security situation in the Anglophone regions and the far north of the country;

7. *Applauds* the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) for the significant gains made in the fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group in the Lake Chad Basin region, and commends the AU Commission, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the continued support towards the implementation of regional stabilization programmes, including the improvement in law and order; implementation of livelihood models through the Regional Stabilization Facility, and the resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDP), as well as regional economic recovery;

8. *Welcomes* the significant improvements in the situation in the Great Lakes Region, notably, the successful organization of elections which is significantly contributing to the deepening and consolidation of democracy, good neighbourliness, as well as strengthening of bilateral and multilateral cooperation among the signatory countries of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework Agreement (PSCF) for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Region and, in this regard, welcomes the efforts being deployed by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC);

9. *Welcomes* the positive developments in Burundi; and reiterates its appeal for the international community to lift the sanctions imposed on Burundi, in order to enhance the opportunity for socio-economic recovery in the country; and to provide the necessary financial support to consolidate Burundi's peace, stability and development; requests the Chairperson of the AU Commission to expedite the appointment of a new AU Special Representative for the Great Lakes/Burundi, in order to facilitate direct and continuous high-level engagements with the Governments in the Great Lakes Region;

10. *Acknowledges* the positive progress in the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), despite the activities of local and foreign armed groups and intercommunal tensions and commends the efforts of H.E. President Felix Tshisekedi and other leaders of the region to foster peace and stability including in the fight against the COVID 19 pandemic; further commends the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and other partners for their continuous multifaceted support for the stabilization of the DRC and the entire Great Lakes Region;

11. *Reaffirms* its respect for the sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of Ethiopia; commends the Government of Ethiopia for the efforts to end the internal conflict, promote national dialogue and reconciliation; and, in this context, welcomes the establishment of the National Dialogue Commission; encourages the parties to the conflict in northern Ethiopia to embrace national dialogue as the only viable approach for promoting lasting peace, unity and national reconciliation in the country; calls upon all key stakeholders to fully commit to a political solution to the current challenges facing the country, on the premises of an immediate cessation of hostilities, pursue an unconditional and comprehensive ceasefire; unhindered humanitarian access in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights;

12. *Expresses deep concern* over the sporadic clashes along the disputed common border between Ethiopia and Sudan and urges the two countries to utilize the AU Border Programme (AUBP) in amicably and peacefully addressing their border dispute;

13. *Welcomes* the appointment of H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa and encourages him to scale up his mediation efforts towards finding African-centred solutions to the conflicts in the region;

14. *Takes note* of the progress made in the political process and the fight against the Al Shabaab terrorist group in Somalia; highly commends the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali defence and security forces for the achievements made thus far; and pays tribute to all troop and police contributing countries (T/PCCs) and to all AMISOM personnel who paid the ultimate sacrifice and wishes speedy recovery to all those nursing

injuries from Al Shabaab attacks; welcomes the consultations between the AU Commission and the Federal Government of Somalia on the future AU Mission in Somalia post-2021, in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 2568, and further notes the concept of a multidimensional transition mission, based on the Somali Transition Plan (STP), to ensure a comprehensive approach that leverages the competencies of the military, police and civilian capacities of the envisaged AU Mission; furthermore, strongly urges the leadership of Somalia to sustain engagements with the Federal Member States and other stakeholders to expedite the completion of the electoral process, to end the current political uncertainty, as well as to prioritize force generation and capacitation of the Somali National Army (SNA) and other Somali Security Forces (SSF), for a seamless transfer of responsibility from AMISOM to the national security structures; urges the international community to support the follow-on mission, and to ensure that the mission is provided with predictable and sustainable financing, at adequate levels, for the full duration of the new mission;

15. *Commends* H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan and First Vice-President, H.E. Dr. Riek Machar for placing the supreme interests of South Sudan and its people above all else; encourages them to continue to speedily implement all outstanding provisions of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), particularly Chapter II on the National Unified Forces (NUF) and mobilization of funding to accomplish the process; also encourages the international community to provide support in the implementation of Chapter II in order to consolidate the progress made by the Government of South Sudan; appeals to the international community to lift the arms embargo and other sanctions imposed on South Sudan; requests the AU Commission to continue to provide support towards the successful implementation of the R-ACRCS, including deploying technical expertise on the demilitarization, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR) programmes and dispatching a Post-Conflict Needs-Assessment Mission to South Sudan in identifying priorities and the required resources for the rebuilding of the country; in particular, commends H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of the Republic of Uganda for offering to host in Kampala, during the course of 2022, the South Sudan Leadership Retreat, with a view to facilitating the successful implementation of all outstanding provisions of the R-ARCSS and looks forward to the successful outcomes of the Retreat;

16. *Reaffirms* the AU solidarity with the people of the Republic of the Sudan in their legitimate aspirations to deepen and consolidate democracy; and welcomes the appointment of the civilian Cabinet of Ministers comprising technocrats on 12 January 2022; expresses deep concern over the political developments in Sudan, including the escalating intercommunal violence in the western and southern Darfur provinces; condemns the killing of peaceful protestors; and urges the authorities to refrain from using excessive force against peaceful protestors; demands the immediate and unconditional release of all political detainees; and reiterates the zero tolerance of the Union for unconstitutional changes of government based on the AU Constitutive Act (2000) and the Lomé Declaration on the Framework for an OAU/AU Response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government (2000); underlines the centrality of the Constitutional Declaration of August 2019 and the Juba Peace Agreement of October 2020 as the most viable frameworks for facilitating the democratic transition in Sudan; underscores the urgent need for the prompt return to normal constitutional order; and strongly calls on all Sudanese stakeholders to demonstrate a firm commitment to dialogue, consensus-building and peaceful resolution of differences in a manner that ensures the consolidation of democracy and economic recovery and stabilization, as well as sustainable post-conflict reconstruction and development;

17. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the initiation of an inclusive and genuine national dialogue in Comoros which will enable all political leaders to peacefully resolve their differences, and underscores the importance of ensuring that the national dialogue is transparent, inclusive and comprehensive; requests the AU Commission to continue engaging the Government of Comoros and provide the required technical and financial support to ensure the successful holding of the national dialogue;

18. *Applauds* the Libyan authorities for the progress in the peace process and urges them to expedite the conduct of the elections, in order to stabilize and reconcile the country and approves the relocation of the Tunis-based AU Liaison Office to Tripoli, Libya, with the requisite human and financial resources to adequately support the AU's efforts on Libya;

19. *Affirms* the AU solidarity with the people of Mozambique in their campaign against terrorism and violent extremism in the northern province of Cabo Delgado; commends the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for the prompt deployment of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM), within the framework of the African Standby Force (ASF); also commends the Republic of Rwanda for deploying troops to support the Republic of Mozambique based on the existing bilateral agreements and in the spirit of African solutions to African problems; and, to this effect, calls on the AU and partners to continue to support the efforts of Rwanda in Mozambique; reaffirms the unwavering commitment of the AU to mobilize the required technical and financial support to further enhance the capacity of SAMIM and Mozambique; and appeals to the international community to also support the Government of Mozambique to effectively counter terrorism;

20. *Expresses serious concern* over the resurgence of military coups d'états on the continent; and strongly condemns the unconstitutional changes of governments in Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso; demands the urgent and unconditional restoration of normal constitutional order in these Member States; calls on Member States to uphold constitutionalism and fully respect all AU shared values, normative instruments and legal instruments, particularly the AU Constitutive Act and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG); fully supports the efforts being deployed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in addressing the situations in the three Member States;

21. *Strongly condemns* the attempted coup d'état against the democratically elected Government of Guinea Bissau on 23 to 24 January 2022; and reiterates the AU's zero tolerance on unconstitutional changes of government; reaffirms AU solidarity and support for the people and Government of Guinea Bissau and its readiness to continue supporting the efforts of ECOWAS in Guinea Bissau; in this regard, encourages all concerned in Guinea Bissau to respect national democratic institutions and to settle their differences in a peaceful manner, including through established national legal channels;

22. *Endorses* the PSC's call for a comprehensive and objective analysis of the structural root causes and impact of unconstitutional changes of government on the continent; the review of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the Lomé Declaration on unconstitutional changes of government, with a view to factor in contemporary challenges to African peace and security and modalities to address the surge in unconstitutional changes of government in Africa;

23. *Notes with deep concern* the growing and expanding threat of terrorism and violent extremism in Africa including the influx of foreign terrorist fighters, private military companies and mercenaries; strongly condemns all acts of terrorism which are unjustified under any circumstances, and sponsors of these heinous crimes; and strongly warns all perpetrators and supporters of acts of terrorism and violent extemisms that stern measures shall be taken against them; furthermore urges Member States, RECs/RMs, working in close collaboration with the relevant United Nations agencies, to review and further sharpen their counter-terrorism tools and approaches, in order to effectively adapt to the contemporary nature of this existential threat; enhance coordination and complementarity of efforts, share intelligence and information, conduct joint capacity-building training and operations;

24. *Encourages* other regions to emulate the Djibouti and Nouakchott Processes and to also establish their platforms for intelligence sharing and fusion; accordingly commends the efforts being deployed by the Africa Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the AU Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) and the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA), as well as the Accra Initiative in supporting Member States; requests the Commission to expedite the establishment of a counter-terrorism unit within the African Standby Force; compile the African database of terrorist groups, entities and individuals, including foreign terrorist fighters; the development and operationalization of the African Arrest Warrant for those accused of terrorist acts; and expedite the finalization of the AU comprehensive strategy for countering terrorism in Africa;

25. *Welcomes* the initiative taken by the Commission to revise the 1977 OAU Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism in Africa and looks forward to receiving the report and recommendations in this regard together

with the draft comprehensive and integrated continental stabilization strategy for addressing the security threat posed by non-State armed groups (NSAGs);

26. *Acknowledges* the work of the Commission in continuing to steadily mainstream the AU Women Peace and Security in partnership with the Office of the Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security and, in this regard, stresses the importance of enhanced coordination and complementarity of efforts between the different entities within the Commission whose respective mandates relate to the AU Women Peace and Security agenda and United Nations Security Council resolution 1325;

27. *Expresses deep concern* over the continued violations being perpetrated against children in situations of conflicts, including killing or maiming, recruiting them as soldiers, sexual violence and general deprivation of liberty, and, in this context, commends the Commission for the laudable steps taken, particularly the setup of the Africa Platform on Children Affected by Armed Conflicts (AP-CAAC) as a multi-stakeholder mechanism to foster advocacy and the development of policies and programmes to address the plight of children in armed conflict situations, and reiterates the urgent need for the Chairperson of the Commission to appoint a Special Envoy/Representative for Children Affected by Armed Conflicts;

28. *Endorses* the second group of African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAPs) and encourages them to continue to promote peace, security and stability of Member States and regions in line with relevant AU instruments;

29. *Acknowledges* the inextricable link between climate, peace and security; and reaffirms the importance of the Commission to contribute towards strengthening the climate resilience and adaptation capacities of Member States, including through capacity-building, training and research activities; requests the Commission to expedite the finalization of a climate-related security risk assessment study, in consultation with Member States as well as to expeditiously develop a Common African Position on the nexus between Climate, Peace and Security in preparation for the COP27 to be hosted by Egypt; also requests the Chairperson of the Commission to expedite the appointment of a Special Envoy on Climate, Peace and Security;

30. *Notes* the priority of the Commission to build and enhance the early warning and early response institutional and operational capacities of Member States; and encourages Member States to utilize the opportunities afforded by the Commission and RECs/RMs to address structural causes of violent conflict through the implementation of the Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment/Country Structural Vulnerability and Mitigation Strategies (CSVRA/CSVMS) processes; and, in this respect, requests the Commission to establish a Monitoring and Oversight Committee comprising the AUC, the RECs/RMs, the APRM and Member States to facilitate effective coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; also welcomes the I-REC as a strategic knowledge exchange platform on early warning and conflict prevention to promote cooperation between the RECs/RMs and AU organs;

31. *Congratulates* all Member States that have successfully organized peaceful and credible elections during the course of 2021, in line with the AU Principles and Guidelines, as well as the AU Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, as a significant contribution towards the deepening and consolidation of democracy in Africa; congratulates, in particular, those Member States which mobilized domestic resources to fund their elections and encourages other Member States to also consider doing the same with a view to promoting national ownership of their electoral processes; also encourages Member States to continue to create conducive conditions that encourage and facilitate more participation by women, youth and people living with disabilities, as election candidates; further encourages Member States to implement the AU Guidelines on Elections in the Context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies, to create the necessary conducive conditions to ensure the safety and security of the voters against COVID-19;

32. *Acknowledges* the continued technical support by the AU Border Programme to Member States to peacefully resolve border disputes; encourages Member States to continue to take full advantage of the AUBP as

an effective conflict prevention tool and to contribute towards the mobilization of the required resources in order to enable the Programme to discharge its mandate effectively;

33. *Welcomes* the modest progress achieved in the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF), and the adoption of the AU Doctrine on Peace Support Operations, and urges Member States to expedite the full operationalization of the Continental and Regional Logistics bases; and commends Member States that have pledged strategic lift capabilities for the ASF and encourages others to also pledge additional capabilities; also acknowledges the contributions of peace support/peacekeeping centres of excellence in Africa and underscores the importance of establishing an AU Peace Support Training Centre that will be dedicated to support PSO activities;

34. *Recognizes* the support provided by the AU Commission to AU mediation efforts on the continent; endorses the nominations of the new members of the fifth Panel of the Wise to serve for a three-year term; also endorses the establishment of WiseYouth, as well as the outcomes of the November 2021 Nairobi High-Level Retreat of AU High/Special Representatives and Envoys; requests the Commission to ensure the full operationalization of the PanWise and FemWise-Africa; in collaboration with the RECs/RMs; and also requests the Commission to develop modalities for the operationalization of WiseYouth for consideration and adoption by relevant authorities as a critical mechanism for conflict prevention and media targeting African youth;

35. *Notes* the finalization of the AU Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human and Peoples' Rights for Africa (2021-2030) by the Commission, to significantly foster the promotion of a culture of respect for human and peoples' rights, including in epidemic and pandemic contexts, as provided for in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;

36. *Reaffirms* the Commission's commendation for the continued support to Member States emerging from conflicts and those in transition, including the launching of a post-conflict reconstruction and development (PCRD) Awareness Week in November 2021, to be observed annually throughout the continent and endorses its institutionalization and regularization; welcomes the formal launching of the AU Centre for PCRD on 23 December 2021 in Cairo, Egypt; and appeals to Member State to make full use of the Centre; requests the Chairperson of the Commission to mobilize all necessary resources to enable the Centre to effectively discharge its mandate, and also requests the Commission to expeditiously review the 2006 AU PCRD Policy Framework and submit the report for consideration by the next ordinary session of the Assembly;

37. *Underscores* the importance of revitalizing the African Solidarity Initiative (ASI) as a platform for harnessing required resources to support recovery and stabilization efforts in Member States emerging from violent conflicts and encourages Member States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Inter-African Convention Establishing an African Technical Cooperation Programme;

38. *Underlines* the importance of successful disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), as well as security sector reforms (SSR) as critical and integral components for conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction and development, as well as peacebuilding efforts in Member States emerging from violent conflicts; and encourages Member States to allocate adequate resources for DDR and SSR programmes;

39. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the progress made with regard to the fully operationalization of the Revitalized AU Peace Fund, and the contributions made by Member States to the Fund, as well as the status of the endowment; commends the efforts of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Management Committee and the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Peace Fund towards the pilot utilization of the Peace Fund in 2022 through costed and prioritized programmatic activities to address urgent peace and security challenges on the continent;

40. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the Year 2030, including the adoption of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Mechanism, which spells out modalities, actions, stakeholders, and reporting timeframes to trace the

implementation of all aspects of the Master Road Map; underlines the importance of stronger political will, visionary leadership and stronger solidarity among AU Member States and their people in order to successfully implement the Master Road Map and directs the Commission to:

- (a) Fully utilize and capacitate all mechanisms and tools available within AGA and APSA with the necessary human, technical and financial resources to address governance deficits on the continent in line with the provisions of the ACDEG, the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance as well as the CSCPF;
- (b) Establish, in line with paragraph 19 (II) of Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XIV), taken at the Fourteenth Extraordinary Summit of December 2020, a High-Level Hybrid Committee composed of sitting and former Heads of State and Government, with a mandate to engage leaders who intend to amend their constitutions without national consensus to prevent eruption of violence; and
- (c) Accelerate efforts to sign, ratify, harmonize and fully implement regional, continental and international instruments on illicit weapons, including relevant OAU/AU and RECs/RMs decisions and declarations, through advocacy and mobilization of Member States, including through the domestication of Africa Amnesty Month;

41. *Endorses* the Conclusions of the Thirteenth Retreat of the PSC on its Working Methods in the Context of AU Reforms, held from 27 to 29 May 2021, in Mombasa, Kenya, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism for the AUMR of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2030, and urges Member States and the RECs/RMs, as well as all other relevant key stakeholders to effectively use the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism as a guiding tool for monitoring the implementation of the Master Road Map and reporting on progress;

42. *Further endorses* the Conclusions of the Eighth High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa held from 2 to 4 December 2021, in Oran, Algeria; and emphasizes the importance of ensuring the implementation of these Conclusions in their letter and spirit; commends the efforts being exerted by the African Members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) in effectively articulating, promoting and defending African common positions and interests within the United Nations Security Council; pays tribute to Niger and Tunisia, for their exemplary representation of Africa within the Security Council during their tenure; congratulates Gabon and Ghana on their election to the Security Council for a two-year term and looks forward to their contribution alongside Kenya, in effectively articulating, promoting and defending African common positions and interests in the United Nations Security Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.816 (XXXV)

Decision on the Progress Report on the African Union Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa, by H.E. Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the AU Health Commission on COVID-19, led by the AU COVID-19 Champion, H.E. Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, on the progress made in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
2. *Commends* H.E. President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa for his leadership in Africa's response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and acknowledges the critical role of the AU Commission and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in their effective response to the pandemic;
3. *Recognizes* that disease threats require a multi-agency response through strong continental institutions including the Africa CDC and the Africa Medicines Agency (AMA);

4. *Acknowledges* that Africa's socio-economic recovery from the pandemic depends on the continent's ability to turn the current challenges into viable opportunities including through increasing the capacities and capabilities of the health workforce; initiating and expanding local manufacturing enterprises for all commodities required in pandemic response and particularly vaccines; and mobilizing appropriate technical and financial resources for preparedness and response;
5. *Endorses* the Progress Report of the AU Health Commission on COVID-19 including all its recommendations;
6. *Decides* to extend the role of H.E. President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa as the AU COVID-19 Champion;
7. *Requests* the AU COVID-19 Champion to present a progress report to the next session of the Mid-Year Coordination meeting as well as the next Assembly;
8. *Directs* the AU Commission and the Africa CDC to continue providing the required support to the AU COVID-19 Champion in his role;
9. *Also decides* to remain seized on this matter.

Assembly/AU/Dec.817 (XXXV)

Decision on Mobilizing Financing for Africa's Accelerated Economic Recovery Development and Integration by the African Development Bank

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Report of Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group, on mobilizing financing for Africa's accelerated economic recovery development and integration;
2. *Commends* the African Development Bank efforts in championing continental initiatives to address debt vulnerabilities in Africa as well as efforts to enhance food security through the African Facility for Food and Nutrition Security;
3. *Also commends* the work of the African Development Bank in strengthening the African Health Defence System and calls on all development finance institutions to work with the African Development Bank in financing quality healthcare infrastructure across the continent;
4. *Further commends* the partnership between the African Development Bank and the Global Center for Adaptation, on the African Adaptation Acceleration Programme (AAA-P) which aims to mobilize \$25 billion to accelerate the implementation of the African Adaptation Acceleration Initiative (AAI) of the African Union and further calls for developed countries to deliver on their \$100 billion commitment, and fully finance the AAA-P ahead of the COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt;
5. *Recognizes and commends* the efforts of the African Development Bank to establish a Just Energy Transition Facility that will support Africa's energy transition in alignment with the Paris Agreement, noting the role of gas as an important transition energy in this process;
6. *Calls for* reallocation of SDRs from willing advanced economies to Africa, and recommends that a portion of these are channelled through the African Development Bank as a prescribed holder to leverage the resources to provide greater financing to African economies;

7. *Also calls for* a substantial 16th replenishment of the African Development Fund to enable it to meet the growing needs of the continent and further calls for the amendment of the Agreement Establishing the Fund to enable it to seek resources in the financial market for the benefit of fragile African countries and States in transition;
8. *Recognizes* the critical link between security, investment, economic growth and development and calls for the exploration and evaluation of potential financing, including Security-Indexed Investment Bonds (“SIIBs”) as one of the key instruments for mobilizing resources to address the root causes of insecurity, enhance capacity to protect investments and livelihoods, and rehabilitate communities and infrastructure adversely impacted by insecurity; and
9. *Calls for* the establishment of an African Financing Stability mechanism and directs the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to work with all relevant stakeholders to accelerate operationalization of the mechanism and its growth.

Assembly/AU/Dec.818 (XXXV)

Decision on the Reports of the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Forums of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Reports of the Thirtieth and the Thirty-first Ordinary Sessions of the African Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and Government held on 25 March 2021 and 4 February 2022, respectively;
2. *Congratulates* H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, for his election as the new Chairperson of the African Peer Review (APR) Forum of Heads of State and Government, and H.E. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, for his election as the incoming Chairperson of the APR Forum;
3. *Commends with appreciation* H.E. Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and outgoing Chairperson of the APR Forum, for his sterling leadership of the APRM, including ensuring that the APRM continues to realize its mandate successfully amid the COVID-19 pandemic;
4. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.765 (XXXIII) in which the Assembly stressed the need for the APRM to be provided with adequate and sufficient human resources and budget allocations so as to execute its mandate without hindrance and enhance its functional autonomy;
5. *Supports* the decision of the APR Forum to establish the APRM Governance Support Programme which will finance accelerators in APRM Participating States in three areas: (i) Implementation of national plans of actions (NPOAs) emanating from the Review processes; (ii) Implementation of the national reform agendas which promote good governance, the rule of law, human rights, democracy, transparent, accountable, capable institutions and transformative leadership; and (iii) undertaking of national governance assessments;
6. *Decides* that the APRM Governance Support Programme should be capitalized through outstanding contributions/arrears of APRM Participating States, voluntary contributions by Participating States and mobilization of funds from domestic and international partners; requests the APRM Continental Secretariat to work in collaboration with the African Union Commission to develop all the necessary legal instruments for the APRM Governance Support Programme and present them to the relevant AU policy organs for consideration and adoption before the operationalization of the Programme;
7. *Acknowledges with deep appreciation* the adoption of the APRM Continental Secretariat organizational structure by the Executive Council and ultimately by the Assembly; stresses the need for the APRM to be provided

with adequate budgetary allocations to implement the APRM Continental Secretariat organizational structure without any impediments;

8. *Commends* the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, and the Chief Executive Officer of the APRM Continental Secretariat, Professor Edward Maloka, for their steadfast and sustained efforts ensuring that the APRM organizational structure is approved by the AU policy organs and that the APRM realizes its mandate;

9. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.765 (XXXIII) in which the Assembly requested the APRM to organize the African Migration Governance Conference in collaboration with the AU Commission and relevant stakeholders focusing on migration governance and sharing of best practices among AU Member States; requests the APRM, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and relevant stakeholders, to expedite and finalize all preparations for the holding of the African Migration Governance Conference working closely with the host Member State; decides that the Conference should be held during the first half of 2022 and adequate financial resources should be provided towards the successful hosting of the African Migration Governance Conference by the AU policy organs;

10. *Welcomes with appreciation* the peer review reports of the Republic of Liberia, the Republic of Namibia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of South Africa; congratulates H.E. George Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and H.E. Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, for their commitment to good governance as evidenced in the implementation of the APR process in their respective countries;

11. *Encourages* the Republic of Liberia, the Republic of Namibia, the Federal Republic Nigeria and the Republic of South Africa to take into account the observations of Members States on their country review reports as well as the recommendations contained in their reports for the development and implementation of the national programme of action and align the same to the AU Agenda 2063;

12. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the progress report of the Republic of Uganda on the implementation of its Second Country Review Report and the progress report of the Republic of Mauritius on the implementation of its First Country Review Report; commends H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, and H.E. Pravind Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, for their outstanding leadership and consistent efforts to improving governance in their countries and on the continent;

13. *Also acknowledges with satisfaction* the targeted review reports of the Republic of Zambia on the Contribution of Tourism to the Economy and the Contribution of Mineral Resources to the Economy; and the Republic of Sierra Leone on Health Governance and the COVID-19 Response;

14. *Expresses gratitude* to H.E. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia, H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, for their outstanding leadership in promoting good governance for national development;

15. *Urges* the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Sierra Leone to consider the recommendations of Member States on their targeted review reports including the recommendations contained in the reports on the development and implementation of the national programme of action as a necessary step towards attaining sustainable and broad-based socio-economic development;

16. *Expresses appreciation* to the APR Panel Members for their leadership in the conduct of the country reviews and targeted reviews; commends the APR Panel Members for ensuring that the reviews are undertaken with integrity, competency, independence and professionalism and in a credible manner free of political manipulation based on technically and culturally acceptable standards;

17. *Encourages* APRM Participating States that have not been peer reviewed to take the necessary measures to ensure that country reviews are undertaken, and their reports are presented to the APR Forum for peer review; further urges the APRM Participating States that have been peer reviewed to implement their national plan of action and recommendations to inform institutional reform at the national level and avert highlighted challenges in their peer reviewed reports; requests that the APRM, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, other AU organs and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), to undertake the Governance Gap Analysis as an assessment tool for APRM support to Participating Member States in political transition; takes note with satisfaction the adoption by the APR Forum of the deepening the review proposals aimed at strengthening the APRM processes; endorses the proposals and requests the APRM to ensure their implementation; congratulates the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Burundi for their accession as a new APRM Participating Member States; expresses appreciation to H.E. Félix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, for their courageous decision in joining the APRM, the premier home-grown, African good governance mechanism; encourages both the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Burundi to undertake their First Country Reviews pursuant to the APRM legal instruments;

18. *Encourages* all Member States of the AU that have not yet joined the APRM to accede to the APRM in line with the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063; requests the APRM to continue to follow up with Member States that have not yet acceded to the APRM in order to expedite the Assembly Decision on Universal Accession by 2023;

19. *Welcomes with appreciation* the appointment by the Thirtieth APR Forum of new APR Panel Member, Dr. Abdoulie Janneh from the Republic of the Gambia, as a member of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons representing the West Africa Region; further welcomes with satisfaction the appointment as new Panel Members by the Thirty-first APR Forum: Mr. Matthew Gowaseb from the Republic of Namibia, representing the Southern Africa Region, the Honourable Lydia Wanyoto-Mutende from the Republic of Uganda, representing the East Africa Region, and Ambassador Ahmed Arait Ali from the Republic of Djibouti, also representing the East Africa Region;

20. *Expresses deep appreciation* to the retiring APR Panel Members, Professor Ibrahim Gambari, Professor Fatma Zohra Karadja, Ambassador Omar Mona, Bishop Dinis Singulane and Ambassador Ombeni Yohana Sefue and the late Honourable Hope Kivengere for their exemplary performance during their tenure of office as Members of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons;

21. *Conveys its sincere condolences* to the family of the late Honourable Hope Kivengere, the Government and the people of the Republic of Uganda, for the untimely passing of the Honourable Hope Kivengere, APR Panel Member, on 20 October 2021;

22. *Further welcomes with appreciation* the appointment by the APR Forum, of Dr Ali Abdel Rhamane Haggar as Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons for the year 2022 and Dr Abdoulie Janneh from the Republic of the Gambia as the Vice-Chairperson of the APR Panel and incoming Chairperson of the APR Panel for the year 2023;

23. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.631 (XXVIII) on the revitalization of the APRM; takes note with great satisfaction the APRM Continental Secretariat, Chief Executive Officer, Prof Edward Maloka's Close Out Report on the revitalization of the APRM (2016-2020); expresses gratitude to the APR Forum and all structures of the APRM and the AU for working tirelessly in ensuring that the APRM is revitalized; urges all structures of the APRM and the AU to safeguard and consolidate all gains achieved so far and ensure that the mechanism remains the premier hom-grown, African good governance tool for the realization of Agenda 2063;

24. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.758 (XXXIII), on the adoption of the APRM Statute; welcomes with satisfaction the decision by the APR Forum to align the contract of the APRM Continental Secretariat, the Chief Executive Officer, Professor Edward Maloka, with the APRM Statute by extending his tenure by one year, congratulates and wishes him the very best in carrying out his mandate and assures him of the continued support;

25. *Endorses* the approval by the APR Forum of the APRM Continental Secretariat 2021 Annual Report; commends the APRM for the unprecedented successes realized in 2021; encourages the APRM to broaden and deepen its efforts in implementing the APRM Strategic Plan (2020-2024) and in supporting the delivery of the AU Agenda 2063;
26. *Reiterates* that the APRM should be provided with sufficient financial and human resource provisions necessary for the delivery of the mandate of the APRM;
27. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.765 (XXXIII) in which the Assembly decided that the APRM should develop, in collaboration with AGA, the African Governance Report and present it to the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, scheduled to take place in February 2021; commends APRM for developing the Africa Governance Report 2021: Africa's Governance Futures for the Africa We Want, in collaboration with AGA, despite the COVID-19 pandemic challenges and making the report ready for presentation to the Assembly in February, 2021;
28. *Further commends* H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, outgoing Chairperson of the APR Forum for his excellent presentation of the Africa Governance Report to the Assembly on behalf of the APRM;
29. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.765 (XXXIII) in which the Assembly declared 9 March 2023 as the founding day of the APRM which should be celebrated by the continent and the AU family; takes note that the APRM will be celebrating 20 years since its establishment in 2003; decides that the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the APRM will be celebrated by the continent and the AU family throughout the year 2023 with year-long activities and events; appeals to the entire AU family to join the APRM as it commemorates this important anniversary; requests the APRM Secretariat, in close collaboration with the African Union Commission, to coordinate activities for an inclusive and participatory process of reflection on the last twenty years of the APRM in its effort of promotion of good governance and democracy on the continent;
30. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.765 (XXXIII), in which the Assembly commended the APRM for implementing the expanded mandate that covers all Member States of the AU; welcomes with satisfaction cooperation between the APRM and Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS) in fostering democracy and good governance; urges other Regional Economic Communities to work closely with the APRM in fostering democracy and good governance on the continent;
31. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.720 (XXXII) in which the Assembly decided that the Africa Governance Report shall be developed by the APRM, in collaboration with the Africa Governance Architecture (AGA), and shall be presented to the Assembly every two years for consideration by the Assembly at its ordinary sessions;
32. *Takes note with appreciation* of the presentation of the Second Africa Governance Report by H.E. Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the African Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and Government;
33. *Welcomes* the development of the Africa Governance Report 2021 under the theme, "African Governance Futures Scenarios 2063", and commends the APRM, the AGA, the Joint Task Force and the Institute for Futures Research at the University of Stellenbosch and other participating African research institutes and experts for the commendable work done in developing the African Governance Futures Scenarios 2063;
34. *Affirms* that the Africa Governance Report 2021 – "African Governance Futures Scenarios 2063" inspires us to accelerate efforts towards the full realization of the vision of the African Union (AU) of, "An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena," as well as the AU Agenda 2063 Aspirations and its Ten-Year Implementation Plans (FTYIP);

35. *Urges* Member States to consider and examine the recommendations contained in the report with a view to enhancing good governance and the sharing of commendable practices at both the national and continental levels;
36. *Encourages* Member States to develop and conduct their own governance futures research and scenarios as a self-assessment tool towards the realization of Agenda 2063's Aspiration 3 for "An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law," Aspiration 4 for "A peaceful and secure Africa" and Aspiration 6 for "People driven development relying on the potential of women and youth especially and caring for children";
37. *Requests* the APRM, in collaboration with AGA, to conduct further futures studies on governance and related issues as well as research and training on an ongoing basis in the spirit of the report;
38. *Further requests* the APRM, in collaboration with AGA, to officially launch and widely disseminate the report, and for all AGA Platform members to incorporate the Report in their annual work plans;
39. *Decides* that the APRM, in collaboration with AGA, should develop the Third Africa Governance Report with a focus on the nexus between governance and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR); and
40. *Affirms* that the Africa Governance Report shall be developed by the APRM in collaboration with AGA and shall be presented to the Assembly every two years for consideration by the Assembly at its ordinary sessions;
41. *Expresses gratitude* to the APR Forum and all structures of the APRM and the AU for working tirelessly in ensuring that the APRM realizes its mandate.

Decision on the Report of the AUDA-Nepad Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC)

The Assembly,

42. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, the Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);
43. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Thirty-ninth NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee;
44. *Reiterates* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) and Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XI) integrating the AUDA-NEPAD as an intrinsic part of the African Union and calls upon the African Union Commission and the AUDA-NEPAD Secretariat to continue to harmonize their work programmes to prevent duplication of roles;
45. *Reasserts* the essential role played by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) in the provision of political leadership and strategic direction to the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) and the NEPAD programme;
46. *Takes note of progress* that has been made by AUDA-NEPAD which includes preparation of a Regional Health Financing Hub (RHFH) and calls upon the AUDA-NEPAD and the AUC to facilitate the piloting of the health financing tracker in order to optimize its domestication and identification of the final set of indicators; we urge Member States and RECs to proactively support the piloting in order ensure that the tracker is in line with each country's needs;
47. *Recognizes* the efforts made by AUDA-NEPAD to ensure that the PIDA transboundary water projects implementation is accelerated through enhancing mutual accountability among partners through a consultative process carried out in the development of the PIDA Water scorecard framework, approves the framework for

tracking progress in the mobilization of PIDA water investments, and directs AUDA-NEPAD to continue mobilizing and establishing partnerships for PIDA implementation and report back bi-annually on the gaps and progress made in the mobilization of water investments for PIDA PAP 2 using the PIDA Water scorecard as a reference;

48. *Takes note* of the progress made by AUDA-NEPAD in developing, exploring and managing flexible fund models to support Member States and in implementing the AUDA-NEPAD mandate of carrying out full range resource mobilization, and calls upon AUDA-NEPAD to expedite processes for establishing the AUDA-NEPAD Development Fund to be operational by the end of 2023 and to report progress to the HSGOC and other AUDA-NEPAD structures;

49. *Notes with appreciation* the Kinshasa Declaration on Rural Transformation and commends the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and AUDA-NEPAD for the convening and hosting of the Third Africa Rural Development Forum;

50. *Commends* AUDA-NEPAD for the development and implementation of the Guidelines for Territorial Development in Africa and requests AUDA-NEPAD, with the support of development partners, to support Member States enhance planning and institutions for the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration on Rural Transformation; further requests AUDA-NEPAD, in collaboration with WFP, IFAD, FAO and ECA, to develop projects and programmes for the operationalization of the Kinshasa Declaration;

51. *Welcomes* the White Paper on Tourism Security in Africa and requests AUDA-NEPAD and UNWTO to support Member States in its operationalization;

52. *Appreciates* the call for ambitious reforms from Member States in the areas of curriculum, education funding, harmonization of certifications, for a nexus which connects science through tertiary education to policy in order to foster enhanced implementation capacity of State and non-State actors to drive markets and business enterprises, and requests AUDA-NEPAD to work with partners and higher education institutions to link education and development; also appreciates the current partnership with Princeton University and the African School of Economics;

53. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) on the recruitment of the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the AUDA-NEPAD Secretariat for a mandate of four years; welcomes and endorses the appointment of Ms. Nardos Bekele Thomas of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, as the new CEO; and entrusts her to take full and effective charge of the AUDA-NEPAD Secretariat as the legal representative of the institution;

54. *Expresses its appreciation* to outgoing CEO Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki for his sterling leadership of AUDA-NEPAD;

55. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the NEPAD HSGOC and endorses the extension of the current Bureau of the NEPAD HSGOC for an additional one year.

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**Decision on the Annual Report of the Union and Its Organs
including the Specific Thematic Issues by the Heads of State, Champions**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Union and its organs including thematic issues by the Heads of State, Champions;

2. *Decides* to rationalize the inclusion of the Leaders' reports in the Assembly agenda by retaining only two or three items related to the theme of the year and based on the current situation. The remaining reports should be included in the annual report of the Union and its organs.

(i) Decision on the Report of His Majesty Letsie III, King of Lesotho and African Union Champion on Nutrition, and the Biennial Report on Implementation of the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) Initiative

The Assembly,

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the African Nutrition Champion, His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom Lesotho, for the period 2019 to 2020 and the report on activities and progress on the African Leaders for Nutrition Initiative (2018-2020) and their recommendations;

4. *Recalls* the African Union (AU) decision on the appointment of an Africa Nutrition Champion, His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom Lesotho (Assembly/AU/Dec.621 (XXVIII)) and the extension of the Championship to 2019 ((Assembly/AU/Dec.739 (XXXII)) and the decision on the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) Initiative that endorsed the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) (Assembly/AU/Dec.681 (XXX));

5. *Commends* the work of the Africa Nutrition Champion and the Africa Leaders for Nutrition Initiative in sustaining nutrition advocacy in the effort to ensure Member States commit adequate financial resources to nutrition interventions;

6. *Noting with concern* that the COVID-19 pandemic has created major global health and economic shocks, with unprecedented impacts on people's health, nutrition and livelihoods, urges Member States to take note of the recommendations of the position paper entitled "Embedding Nutrition within the COVID-19 Response and Recovery" calling on all African Member States to ensure the incorporation and promotion of nutrition smart interventions within the COVID-19 response and recovery action plans;

7. *Reaffirms* the continued importance of nutrition, especially child nutrition, as a major pillar in the socio-economic transformation of Africa and calls on all Member States to continue prioritizing nutrition through the implementation of Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods and the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2015-2025);

8. *Endorses* to extend for another term (2022-2024) the mandate of His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho as the African Union Nutrition Champion to continue to rally Member States towards the implementation of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2015-2025) and the commitment of the Malabo Declaration on Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa to ending child hunger and bringing down stunting to 10 per cent and underweight to 5 per cent by 2025;

9. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Africa Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) Initiative, and urges the Africa Leaders for Nutrition to continue to support dialogue with high-level political leaders at the global and continental levels to support and sustain the momentum gained on increasing nutrition investment;

10. *Calls upon* African governments to play a leading role in multisectorial and multi-stake holder coordination and collaboration, by putting leadership for nutrition at the highest political level and for political leadership to facilitate the mobilization of domestic resources for nutrition, through close engagement with the ministries of finance.

(ii) Decision on the Report of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King Of Morocco and African Union Champion on Migration

The Assembly,

11. *Welcomes* the report presented by His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco and AU Champion on Migration;
12. *Congratulates* His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, Champion of the African Union on Migration;
13. *Commends* the work of the AU Champion on Migration and his initiatives to harness migration as a lever for community development in Africa, with the aim of establishing a responsible international partnership that promotes the safe and regular migration of people;
14. *Notes with concern* the major impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration in Africa, which has exacerbated the vulnerability of migrants;
15. *Reiterates* the need to generate better knowledge of the migration issue in Africa, for accurate qualitative and quantitative data on migration in order to inform and promote the harmonization of efficient migration policies;
16. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the official inauguration, on 18 December 2020, of the African Migration Observatory in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, which is expected to play a key role in the implementation of the recommendations of the African Agenda for Migration, presented at the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, on 29 January 2018;
17. *Requests* the AU Commission to expedite the recruitment process of the Observatory staff in accordance with its Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.750 (XXXIII) of 10 February 2020.

(iii) Decision on the Progress Report, of H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and Champion of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA)

The Assembly,

18. *Takes note with appreciation* of the 2021 Africa Malaria Progress Report submitted by H.E. Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, Chairperson of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance;
19. *Commends* H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta for his vision, leadership and advocacy as Chairperson of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance over the past two years, which has contributed significantly towards maintaining malaria high on Member States' development agendas despite the challenges of COVID-19;
20. *Recalls* its 2020 decision on the status of malaria in Africa (Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.770 (XXXIII) and Doc. Assembly/AU/13 (XXXIII)) adopted at the Thirty-third Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in February 2020;
21. *Also recalls* that "sound health and well-being" are essential to achieving our aspiration for a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development under the Agenda 2063 of the African Union;
22. *Further recalls* its commitments to reduce malaria incidence and mortality by 75 per cent in all Member States by 2025, compared with 2015, and to eliminate malaria in all Member States by 2030 as outlined in the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030;
23. *Also takes note* of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on "Consolidating Gains and Accelerating Efforts to Control and Eliminate Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly Africa, by 2030" (A/RES/75/328) of 13 September 2021;
24. *Further takes note* of the World Health Organization's World Malaria Report 2021, which notes that 10 million malaria deaths were averted in Africa since 2000 and a record number of children are protected by

seasonal malaria chemoprevention, but also that 602,000 Africans died from malaria in 2020, an increase of 68,000 (68 per cent due to COVID-19 disruptions), and that 80 per cent of deaths were children under the age of five;

25. *Takes note* of the World Health Organization's approval of the first malaria vaccine, which provides an additional tool to help combat malaria, and the contributions of the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Malawi, and the Republic of Ghana to the large-scale trials of this vaccine;
26. *Also takes note* that the next replenishment of the Global Fund begins in 2022 and that its successful replenishment is necessary to sustaining essential malaria and broader health services;
27. *Commends* Member States' efforts to sustain essential malaria services and activities, including insecticide treated nets, indoor residual spraying, and seasonal malaria chemoprevention campaigns, despite operational and financial challenges caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;
28. *Also commends* the Regional Economic Communities for supporting cross-border collaboration and subregional efforts to control and eliminate malaria;
29. *Further commends* the Youth Leaders who contributed to the continental Youth Strategy to Combat Malaria and are mobilizing national youth movements across the continent;
30. *Commends* the twenty-two Member States championing "Zero Malaria Starts with Me!" including the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Namibia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo which launched during 2021;
31. *Also commends* the fifteen Member States that have announced multisectoral councils and funds for domestic advocacy, action and resource mobilization for the Fight Against Malaria, including Burkina Faso, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Kingdom of Eswatini, the Republic of Botswana, the Republic of Cameroon, the Gabonese Republic, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Namibia, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of South Africa, the Republic of Uganda, and the Republic of Zambia;
32. *Further commends* Burkina Faso, Eswatini, Burundi, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia for publishing national scorecards for accountability and action to the ALMA Scorecard Hub, including for malaria; reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health; and neglected tropical diseases;
33. *Expresses concern* that many Member States are not on track to meet the continent's target of eliminating malaria by 2030;
34. *Also expresses concern* that significant financial gaps in national malaria strategic plans and the risk of reduced domestic funding for malaria, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, substantially increase the risk of a sustained resurgence in malaria cases and deaths;
35. *Further expresses concern* about the increasing prevalence of insecticide resistance and the threat of resistance to essential malaria medicines;
36. *Expresses concern* that disruptions to global supply chains increases the risk of stock-outs of life-saving commodities and a need to accelerate procurement timelines and undertake to implement innovative approaches, such as pooled procurement;
37. *Recognizes* that investments in combatting malaria, including for community health workers, disease surveillance, digitalization and use of data, are a pathfinder for strengthening the overall health sector and pandemic preparedness and response;

38. *Requests* the Commission, the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, and other development partners to sustain technical assistance, advocacy, and financing, including for the replenishment of the Global Fund and the implementation of “Zero Malaria Starts with Me” and “High Burden to High Impact”;
39. *Calls upon* Member States to:
- (a) Sustain essential malaria and health services during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;
 - (b) Mobilize additional domestic funding for malaria control and elimination, including through the establishment of multisectoral End Malaria Councils and Funds;
 - (c) Invest in community health workers, digitalization, and disease surveillance for malaria as a pathfinder for pandemic preparedness and response;
 - (d) Implement “Zero Malaria Starts with Me” campaigns to help sustain malaria high on the national development agenda, engage and empower communities, and mobilize additional resources;
 - (e) Improve the quality and sharing of malaria data, including through the dissemination and use of malaria scorecards so that all individuals are aware and empowered to act;
 - (f) Participate in the replenishment of the Global Fund, including by renewing commitments and engaging partners and the global community;
 - (g) Continue strengthening cross-border coordination and collaboration through the Regional Economic Communities and related initiatives;
 - (h) Accelerate the transition to next-generation malaria commodities to mitigate the impact of insecticide and drug resistance;
 - (i) Increase capacity for local manufacturing of health commodities, including essential malaria commodities;
 - (j) Mobilize youth leaders to champion malaria control and elimination and contribute towards universal health coverage.
- (iv) Decision on the Report of H.E. Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the Peoples’ Democratic Republic of Algeria and Champion on the Fight against Terrorism and Violent Extremism

The Assembly,

40. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report prepared by H.E. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, in his capacity as Coordinator on the Fight against Terrorism and Violent Extremism, and commends the President for his excellent leadership;

41. *Also welcomes* the progress made in the exercise of his mandate as Coordinator on the Fight against Terrorism and Violent Extremism, and the proposals made in the letter of 31 August 2021, addressed to H.E. Félix Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, then Chair of the African Union;

42. *Requests* the Commission to finalize the second African Plan to Combat Terrorism, in line with the proposals contained in the Memorandum on the Pillars of Joint AU Action against the Scourge of Terrorism and Violent Extremism (Doc. Assembly/AU/17/5 (XXXII));

43. *Further requests* the Commission to operationalize the African Special Fund for Combating Terrorism and to activate the Subcommittee on Counter-Terrorism under the Peace and Security Council;

44. *Reaffirms* the need to establish as soon as possible an African list of persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts, including foreign terrorist fighters, and to implement the African arrest warrant project;

45. *Welcomes* the contribution and role played by the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and the African Police Cooperation Mechanism (AFRIPOL) in the effort to combat terrorism and violent extremism and encourages Member States to further strengthen their cooperation with these bodies.

(v) Decision on the Report of H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, Champion of the AU Institutional Reform

The Assembly,

46. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress made on institutional reforms and challenges on the implementation of the outstanding reform priorities and commends H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, for his leadership;

47. *Also takes note* of the progress in the implementation of the 0.2 per cent levy on eligible imports, adopted in July 2016 as an important mechanism for leveraging the capacities of Member States' treasuries to provide adequate and timely financing to the Union;

48. *Urges* Member States to accelerate implementation of the 0.2 per cent levy on eligible imports, adopted in July 2016 with a view to reaching at least 35 Member States fully implementing the levy;

49. *Decides* to extend the deadline for submitting the outcome of the remaining reform priorities by one year to February 2023.

(vi) Decision on the Report of H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, AU Champion on Domestic Health Financing

The Assembly,

50. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress that has been made by AUDA-NEPAD in preparation of a Regional Health Financing Hub (RHFH) design and operational manual which lays out the overall operational framework of the RHFH;

51. *Mindful* of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.810 (XXXIV) of 6 to 7 February 2021 on domestic health financing (ALM-Investing in health), which requested the Commission to speed up the implementation of Item 6 (v) of the February 2019 ALM-Investing in Health Declaration, regarding working with partners to create regional platforms to support Member States to increase domestic health financing, by assigning responsibility for coordinating this mandate to AUDA-NEPAD;

52. *Recalling* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.619 (XXVII), further takes note of progress made in the development of the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health that will help with financial planning for the health sector and with monitoring performance against AU commitments;

53. *Welcomes* the support to the SADC and EAC regions to secure ministerial endorsements to operationalize the pilot Regional Health Financing Hubs and the plans to develop a Private Sector Engagement Framework and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan;

54. *Requests* the AUDA-NEPAD and the AUC to facilitate the piloting of the Health Financing Tracker in order to optimize its domestication and identification of final set of indicators;

55. *Urges* Member States and RECs to proactively support the roll-out of the Health Financing Tracker in order to ensure that the tracker is in line with country needs and contexts; and further urges Member States and RECs to participate in the design and implementation activities of the Regional Health Financing Hub (RHFHs).

(vii) Decision on the Report of H.E. Mr. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana and African Union Champion on the AU Financial Institutions

The Assembly,

56. *Takes note with appreciation* the report of the Champion for the Establishment of the African Union Financial Institutions, and commends H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, for his leadership;

57. *Further decides* on the following:

(a) *Urges* the Champion to work closely with the Presidents whose countries are hosting the African Central Bank (Nigeria), the African Monetary Fund (Cameroon) and the African Investment Bank (Libya) to advocate jointly for signature and ratification of the legal instruments establishing the African Monetary Fund and African Investment Bank; and, in the case of the African Central Bank, advocate jointly for rapid attainment of macroeconomic convergence to lead Africa towards Pan-African economic and monetary union;

(b) *Requests* the African Union Commission to commission a technical study on the African Union Financial Institutions in the current economic and financial context of the Member States to address all the technical issues surrounding the establishment of the AUFIs. The issues to be covered in the technical study should include shareholding structure; optimal initial authorized levels of share capital; capital subscription formula; and, among others, the costs that Member States may incur as a result of setting up these institutions;

(c) *Decides* that the terms of reference reflecting the scope and other dimensions of the study must be developed and shared with Member States to validate before the commencement of the study. The study should also answer to the questions posed by the Champion in his report to the Assembly;

(d) *Further decides* that the Champion and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission reach out to the African private sector, the African diaspora as well as the African pension, mutual and sovereign wealth funds to invite them to invest in the African Investment Bank in a model of strategic collaboration with African governments that should be mutually agreed upon;

(e) *Calls upon* all Member States to work with renewed zeal towards generating signature and ratification of the legal instruments of the African Monetary Fund and the African Investment Bank as well as attain consensus of levels of their initial capitalization so that an extraordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government solely dedicated to the establishment of the African Union financial institutions is convened before the end of 2024;

(f) *Requests* the African Union Commission to work closely with the Association of African Central Banks to ensure that all the pending activities on the establishment of the African Monetary Institute are carried out before the end of 2022 and the results of that engagement be part of the Champion's report to the Assembly in 2023;

(g) *Further requests* the African Union Commission to enhance collaboration with the African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA) with strategic focus strengthening and scaling up the African Exchanges Linkage Project (AELP) toward its transformation as the Pan-African Stock Exchange (PASE) and conclusion of the

memorandum of understanding and also decides that the results of that collaboration be part of the Champion's report to the Assembly in 2023;

(h) Furthermore requests the African Union Commission to organize regular meetings chaired by the Ambassador of Ghana, representing the Champion, and with the participation of the Ambassadors of the host countries of the African Central Bank (Nigeria), the African Investment Bank (Libya), and the African Monetary Fund (Cameroon) to review periodically progress on establishing the African Union financial institutions and also decides that the results of their work be part of Champion's annual report to the Assembly beginning in 2023;

(i) Calls Upon the African Export-Import Bank, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to provide appropriate technical support to the African Union Commission for the speedy operationalization of the African Union financial institutions;

(j) Adopts the macroeconomic convergence criteria to allow for the monitoring of our path towards a common African currency and urges Member States and Regional Economic Communities to apply them scrupulously;

(k) Requests the African Union Commission to ensure that the agenda for the forthcoming EU-AU Summit in Brussels, Belgium, scheduled for 17 to 18 February 2022, includes the proposal that SDR allocation rights for Africa should be channeled through the African Development Bank and the Afreximbank, with particular reference to the SDR \$100 billion that European nations committed to Africa at the Paris Summit in May 2021;

58. *Stresses* the importance of flanking measures to facilitate rapid establishment of the African Union financial institutions and to this end:

(a) Calls upon all Member States to enhance domestic resource mobilization with a view to meeting the target of using 75 to 90 per cent of domestic resources to implement Agenda 2063 projects and programmes and encourages them to submit status reports to the Champion which will be incorporated in his report to the Assembly in 2023 under the section on flanking measures;

(b) Requests the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD to commission urgently an input action-oriented study focused on positioning African economies to attain and sustain 7 to 10 per cent annual economic growth rates in the next 10 to 30 years in line with the stipulations of the African Union Agenda 2063 and calls upon the Champion to incorporate the findings and recommendations of that study in his report to the Assembly in 2023 under the section on flanking measures;

59. *Requests* the Champion to submit the next status report to the Assembly in 2023.

(viii) Decision on the Report of H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Champion on the CAADP Biennial Review

The Assembly,

60. *Takes note with appreciation* of the third Biennial Review Report on the Implementation of the June 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, and the highlights of its findings on Accelerating CAADP Implementation for a Resilient African Food System and commends H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Champion on CAADP Biennial Review, for his leadership;

61. *Recalls* Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIII) adopting the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods in Africa and which also calls on the AU Commission and the NPCA, in collaboration with partners, 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;

62. *Recognizes* the efforts of the African Union Commission and the AUDA-NEPAD in mobilizing key stakeholders and development partners to build partnership with Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to establish a mechanism for monitoring, evaluation and reporting, in a more aligned manner, on the progress made in implementing the commitments of the Malabo Declaration;

63. *Commends* the positive response of Member States in conducting self-assessments, inclusive validation process and providing information for the preparation of the third biennial review report to the Assembly of the African Union on the progress made in implementing the commitments for agricultural transformation in Africa; while noting challenges faced by Member States in collecting and compiling quality data to report progress on all goals and targets set in the Malabo Declaration;

64. *Concerned* about the fragility of African food systems as demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic and other shocks such as climate change, desert locust and fall army worm infestation that have resulted in an increase in hunger and malnutrition on the continent;

65. *Also commends* the African Union Commission and AUDA-NEPAD for leading the development of a continental common position presented to the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit;

66. *Notes with satisfaction* the enormous efforts invested by Member States in implementing the Assembly Declaration (Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIII)) to accelerate achievements made in the Malabo Declaration; while recognizing that, for the insufficient performance shown by some Member States in several cases to reach the common set goals, considerable effort and attention are still needed to rally ourselves to CAADP implementation by domesticating the Malabo commitments and outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit in our national and regional agriculture investment plans;

67. *Underscores* the necessity to take further actions in accelerating the implementation of the Africa Agriculture Transformation Agenda within the CAADP framework by increasing investment finance for agriculture, strengthening institutional capacity for implementation, improving coordination mechanisms to achieve concrete results and impacts leading to shared prosperity and improved livelihoods for African citizens;

68. *Calls upon* all Member States of the African Union Commission, to mobilize adequate technical and financial resources in supporting agricultural data systems, monitoring and evaluation systems and strengthen mutual accountability structures to trigger evidence-based planning for agriculture transformation at all levels;

69. *Requests* the African Union Commission to work closely with Member States, technical and financial development partners, the private sector and civil society to mobilize the required support to strengthen mutual accountability, agricultural data systems and knowledge management, institutionalize the biennial review mechanisms and the Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard to ensure peer learning and scaling up of the agriculture transformation agenda embedded in the Malabo Declaration.

(ix) Report of H.E. Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and AU Champion, on the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council (C10)

The Assembly,

70. *Takes note with appreciation* of the high-level meetings of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government, including the Ninth Ministerial Meeting held in Kampala, Uganda, in January 2022, and the high-level outreach with the P-5 and other stakeholders on the reform of the United Nations Security Council;

71. *Adopts* the Twenty-second Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council, by H.E. Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Coordinator of the Committee of Ten, while commending his leadership;
72. *Recalls* previous decisions of the Assembly on the reform of the United Nations Security Council;
73. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the progress made by the Committee of Ten in promoting and canvassing support for the Common African Position as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 2005 Sirte Declaration on the United Nations Security Council Reform;
74. *Welcomes*, in that regard, the growing acceptance of the legitimacy of the Common African Position on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
75. *Encourages* the Committee to continue holding its high-level and outreach meetings with a view to further intensify efforts aimed at promoting and canvassing the Common African Position on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
76. *Reaffirms* that the Common African Position as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 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; as the only viable option for Africa's full representation at the United Nations Security Council;
77. *Reiterates* that full representation of Africa in the United Nations Security Council means: (i) not less than two permanent seats at the United Nations Security Council with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership including the right of veto; (ii) five non-permanent seats; (iii) that the African Union reserves the right to select its representatives for election to the United Nations Security Council to act in its name and on its behalf;
78. *Also reiterates* that even though Africa is opposed, in principle, to the veto, it is of the view that so long as it exists, and as a matter of common justice, it should be made available to all permanent members of the United Nations Security Council;
79. *Further reiterates* the firm commitment to preserve Africa's unity and solidarity on all aspects of the United Nations Security Council reform process, including participation within and outside the inter-governmental negotiations, and to continue to speak cohesively with one voice in unity of purpose on all aspects of the reform process;
80. *In that regard, reiterates* that African Union Member States in New York with dual membership, should withdraw such membership from all other interest groups, in order to further consolidate the Common African Position as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;
81. *Reiterates* that given the wide-ranging divergences in views and positions of the respective interest groups vis-à-vis the inter-connectedness of the five key clusters as set out in Decision 62/557, engaging in a text-based negotiation, at this stage, without agreeing on the principles will not only be premature but counter-productive;
82. *Requests* the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government to continue to intensify its engagement at the highest level with other interest and regional groups and key stakeholders, including the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council with a view to building on progress made in advancing, canvassing and promoting the Common African Position contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration on the Reform of United Nations Security Council;
83. *Further requests* the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the reform of the United Nations Security Council to:

- (i) Ensure that all outcome documents emanating from the ongoing inter-governmental negotiation process relating to the Common African Position fully reflect the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration in all respects;
- (ii) Continue to implore other African countries to withdraw their membership from other interest groups to enhance the cohesiveness of the Common African Position and remove the impression of a divided Africa;
- (iii) Reiterates the imperative and legitimacy of the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;
- (iv) All AU Member States should continue to defend, canvass and promote the Common African Position on all facets of the reform at every opportunity;
- (v) Reaffirms Africa's position on the veto and opposes the creation of a third category of membership of the Security Council, which is not in compliance with the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;
- (vi) All African Union Member States, to reflect in their respective national statements at the opening of the seventy-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2021, a concise common language to promote and canvass the Common African Position, and to reiterate the call for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council;
- (vii) African Union Member States to include the issue of the United Nations Security Council reform among their foreign policy priorities in their engagements with non-African partners, in particular, the need to correct without further delay, the historical injustice that the African continent continues to endure;

84. *Directs* the Commission to make provision in the Commission's proposed budget for the purpose of funding and facilitating the activities of the Committee of Ten on United Nations Reforms;

85. *Decides* 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 Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

(x) Report of H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, AU Champion and Chairperson of the High-Level Committee on Libya

The Assembly,

86. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo and Chairperson of the African Union High Level Committee on Libya;

87. *Welcomes* the progress made towards restoring peace and stability in Libya since the establishment of the Berlin Process on 19 January 2020;

88. *Also welcomes* the efforts made at the continental and international levels to find a way out of the crisis in Libya;

89. *Further welcomes* the international initiatives taken over the past two years, with a view to the successful completion of the electoral process, namely, the Second Berlin Conference on Libya, held on 23 June 2021, the Ministerial Meeting of Libya's Neighbouring Countries, held in Algiers on 30 and 31 August 2021, and the Paris Conference on Libya, held on 12 November 2021;

90. *Recalls* its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Libya;

91. *Further recalls* its commitment to an inclusive political process led by Libyans and owned by Libyans;
92. *Invites* the High-Level Committee to continue its mandate and thus contribute, within the framework of the International Monitoring Committee, to the success of the presidential and legislative elections, initially scheduled for December, which have been postponed sine die;
93. *Welcomes* the efforts made by H.E. Denis Sassou N'Guesso, President of the Republic of Congo, Chairperson of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya, in the search for a political solution to the crisis in Libya;
94. *Endorses* the proposal for a rapid renegotiation with the United Nations to structure a real collaboration on the Libyan Reconciliation file;
95. *Also endorses* the proposal for the immediate relocation of the African Union Liaison Office, still based in Tunis, to Tripoli;
96. *Further endorses* the recommendation for a joint visit to Libya by the Chairperson of the High-Level Committee and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission before the elections;
97. *Requests* the Commission to make the necessary contacts for the detailed elaboration of the operationalization plan of the Reconciliation Conference.
- (xi) Report of the Champion of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC)

The Assembly,

98. *Takes note with appreciation and commends* the report of the Coordinator of the Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of the Republic of Kenya, on the outcomes of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP26) the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 16); and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 3);
99. *Expresses appreciation* to the outgoing CAHOSCC Coordinator, H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, for coordinating the work of CAHOSCC from 2020-2021, and for the outstanding achievements in providing political direction and maintaining the unity of Africa in the pursuit of its interest in the climate change negotiations at COP26;
100. *Acknowledges* the utmost commitment of CAHOSCC in the provision of the political oversight and guidance in facilitating Africa to be stronger, unified in the spirit of Pan-Africanism and speaking with one voice in the global climate change negotiations;
101. *Takes note with appreciation* of the political guidance and preparatory meetings convened by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and meetings of the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN) in preparation for COP26;
102. *Also expresses appreciation* to Excellencies coordinating the African Climate Commissions and Initiatives: the African Islands Climate Commission; the Congo Basin Climate Commission; the Sahel Climate Commission; the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and the Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative (AAA) for their committed leadership in expediting the operationalization and scaling-up of these initiatives;

103. *Further expresses appreciation* to the African Group of Negotiators for representing the interests of Africa in the climate change negotiations and urges the Group to continue to represent the interests of Africa and speak with one voice to advance the interest of African countries;
104. *Congratulates* the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the successful outcome of COP26, and welcomes the Arab Republic of Egypt as the incoming President of COP27;
105. *Also acknowledges with appreciation* the ongoing preparations by the Arab Republic of Egypt on the operationalization of the Africa Adaptation Initiative Technical Support Unit, with the views of a successful completion of its operationalization ahead of COP27;
106. *Reiterates* our pledge to fully support the Arab Republic of Egypt in the preparation of the African COP and facilitation of successful outcomes, and urges development partners and the private sector to provide resources to facilitate an ambitious outcome of COP27 that promotes the implementation of climate actions and supports sustainable development;
107. *Commits* to the multilateral process of addressing climate change, and the implementation of climate actions under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement to be guided by the prescribed principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances;
108. *Further acknowledges* the importance of science for effective climate action, and the findings of the international scientific bodies, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); and the Africa State of Climate Report which is co-produced by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the African Regional Climate Centres with the support of the AU Commission, that highlighted that the African continent is facing unprecedented pressures owing to various extreme weather events and slow-onset events caused by climate change;
109. *Reiterates* our call to parties under the UNFCCC to recognize the special needs and special circumstances of Africa in line with relevant previous decisions adopted by the COPs and reports of the Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth Sessions of the COP, and commits to continuing to work with parties and the incoming COP27 Presidency to reaching a decision that launches a consideration of the special needs and special circumstances of African countries under the Paris Agreement;
110. *Affirms* our commitment to implement the Paris Agreement with the aim of enhancing the implementation of the Convention, through balanced and ambitious actions on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation, reflecting equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of national circumstance;
111. *Reaffirms* the importance of strengthening mitigation efforts to align with holding the increase in global temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and urges developed country parties to revisit and implement their mitigation targets under the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
112. *Applauds* all African countries for having submitted ambitious targets under their NDCs and aim to implement their mitigation efforts, with the necessary international support, based on equity, in the context of sustainable development, national circumstances and efforts to eradicate poverty;
113. *Welcomes* the launch to elaborate the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) under the Glasgow-Sharm-el-Sheikh work programme at COP26, and urges parties to work on delivering a substantive milestone outcome at COP27 to contribute to the full and sustained operationalization of the GGA for an adequate adaptation response in the context of Article 2 of the Paris Agreement, including enhancing adaptation action and implementation,

adaptation financing and assessment of progress towards achieving the goal in the first and subsequent Global Stocktakes;

114. *Emphasizes* the adverse impacts of climate and extreme weather events on people, nature, and infrastructure, particularly in Africa, and stresses the urgent need to scale up the provision of finance, capacity-building and technology for enhancing adaptive capacity and building resilience;

115. *Reiterates* the concern underscored by the Glasgow Climate Pact of COP26 that registered the inadequacy of adaptation financing for responding to the worsening climate change impacts in developing countries, welcomes the agreement for developed country parties to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing country parties from 2019 levels by 2025, and urges developed country parties to provide additional climate finance for adaptation before COP27; and to pursue it through international cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement;

116. *Urges* developed country parties to provide new, additional and predictable climate finance for adaptation and for those developed country parties that have made pledges to increase their provision of climate finance to support adaptation in developing country parties in response to their growing needs, to fulfil their pledges at least prior to COP27;

117. *Expresses its disappointment* regarding the unfulfilled pledges of the US\$ 100 billion goal per annum by 2020 from developed to developing countries, whereas the resource needs have increased to address the worsening impacts of climate change; and urges developed countries to deliver on their pledge, including significantly increasing climate finance; and stresses the importance of delivering the US\$ 100 billion as soon as possible for building trust and faith in the multilateral process of addressing climate change;

118. *Notes with concern* the challenges and additional conditionalities faced by African countries in accessing climate finance, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention;

119. *Welcomes* the launch of deliberations on setting a new collective quantified mobilization goal prior to 2025 from a flow of US\$ 100 billion per year to take into account the needs and priorities of developing countries; and stresses that the consideration of the goal takes into account the reports of the UNFCCC that estimate the cumulative needs of developing country parties to be up to US\$ 6 trillion until 2030, and reiterates our call to developed country parties to mobilizing jointly at least US\$ 1.3 trillion per year by 2030, of which 50 per cent should be for mitigation and 50 per cent for adaptation with a significant percentage provided on a grant basis;

120. *Also welcomes* the recognition of the multiple forms and stages of just transitions by the Glasgow Climate Pact based on national circumstances and related COP26/CMA decisions, and emphasizes just transitions include the pathways to low emissions and climate resilient development, in the context of sustainable development and eradication of poverty, and on the basis of scaled-up climate finance for the transitions, including a guiding framework to support the process of making financial flows consistent with low emissions and climate-resilient development, and transfer of technology and capacity-building for the creation of new and quality jobs;

121. *Recognizes* the intrinsic relationship of climate change actions, responses, and the impacts on equitable access to sustainable development, and stresses the importance of ensuring adequate support for Africa sustainable pathways including through consideration of policies and ensuring that just transition financing is incorporated into approaches to align climate action with the goals of the Paris Agreement;

122. *Stresses* that the measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral measures, should not constitute discrimination or a restriction on exports from African countries, taking into consideration African trade initiatives and the African continental free trade zone, to enhance trade between African countries;

123. *Highlights* the important role of youth as acknowledged in the Glasgow Pact and invites Egypt as President of COP27 to engage with African stakeholders, in particular youth representatives; and calls upon

countries to ensure meaningful youth participation and representation in multilateral fora on climate change and that youth are part of Member State delegations to these sessions at the multilateral, national and local levels;

124. *Acknowledges* the need for additional support to the various climate commissions and other African Climate Initiatives and requests the AU Commission to strengthen coordination of all the initiatives at the continental level, recognizes the legal existence of the Congo Basin Climate Commission conferred through the signature by its members at the level of Heads of State and Government, on 29 April 2018, of the Protocol establishing it; supports the request for accreditation of the Congo Basin Climate Commission, as a subregional organization, to the African Union, with all the effects that this implies;

125. *Welcomes* the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan to guide, coordinate and support the continent's response to climate change for the period 2022-2032 and the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) (2021-2030); and hereby adopts these strategies and action plans;

126. *Takes note* of the candidacy of H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, to be appointed to perform the role of Champion of Disaster Risk Management in Africa; and decides to appoint H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, as a Champion of Disaster Risk Management in Africa;

127. *Concerned* by the exacerbated impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that has severely impacted on the health, economy of the continent and increased indebtedness of African countries;

128. *Reaffirms* the commitment to continue the efforts to conserve, protect and enhance the resilience of our environment and natural resources as part of our determined efforts in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and increase efforts to build a more sustainable and inclusive recovery including to future crises;

129. *Welcomes* the African Green Stimulus Programme and the African Union Green Recovery Action Plan which are intended to support the continent's sustainable development recovery response to the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and adopts these initiatives to contribute towards Africa's green recovery to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;

130. *Commends* the work done and commitment of the African Union Commission, AMCEN, the AGN and development partners for their contribution in advancing Africa's negotiation positions and climate change programmes.

(xii) Report of H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, former President of Niger and African Union Champion on the Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The Assembly,

131. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, former President of the Republic of Niger and Champion of the AfCFTA, and its recommendations thereof on the progress achieved since the start of trading under the AfCFTA on 1 January 2021;

132. *Welcomes and appreciates* the report of the Champion to the Third Mid-Year Coordination Meeting which assessed and reviewed the status of implementation pertaining to inter-Africa trade and continental integration and directs the implementation of Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XII) of July 2019 and submission of an updated report to the next Mid-Year Coordination Meeting;

133. *Also notes* the upcoming Third Intra-Africa Trade Fair (IATF), to take place in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in 2023 and takes note of the proposed Theme of the Year for 2023 as "Acceleration of AfCFTA Implementation"

and directs the AfCFTA Secretariat and the AUC to present the concept note to the relevant subcommittees and policy organs for consideration;

134. *Directs* the AfCFTA Secretariat to intensify its collaboration with the African Export–Import Bank and the African Development Bank as well as implement the AfCFTA Private Sector Engagement Plan;

135. *Recognizes* the critical importance of the role of the Assembly in advancing progress in the implementation of the AfCFTA and in the remainder of the AfCFTA negotiations and approves the recommendation to convene a meeting dedicated to the AfCFTA.

(xiii) Report of H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, African Union Champion on Gender and Development Issues in Africa

The Assembly,

136. *Takes note with appreciation* of the second report of H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana and AU Champion on Gender and Development issues in Africa;

137. *Adopts* the Kinshasa Declaration and Call for Action of the African Union Heads of State on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Girls;

138. *Decides* to institutionalize the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, with allocation of adequate and stable financial and human resources for the acceleration of the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.820 (XXXV)

Decision on Granting Israel an Observer Status to the African Union (Item proposed by Algeria and South Africa)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the briefing of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission;

2. *Decides* to establish an Ad Hoc Committee at the level of Heads of State and Government to further consult on the matter;

3. *Further decides* that the Ad Hoc Committee shall be composed of the Heads of State and Government of the following Member States:

- People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria;
- Republic of Cameroon;
- Democratic Republic of Congo;
- Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- Republic of Rwanda;
- Republic of Senegal; and
- Republic of South Africa;

4. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to report back at the next session of the Assembly and further requests the Chairperson of the Commission to facilitate the work of the Ad Hoc Committee under the overall leadership of the Chairperson of the Union;
5. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Assembly/AU/Dec.821 (XXXV)

Decisions on Draft Legal Instruments

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 following draft legal instruments:
 - (a) Revised AU Financial Rules;
 - (b) Amendment of Article 22, paragraph 1, of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption;
 - (c) Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security;
 - (d) Amendments to the Statute of the African Union Commission on International Law.

Assembly/AU/Dec.822 (XXXV)

Decision on the Election of the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union for 2022

The Assembly,

1. *Elects* the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union for 2022, as follows:
 - (i) Chairperson: Republic of Senegal;
 - (ii) First Vice-Chairperson: (*****);
 - (iii) Second Vice-Chairperson: State of Libya;
 - (iv) Third Vice-Chairperson: Republic of Angola; and
 - (v) Rapporteur: Democratic Republic of Congo.

Assembly/AU/Dec.823 (XXXV)

Decision on the Appointment of Fifteen Members of the Peace and Security Council

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the election of fifteen members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union by the Executive Council;

2. *Appoints* the following five Member States of the Peace and Security Council for a term of three years:

No.	Country	Region
(1)	Republic of Cameroon	Central;
(2)	Republic of Djibouti	Eastern;
(3)	Kingdom of Morocco	Northern;
(4)	Republic of Namibia	Southern;
(5)	Federal Republic of Nigeria	Western;

3. *Appoints* the following members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union for a term of two years:

No.	Country	Region
(1)	Republic of Burundi	Central;
(2)	Republic of Congo	Central;
(3)	United Republic of Tanzania	Eastern;
(4)	Republic of Uganda	Eastern;
(5)	Republic of Tunisia	Northern;
(6)	Republic of South Africa	Southern;
(7)	Republic of Zimbabwe	Southern;
(8)	Republic of Ghana	Western;
(9)	Republic of Senegal	Western;
(10)	Republic of The Gambia	Western;

4. *Takes note* of the concern of the Member States of the North African Region with regard to regional representation in the membership of the Peace and Security Council, and directs the Commission in full consultation with AU Member States to present a comprehensive report to the upcoming Executive Council, with concrete consensual proposals to amend Article 5, paragraph 1, of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.824 (XXXV)

Decision on the Appointment of Members of the Panel of the Wise

The Assembly,

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION (2022)

1. *Recalls* Article 11 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), which provided for the establishment of a Panel of the Wise (Panel) to support the efforts of the PSC and the Chairperson of the Commission in conflict prevention and resolution, including mediation;
2. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.663 (XXIX) adopted at the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa in July 2017 that appointed the fourth Panel for a three-year tenure, which ended in October 2020;
3. *Appreciates* the enormous efforts and commitment of the outgoing members: H.E. Hifikepunye Pohamba (Namibia), H.E. Ellen Sirleaf Johnson (Liberia), H.E. Dr. Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe (Uganda), H.E. Amr Mahmoud Abu Zaid Moussa (Egypt), and Ms. Honorine Nzet Biteghe (Gabon) for their contributions to the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa;
4. *Commends* the overall and regional deans of the African Diplomatic Corps in Addis Ababa for their contributions in facilitating the selection process for the incoming Panel as well as the vigorous efforts by the Commission to facilitate inclusivity and regional ownership through the development of a robust guideline;
5. *Decides* in line with Article 11, paragraph 2, of the PSC Protocol to appoint the following personalities as members of the fifth Panel of the Wise for a three-year mandate with effect from February 2022:
 - (a) Central Africa region: H.E. Domitien Ndayeeye, former President of the Republic of Burundi;
 - (b) Eastern Africa region: Justice (Rtd.) Effie Owuor, Republic of Kenya;
 - (c) Northern Africa region: H.E. Amr Mahmoud Abu Zaid Moussa, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, and Secretary-General of the Arab League (reappointed);
 - (d) Western Africa region: Professor Babacar Kante, former Vice-President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Senegal;
6. *Directs* the Chairperson of the Commission to consult with the Southern African region towards nominating a representative from the region and submit to the Forty-first Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
7. In line with Rule 4, paragraph 2, of the Assembly Rules of Procedure on delegation of authority, decides to delegate to the Forty-first Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, the authority to appoint a Southern African representative for the fifth Panel of the Wise;
8. *Encourages* Member States of the Union to extend unflinching support to the incoming members of the Panel to facilitate the implementation of their strategic mandate to the fullest extent possible; and requests the Commission to provide all requisite support to members of the Panel;
9. *Further requests* the Commission to collaborate with the newly appointed Panel to strengthen the operations of PanWise, FemWise-Africa;
10. *Takes note* of the efforts of the Commission to establish a Network of African Youth on Conflict Prevention and Mediation (WISEYouth), to form a holistic set of mechanisms to promote multi-stakeholder engagement in conflict resolution on the continent.

Assembly/AU/Dec.825 (XXXV)

Decision on the Date and Venue of the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the dates of the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, shall be the following:
 - (i) Forty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), from 16 to 27 January 2023;
 - (ii) Forty-second Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, from 15 to 16 February 2023; and
 - (iii) Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, on 18 and 19 February 2023;
2. *Requests* the Commission to make all the necessary arrangements for the successful hosting of the Thirty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly and the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC according to the aforementioned dates.

Assembly/AU/Dec.826 (XXXV)

Decision on the Date and Venue of the Fourth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.558 (XXIV) adopted in January 2015 which approved the offer made by the Republic of Zambia to host the June/July 2022 Ordinary Session of the Assembly;
2. *Further recalls* Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.687 (XXX) adopted in January 2017 and January 2018, respectively, regarding the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting;
3. *Decides* that the dates of the Fourth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting and preceding Executive Council and PRC Sessions, shall be as follows:
 - (i) Forty-fourth Ordinary Session of the PRC from 20 June to 08 July 2022, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
 - (ii) Forty-first Ordinary Session of the Executive Council from 14 to 15 July 2022, in Lusaka, Zambia;
 - (iii) Fourth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union and the RECs on 17 July 2022, in Lusaka, Zambia;
4. *Requests* the Commission to put in place all the necessary measures in order to organize the Fourth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting as well the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC according to the aforementioned dates.

Assembly/AU/Dec.827 (XXXV)

Decision on the Date of the Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification, Niamey, Niger

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.751 (XXXIII) adopted in February 2020 which requests the African Union Commission, in collaboration with UNIDO, ECA and Afro-Champions, to organize a summit on Africa's industrialization and economic diversification during the Africa Industrialization Week;

2. *Decides* that the dates of the Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification shall be 20 to 25 November 2022, in Niamey, Niger.

Assembly/AU/Dec.828 (XXXV)

Decision on the Date and Venue of the AU Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference and the Extraordinary Summit on Terrorism

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of Decision EX.CL/Draft/Dec.3 (XL) which welcomed the commitment of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and expressed appreciation for the progress made towards the organization of the AU Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference in May 2022, in the city of Malabo;
2. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.753 (XXXIII) of February 2020 whereby it was decided to “organize an Extraordinary Summit focusing on the challenges of terrorism and violent extremism, with a view to taking urgent action and measures necessary to support the countries which are facing the severe effects of terrorism”;
3. *Decides* to convene the Extraordinary Summit on terrorism and unconstitutional changes of regime in Africa, as proposed by the Republic of Angola, and welcomes the offer by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to host the aforementioned summit;
4. *Also decides* to convene the Extraordinary AU Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference on 25 to 27 May 2022, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea;
5. *Further decides* to hold the Extraordinary Summit on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Regime in Africa in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 28 May 2022.

Assembly/AU/Dec.829 (XXXV)

Decision on the Endorsement of the Outcome of the Third Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, October 2021

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Third Mid-Year Coordination Meeting held virtually on 16 October 2021 and adopts the recommendations contained therein;
2. *Also takes note* of the Report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the Status of Integration in Africa and the regional perspectives as presented by the Chairpersons of the RECs and endorse the recommendations contained therein;
3. *Requests* the AUC, RECs/RMs and the AUDA-NEPAD to further collaborate with Member States to agree on the remaining sectors concerning the division of the labour;
4. *Congratulates* Member States that have ratified the legal instruments related to the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons and encourages those that have not signed and ratified the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment to do so;
5. *Calls upon* the AUC, RECs, RMs and AUDA-NEPAD to work in close collaboration with Members States towards domesticating agreements, protocols and treaties, especially those related to trade and free movement;

6. *Highlights* the need to establish a Customs Union in line with the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community and calls upon the AUC to come up with an assessment with Africa's readiness towards the Customs Union;
7. *Takes note* of the report of the AU Champion on the COVID-19 response, H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, and commends the Champion's efforts in leading the AU's strategic response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and further commends the efforts of the Chair of the Union, H.E. Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi, Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Moussa Mahamat Faki, the AU Member States, the members of the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT), and the African Union Special Envoys to Mobilize International Support for the Continental Fight Against COVID-19;
8. *Calls for* equitable, affordable, timely and universal access to vaccines and available financing, and further calls upon Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) to adopt measures to promote resilience against future pandemics including investment in domestic vaccine manufacturing capacity;
9. *Adopts* the declaration of the Third Mid-Year Coordination Meeting held on 16 of October 2021.

Assembly/AU/Dec.830 (XXXV)

**Decision on the Progress Report on the Ratification of the
Treaty to Establish the African Medicines Agency (AMA Treaty)**

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the February 2019 Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.735 (XXXII), adopting the Treaty for the Establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA);
2. *Takes note* of the progress that has been made in the signing of the Treaty for the Establishment of the African Medicine Agency (AMA) by 28 AU Member States and the deposit of instruments of ratification by 18 Member States;
3. *Commends* the Commission and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) on the progress made thus far towards the establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA);
4. *Further commends* the support of Mr. Michel Sidibe, AU Special Envoy for AMA, to the Commission and for the high-level advocacy efforts towards the signing and ratification of the Treaty for the Establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA);
5. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the World Health Organization for its continued support in the establishment and operationalization of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) both technically and financially; further acknowledges with appreciation the support of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the European Commission; the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); the People's Republic of China; the Republic of Korea all other United Nations agencies, donors and the private sector for both their technical and financial support to the Commission in the establishment and operationalization of the African Medicines Agency (AMA);
6. *Encourages* Member States that have signed the Treaty to ratify it; and calls on other Member States to sign and ratify the Treaty to safeguard public health, safety and security by ratifying the AMA Treaty and operationalizing a medicines regulatory agency that will improve access to quality, safe and efficacious medicines and medical products on the continent;

7. *Further takes note* of the coming into force of the Treaty for the Establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) on 5 November 2021; and the offer to host the headquarters of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) by 13 AU Member States;
8. *Requests* the Commission to provide support to the Conference of States parties of the AMA for the operationalization of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) at the earliest;
9. *Authorizes* the Forty-first Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2022, to take a decision on behalf of the Assembly on the host of the AMA headquarters based on the recommendation of the Conference of States parties of the AMA.

Assembly/AU/Dec.831 (XXXV)

Decision on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XIII) adopted at its Thirteenth Extraordinary Session held on 5 December 2020 to start trading under the AfCFTA on 1 January 2021, on the basis of legally implementable and reciprocal schedules of tariff concessions, with agreed rules of origin, and customs documentation and commends the provisional commencement of trading;
2. *Takes note* of the Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Council of Ministers Responsible for Trade held in Accra, Ghana, on 28 and 29 January 2022;
3. *Further takes note* of the Report of the Fortieth Session of the Executive Council, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 2 and 3 February 2022, and the recommendations contained therein;
4. *Commends* the role of all States parties, non-States parties, customs unions, the Council of Ministers Responsible for Trade, other AfCFTA implementing institutions, the African Union Commission (AUC), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and the other African Union cooperating partners, on the significant progress made towards conclusion of the remainder of all outstanding issues in the negotiations and the start of commercially meaningful trading under the AfCFTA;

Signatures and Ratifications

5. *Calls upon* the remainder of the non-States parties, namely: Benin, Botswana, Comoros, Eritrea, Guinea Bissau, Libya, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan, which have not yet ratified the Agreement to do so as soon as possible and qualify as States parties, in order to increase the size of the market and the volume of trade under the AfCFTA;
6. *Also commends* members of the four Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that have submitted offers collectively as part of customs unions, and urges their constituent members that are yet to ratify and deposit their respective instruments of ratification of the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA to take urgent steps necessary to do so;

Protocol on Trade in Goods

7. *Welcomes* the submissions of the 43 tariff offers by:
 - (a) The Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) Member States: Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo;

(b) The East African Community (EAC) Member States: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda;

(c) The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Member States plus Mauritania: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo, plus Mauritania;

(d) The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Member States: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa; and

(e) The individual country submissions: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

8. *Congratulates* the AfCFTA Council of Ministers and the AfCFTA Secretariat for the transmission of all the 291 technically verified tariff offers that are compliant with the Modalities for Tariff Liberalization under the AfCFTA, and encourages the States parties among the 29¹ Member States to fast track the domestication processes in order to start commercially meaningful trading under the AfCFTA regime;

9. *Endorses* the Ministerial Directive to start trading by directing the Application of the Provisional Schedules of Tariff Concessions in order to ensure the provisional application of the tariff offers on a basis across the States parties among the 29 Member States, pending the conclusion of all outstanding issues on the Schedules of Tariff Concessions;

10. *Decides* that subsequent tariff schedules submitted by the States parties must specify a schedule of tariff cuts that meets the annual tariff reduction schedule in order to achieve zero-rated duties on 90 per cent of tariffs lines with the time frames set out in the Modalities and subject to reciprocity;

11. *Also decides* that the AfCFTA dismantling of tariffs should be annual tariff cuts based on the date of start of trading on 1 January 2021, and directs that future submissions and accessions should, reciprocally, apply tariff reductions following the current stage of liberalization as set in the Modalities;

12. *Further directs* the AfCFTA Secretariat to facilitate negotiations of the remaining 10 per cent of the tariff lines (Sensitive Products (7 per cent) and Excluded Products (3 per cent not exceeding 10 per cent of the total value of trade)), and requests the AfCFTA Council of Ministers to submit the final Schedules of Tariff Concessions as required by the AfCFTA Agreement by xxx;

13. *Directs* the Council of Ministers, the AfCFTA Secretariat, States parties and customs authorities to annually develop the AfCFTA Electronic Tariff Book identifying the annual tariff reduction by States parties;

14. *Also directs* the AfCFTA Secretariat to assist the States parties in migrating to the HS 2022 and transpose their Schedules of Tariff Concessions to HS 2022 and requests the AfCFTA Secretariat to conduct an impact assessment within three months;

15. *Urges* the States parties to fast track the publication of the trade procedures, documents and put in place the necessary trade infrastructure that is needed for effective trading;

¹ CEMAC: Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo; ECOWAS plus Mauritania: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Mauritania; Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zambia.

16. *Commends* the AfCFTA Secretariat on the progress made on trade facilitation on the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor, and endorses corridor approach to trade facilitation interventions towards the implementation of the AfCFTA;
17. *Directs* the AfCFTA Secretariat to continue the capacity-building for customs officers to implement the AfCFTA Agreement, and ensure its sustainability;
18. *Takes note* of the progress made in the Rules Of Origin negotiations with 87.7 per cent of agreed tariff lines, and directs the AfCFTA Council of Ministers and the AfCFTA Secretariat to facilitate the publication of the agreed Rules of Origin, pending the conclusion of all outstanding issues under negotiations;
19. *Endorses* the Provisional Application of Rules of Origin for the remaining outstanding tariff lines, the additional provisions and definition, as adopted by the Council of Ministers pending the adoption of all outstanding issues in the Rules of Origin negotiations, in line with Article 42, paragraph 3, of Annex 2 of the Protocol on Trade in Goods;
20. *Directs* the Council of Ministers and the AfCFTA Secretariat to adapt the agreed Rules of Origin to HS 2022 nomenclature;
21. *Takes note and commends* the Government of the Republic of Gabon for successfully hosting the AfCFTA Forum on Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and encourages implementation of Article 23 of the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA and directs the AfCFTA Secretariat to provide Guidelines towards finalization of the Regulations on SEZs and the Guidelines on Infant Industries;

Protocol on Trade in Services

22. *Welcomes* the submissions of services offers by 46 States and non-States parties namely: Angola, Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe;
23. *Takes note* of the establishment of the Committee on Trade in Services and its five subcommittees, namely: the Subcommittee on Specific Commitments; the Subcommittee on Regulatory Frameworks; the Subcommittee on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications; the Subcommittee on Trade in Services-related Issues; and the Subcommittee on AfCFTA Trade in Services Rules;
24. *Commends* the Council of Ministers on the considerable amount of work and progress undertaken in the negotiations on the five priority sectors and the development of cross-cutting regulatory frameworks, to facilitate the achievements of the objectives under the AfCFTA Agreement and the Protocol on Trade in Services;
25. *Commends* the Council of Ministers on the progress made in the negotiations on the Movement of Natural Persons (Mode 4) under Trade in Services and directs the Council of Ministers to facilitate the movement of business people on the continent in line with the modalities to be adopted through the due process;
26. *Takes note* of the great deal of outstanding work still to be undertaken in the conclusion of the negotiations in the five priority sectors and the development of regulatory frameworks, therefore endorses the decision to extend the deadline for completion of the trade in services negotiations in the five priority sectors to June 2022, including legal scrubbing; and
27. *Directs* the Council of Ministers to fast track the completion of all outstanding issues in the five priority services sectors as it relates to the development of Regulatory Frameworks;

Permanent Structure of the AfCFTA Secretariat

28. *Takes note* of the recommendation of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1126 (XXXIX) of the Executive Council of October 2021 on the Phase II Structure (265 positions) of the AfCFTA Secretariat for a four-year phased period, merit-based and transparent approach for recruitment of the positions in the structure, which should be open to all African Union Member States;
29. *Welcomes* the transfer of the Coordination Unit of the AfCFTA from the Commission to the AfCFTA Secretariat and directs the staff to undertake staff skills and competency audit to determine whether they meet the requirements of the AfCFTA approved structure;
30. *Also welcomes* the appointments to the four Director positions under the Phase I Structure, and commends the AfCFTA Council of Ministers for ensuring merit, gender and geographic balance;

Dispute Settlement Mechanism

31. *Reiterates* the role of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the AfCFTA as a central element for providing certainty and predictability in the resolution of disputes on the rights and obligations of States parties and in clarifying the provisions of the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA;
32. *Notes* the progress made by the Dispute Settlement Body in operationalizing the Protocol on Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes, including the establishment of a permanent Roster of Panellists and the Appellate Body as a standing tribunal of final instance; and
33. *Directs* the AfCFTA Secretariat to ensure that the appropriate budget provision is made available to enable the Dispute Settlement Mechanism to remain transparent, accountable, fair, predictable and independent in resolving disputes consistently with the provisions of the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA;

Phase II Negotiations

34. *Commends* the Council of Ministers for the establishment of the Committees, namely, Investment, Competition Policy, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Digital Trade, and Women and Youth in Trade and the relevant guidelines for negotiating as emanating from the principles of negotiations and relevant Rules of Procedures;
35. *Welcomes* the progress made in the Committee on Investment towards developing the Protocol on Investment that promotes, facilitates and protects intra-African investment and creates a harmonized and coordinated investment regime on the continent and emphasizes the need for the Committee on IPR to build upon ongoing work within the continent;
36. *Further welcomes* the progress made in the Committee on Competition Policy regarding the sequencing of work and capacity-building needs, including the development of Guidelines for development of the Protocol on Competition Policy, and directs the Council of Ministers, the AfCFTA Secretariat, the Commissioners of Competition Authorities in the various States parties and other stakeholders to identify interventions, including the AfCFTA Framework for implementing the Competition Policy;
37. *Recalls* its earlier commitments to broaden inclusiveness in the operation of the AfCFTA through interventions that support women, young Africans, small and medium-sized enterprises as well as integrating small informal traders by implementing a simplified trade regime, and decides to include the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade in the scope of the AfCFTA Agreement;

38. *Directs* the Council of Ministers, the AfCFTA Secretariat and other relevant stakeholders to fast track the conclusion of all Protocols on Phase II issues by September 2022;

Collaboration with Strategic Partners

39. *Appreciates* the financial and technical support provided by the African Development Bank, Afreximbank and other partners in the implementation of the AfCFTA and the remainder of the AfCFTA negotiations;

40. *Welcomes* the AfCFTA Strategy for Private Sector Engagement Plan and directs the AfCFTA Secretary-General to intensify collaboration between the AfCFTA Secretariat and the private sector;

AfCFTA Implementation Tools

(i) AfCFTA Adjustment Fund

41. *Commends* the AfCFTA Council of Ministers, the AfCFTA Secretariat and Afreximbank for the progress made in the establishment of the AfCFTA Adjustment Fund to address near-term disruptions as tariff revenues are reduced, industrial sectors are disordered, businesses and supply chains are reorganized to comply with the AfCFTA Agreement;

42. *Directs* the AfCFTA Secretariat and the Afreximbank to undertake all steps, including various private sector fund structures, for the full operationalization of the AfCFTA Adjustment Fund and avail the facility to States parties;

(ii) Pan-African Payments and Settlement System (PAPSS)

43. *Commends* the Government of the Republic of Ghana for successfully hosting the commercial launch of the Pan-African Payments and Settlement System (PAPSS) leading to the operational phase of PAPSS, piloting and execution of transactions in the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ), and directs the AfCFTA Secretariat and the Afreximbank, in consultation with Member States and Governors of the Central Banks, to deploy the System to cover the entire continent and finalize the regulatory frameworks;

(iii) AfCFTA Automotive Fund

44. *Commends* the AfCFTA Council of Ministers, the AfCFTA Secretariat and Afreximbank for mobilizing a facility of US\$ 1 billion for the development of the automotive sector, to support industrialization in Africa;

(iv) Second Inter-Africa Trade Fair (IATF)

45. *Commends* the Republic of South Africa for hosting the second Inter-Africa Trade Fair (IATF) in South Africa, from 15 to 21 November 2021, under the theme “Building Bridges for a Successful AfCFTA” And welcomes the offer of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to host IATF 2023;

Trade and Industrial Development Advisory Council

46. *Commends* the AfCFTA Council of Ministers for the establishment of the AfCFTA Trade and Industrial Development Advisory Council in line with the Article 3, subparagraph (g), of the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA and directs the AfCFTA Secretariat to work in collaboration with the African Union Commission towards its implementation;

Extraordinary Meeting

47. *Recognizing* the critical importance of the role of the Assembly in advancing progress in the implementation of the AfCFTA and in the remainder of the AfCFTA negotiations, approves the recommendations of the Council of Ministers Responsible for Trade to convene an Extraordinary meeting, dedicated to the AfCFTA;

Assembly/AU/Dec.832 (XXXV)

Decision on the Use of Kiswahili as a Working Language of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Assembly Decision/AU/Dec.796 (XXXIV), adopted at the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in February 2021, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, urging the African Union Commission to implement the Assembly decision on making Kiswahili a working language of the Union and to promote Kiswahili as a language of wider communication in Africa;
2. *Approves* the introduction of Kiswahili as a working language of the Union and a language of wider communication in Africa;
3. *Directs* the Commission to work out the modalities for its inclusion in the next budget of the Commission;
4. *Urges* Member States and the Commission to take all necessary measures to operationalize the use of Kiswahili as a working language of the African Union and a language of wider communication in Africa by July 2023 at the latest;
5. *Commends* the United Republic of Tanzania for their pledge of US\$ 250,000 towards the implementation of this Decision.

Assembly/AU/Dec.833 (XXXV)

Decision on Fast Tracking the CAADP-Malabo Commitments for Accelerating Agriculture Transformation in Africa through the Biennial Review Mechanism and the Africa Agricultural Transformation Scorecard (AATS)

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIII) adopting the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods in Africa and which also calls on the AU Commission and NPCA, in collaboration with partners 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;
2. *Takes note* of the third Biennial Review Report on the Implementation of the June 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, and the highlights of its findings on Accelerating CAADP Implementation for a Resilient African Food System;

African Food System

3. *Recognizes* the efforts of the African Union Commission and the AUDA-NEPAD in mobilizing key stakeholders and development partners to build partnerships with Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to establish a mechanism for monitoring, evaluating and reporting, in a more aligned manner, on the progress made in implementing the commitments of the Malabo Declaration;

4. *Commends* the positive response of Member States in conducting self-assessments, inclusive validation process and providing information for the preparation of the third biennial review report to the Assembly of the African Union on the progress made in implementing the commitments for agricultural transformation in Africa; while noting challenges faced by Member States in collecting and compiling quality data to report progress on all goals and targets set in the Malabo Declaration;
5. *Expresses concerns* about the fragility of African food systems as demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic and other shocks such as climate change, desert locust and fall army worm infestation that have resulted in an increase in hunger and malnutrition on the continent;
6. *Commends* the African Union Commission and AUDA-NEPAD for leading the development of a continental common position presented to the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit;
7. *Notes with satisfaction* the enormous efforts invested by Member States in implementing the Assembly Declaration (Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXIII)) to accelerate achievements made in the Malabo Declaration; while recognizing that, for the insufficient performance shown by some Member States in several cases to reach the common set goals, considerable effort and attention are still needed to rally ourselves to CAADP implementation by domesticating the Malabo commitments and outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit in our national and regional agriculture investment plans;
8. *Underscores* the necessity to take further actions in accelerating the implementation of the Africa Agriculture transformation agenda within the CAADP framework by increasing investment finance for agriculture, strengthening institutional capacity for implementation, improving coordination mechanisms to achieve concrete results and impacts leading to shared prosperity and improved livelihoods for African citizens;
9. *Calls upon* all Member States of the African Union Commission, to mobilize adequate technical and financial resources in supporting agricultural data systems, monitoring and evaluation systems and strengthen mutual accountability structures to trigger evidence-based planning for agriculture transformation at all levels;
10. *Requests* the African Union Commission to work closely with Member States, technical and financial development partners, the private sector and civil society to mobilize the required support to strengthen mutual accountability, agricultural data systems and knowledge management, institutionalize the biennial review mechanisms and the Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard to ensure peer learning and scaling up of the agriculture transformation agenda embedded in the Malabo Declaration.

Assembly/AU/Dec.834 (XXXV)

Decision on the Ninth World Water Forum from 21 to 26 March 2022, in Dakar, Senegal

The Assembly,

1. *Appreciates* that Africa is endowed with vast water resources including lakes, rivers, swamps and underground aquifers; water is important for social, economic and environmental development; recognizes water is key for livelihoods and sustainable development of our countries and continent;
2. *Recalls* the Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments for accelerating the achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa (Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XI)), adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at the Eleventh Ordinary Session held from 30 June to 1 July 2008 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt;
3. *Takes note* of the Report on the fourth session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment held virtually from 13 to 16 December 2021 and, in particular, containing the Report of the Preparation for the ninth World Water Forum;

4. *Urges* Member States to support the Republic of Senegal on the planned ninth World Water Forum by actively participating in it;
5. *Also urges* the AUC, United Nations agencies, development partners, civil society groups and the private sector to mobilize and support the participation of the AU Member States at the ninth World Water Forum.

Assembly/AU/Dec.835 (XXXV)

Decision on the Operationalization of the Africa CDC

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.554 (XXIV) adopted at the Twenty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, whereby the Assembly of the Union decided on the establishment of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC);
2. *Takes note* of the Executive Council Decisions EX.CL/Dec.1106 (XXXVII) and EX.CL/Dec.1110 (XXXVIII) which, respectively, requested and instructed the African Union Commission to: “prepare a report, including a road map and framework of operations, outlining the financial, legal and structural implications to fully operationalize the Africa CDC in line with its Statute, for submission to the Council through the AU policy organs”;
3. *Reaffirms* its commitment and determination to strengthen the functioning, capacity and capability of the Africa CDC, at both the secretariat and regional coordinating centre levels, for better preparedness and response to health emergencies and disease threats including the COVID-19 pandemic;
4. *Recognizes* that disease outbreaks are a serious health, security, economic, and development threat to Africa;
5. *Reiterates* that the Africa CDC urgently requires additional expertise and capacity to provide optimal support as envisaged in its mandate and in response to the increasing expectations and requests from AU Member States;
6. *Decides* to upgrade the current AU COVID-19 Response Fund into the Africa Epidemics Fund to mobilize resources for preparedness and response to disease threats on the continent and directs the Commission to develop a framework of governance and management of the Africa Epidemics Fund in accordance with the AU FRR with the Africa CDC as Secretariat;
7. *Takes note* of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1146 (XL) of February 2022 and decides to delegate its authority to the Executive Council to consider during its next session, the endorsement of amendments to the Africa CDC Statute in line with its financial, structural and legal implications and taking into account the following recommendations:
 - (i) The Africa CDC shall be an autonomous body of the Union which is charged with the responsibility of prevention and control of diseases in Africa;
 - (ii) A new governance structure that allows for strategic leadership and ownership by Member States at the highest level of Heads of State and Government, or their duly nominated/delegated representative;
 - (iii) The Africa CDC Secretariat to be headed by a Director General at a proper grade;
 - (iv) Put in place modalities for full implementation of the Africa CDC Statute;
8. *Directs* the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision through the relevant AU policy organs.

Assembly/AU/Dec.836 (XXXV)

Decision on the Decolonization of Mauritius

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.812 (XXXIV), adopted at the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2021, regarding the decolonization of Mauritius;
2. *Also recalls* the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of 25 February 2019 on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965, which has authoritatively determined that:
 - (a) The Chagos Archipelago is, and has always formed, an integral part of the territory of Mauritius;
 - (b) The process of decolonization of Mauritius was not lawfully completed upon its accession to independence in 1968 in view of the excision of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius;
 - (c) The United Kingdom's continued administration of the Chagos Archipelago constitutes a wrongful act entailing the international responsibility of that State and is an unlawful act of a continuing character which arose as a result of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius;
 - (d) The United Kingdom is under an obligation to bring to an end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible;
 - (e) All Member States are under an obligation to cooperate with the United Nations in order to complete the decolonization of Mauritius;
3. *Further recalls* United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/295 of 22 May 2019 which, inter alia, affirmed, in accordance with the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ, that the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of Mauritius, as well as the Judgment of the Special Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) of 28 January 2021 which confirmed that Mauritius has sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago;
4. *Welcomes* the resolution adopted by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) on 24 August 2021 for the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/295 and which, inter alia, provides that the UPU formally acknowledges that, for the purposes of its activities, the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of Mauritius and that the International Bureau of the UPU should cease the registration, distribution and forwarding of all postage stamps issued by the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory";
5. *Expresses its deep concern* at the continued illegal occupation of the Chagos Archipelago by the United Kingdom in disregard of the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ, United Nations General Assembly resolutions 73/295 and 26/25, and the Judgment of the Special Chamber of ITLOS;
6. *Reiterates* its calls to the United Kingdom to immediately withdraw its colonial administration from the Chagos Archipelago;
7. *Calls upon* Member States to support all efforts in (and in relations with) all international, regional and intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies (including the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Telecommunication Union), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission and the European Union, through initiatives, decisions, resolutions and other actions, aimed at enabling Mauritius to assert its sovereignty over the Chagos

Archipelago pursuant to the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ, United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/295 and the Judgment of the Special Chamber of ITLOS;

8. *Also calls upon* Member States to ensure that no action is taken in respect of any matter concerning the Chagos Archipelago or which is in any manner related thereto, by any international, regional and intergovernmental organizations of which they are members, including the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, without the consent of Mauritius;
9. *Requests* the Commission to take all necessary steps towards the completion of the decolonization of Mauritius;
10. *Authorizes* the PRC to adopt the necessary budget for the implementation of this Decision, and decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

Assembly/AU/Dec.837 (XXXV)

Decision on the Appointment of H.E. Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, as the African Union Champion for the Positive Masculinity Programme

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Declaration of the Men's Conference on Positive Masculinity for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Africa, held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, on 25 November 2021, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and stresses the African Union's special attention to the issue of gender promotion through the Constitutive Act of the AU, Agenda 2063: "The Africa We Want", the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality (2009), the AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE);
2. *Expresses deep appreciation* to H.E. Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chairperson of the African Union for 2021-2022, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of the Republic of Liberia and Patroness of the African Women Leaders Network, for organizing the first Men's Conference on Positive Masculinity; also congratulates H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, former Chairperson of the African Union and appointed AU Champion for COVID-19 response, H.E. Nana Akufo Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana and AU Champion for Gender and Development in Africa, and H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, for their significant contribution to the organization of the Conference and their support to the Positive Masculinity Programme in Africa;
3. *Acknowledges* the significant progress made by the African Union in the elimination of violence against women and girls, prevention and empowerment of survivors of violence as key elements of peacebuilding;
4. *Recognizes* the urgent need for the continued commitment of the AU and its Member States in collaboration with partners to pool support for Africa's efforts in promoting positive masculinity and addressing gender inequalities, and decides to appoint H. E. Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo and outgoing Chairperson of the African Union, as the Champion of the African Union in the Positive Masculinity Programme, for having demonstrated dedication and diligence in accompanying and supporting efforts to promote gender equality and to relentlessly combat sexual gender-based violence;
5. *Urges* Member States to continue to take all necessary measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic and all its effects that may violate the elimination of violence against women and girls in Africa.

Assembly/AU/Dec.838 (XXXV)

Decision on the Scale of Assessment and Contributions

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.734 (XXXII) adopted in February 2019 at the Thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the scale of assessment for the regular budget and the Peace Fund for the period 2020-2022;
2. *Takes note* that 2022 is the last year for application of the current scale of assessment;
3. *Also notes* the Executive Council Decision on the report of the Joint Sitting of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions and the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15) and the recommendation to extend the application of the current scale of assessment 2020-2022 by one year up to 2023;
4. *Decides* to extend the application of the current scale of assessment 2020-2022 by one year up to 2023 and requests the Commission with the support of F15 to develop the new scale of assessment to be applied for the period 2024-2026 and, following the due process, present it to the Assembly for adoption in February 2023;
5. *Decides* exceptionally and given the well-known long-standing complex situation in Libya that upon full payment by the State of Libya of 50 per cent of their arrears, the Commission shall write-off the 50 per cent of the contributions to the regular budget due to the organization.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXXV)

Declaration on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East

The Assembly,

Taking note of the report on the situation in the Middle East and the State of Palestine, and affirming all decisions and resolutions of the Organization of African Unity/African Union on the situation in Palestine in order to achieve lasting peace and security in the Middle East,

Reaffirming our full support for the Palestinian people, represented by the Palestine Liberation Organization under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, in their legitimate struggle against the Israeli colonial occupation, in order to restore their legitimate inalienable rights, foremost of which is the right to self-determination, independence, return of refugees, and the embodiment of the sovereign and independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living peacefully side by side with the State of Israel,

Expressing once again our commitment to support a peaceful and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions calling for the embodiment of the independent and sovereign State of Palestine on the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, through ending the long-standing Israeli occupation (that has been there for so long), implementing the principle of the two-State solution, finding a just solution to the issue of Palestinian refugees, and guaranteeing their right to return and compensation by means of implementing United Nations resolution 194,

Renewing our call to launch a feasible and credible political track to end the Israeli occupation and dismantle the colonial and apartheid regime in the land of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, reach a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, through an international multilateral mechanism within a specific time frame according to the international consensus and the vision of President Mahmoud Abbas, and on the basis of international law, United Nations resolutions, and the terms of reference of the peace process, to find a just solution to all permanent status issues, and to take advantage of the opportunity to achieve peace,

Reaffirming the status of the just cause of Palestine, and the firmness of our position in supporting this cause and its decisions in international forums that are based on common values that oppose colonialism, oppression and apartheid, as well as on values of freedom, justice and humanitarian principles, affirming the historically solid African solidarity with the Palestinian people in their legitimate pursuit of independence, freedom and justice, and confronting any attempts to circumvent the status of the Palestinian cause in Africa,

Watching with great concern the escalation of settlements in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, especially in East Jerusalem, and the confiscation of Palestinian lands and properties, within the framework of the Israeli policy aimed at achieving a demographic advantage for the Israeli population over the Palestinians in the city, which would eliminate any chance of achieving peace according to the principle of the two-State solution,

Renewing our call to all countries to preserve and adhere to the existing legal and historical status (status quo) of the city of Jerusalem, and its status as the capital of the State of Palestine, and subsequently respect international law and relevant United Nations resolutions in this regard, and to refrain from any action or decision that would prejudice the legal status and historical importance of the city, particularly to refrain from moving embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem,

Reaffirming that all Israeli settlements established in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights; and all colonial policies in the territory of the State of Palestine, are illegal and form a grave violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions, a major obstacle to peace and to the two-State solution, and a challenge to the international community calls to stop all settlement activities, in addition to confiscation of land and property, house demolitions, forced displacement of civilians, racist and discriminatory policies, enforcement of the permit system, building the apartheid wall, and the imposition of collective punishment measures,

Hereby declares as follows:

1. *Reaffirms* that our solidarity with the Palestinian people is based on the values of freedom, justice, human principles, anti-colonialism and apartheid, which Africa constantly defends in international forums and under all circumstances. It is a solidarity with all those who seek to guarantee the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is the right to self-determination, independence for the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and the right of return for Palestinian refugees;
2. *Also reaffirms* the need to make persistent efforts to achieve a just, durable and comprehensive solution based on ending the occupation and the accomplishment of the two-State solution, in accordance with relevant resolutions and declarations of the African Union and the United Nations;
3. *Expresses the commitment* of African countries to follow what guarantees the transcendence of the values and principles upon which the Union was established, the most important of which is to support liberation movements and the right of peoples to self-determination, in any dealings with Israel, the occupying power, and to refrain from any measure that would prejudice the principles of solidarity with the Palestinian cause and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and block any attempts to circumvent the status of the Palestinian cause in Africa;
4. *Stresses* the need to resolve the issue of Palestine and achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East through ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian land since 1967, including East Jerusalem, on the basis of the two-State solution, international law, and all relevant international legitimacy resolutions, and to work with active international parties within an international multilateral mechanism to launch a credible peace process in accordance with the agreed international terms of reference, and within a specific time frame;
5. *Welcomes and supports* Palestinian President, H.E. Mahmoud Abbas' vision, peace initiative and his repeated calls in this respect, including in his important address before the United Nations General Assembly on 24 September 2021, and his call to launch peaceful negotiations under multilateral auspices and through the

International Quartet, based on the terms of reference of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative, leading to a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue, and embodiment of the independent State of Palestine on the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem its capital, within a specified time limit and further calls upon Israel, the occupying power, not to miss this opportunity to achieve peace;

6. *Calls upon* the Member States and the international community to respect in their policy the requirements of international law and relevant United Nations and the African Union resolutions, to work to end the Israeli occupation and confront its violations and colonial practices that undermine the foundations of the international system that is based on law, and not to recognize the illegal situation that Israel has established in the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, perpetuating colonialism and apartheid, and not to provide any support or assistance to its continuation, and to take all due legal measures, including not dealing with any Israeli Government whose agenda includes annexation, impose economic and political sanctions, and boycott the Israeli colonial system and illegal settlements and ban their products;

7. *Renews its call* on Member States to end all forms of direct and indirect interaction and business with the Israeli colonial settlement regime and illegal apartheid in the territory of the State of Palestine occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and to take all measures to stop this interaction as stipulated in resolutions of the international legitimacy, particularly resolution 2334 (2016), especially paragraph 5, and the decisions of the African Union in this regard that were based on the rich experience and contribution of the African Union that led to the boycott and dismantling of the apartheid regime in South Africa;

8. *Calls on* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to update on an annual basis the database of businesses in the Israeli settlements established on the Palestinian territories, and request Member States to take all possible measures, including legal follow-up, to prevent any individual, institution or company from operating or conducting business directly or indirectly with the settlements regime and other colonial activities as they all pose a violation of United Nations resolutions and international law;

9. *Strongly condemns* the policy of colonial settlement, and reaffirms that settlement in the Palestinian land occupied in 1967, especially in the city of Jerusalem, and all systematic and wide-ranging measures and policies of the illegal occupation authority to change the current situation and demographic composition, are illegal and in violation of international law, and would eliminate any chance of achieving peace based on the principle of the two-State solution. It is a war crime according to the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Rome Statute;

10. *Condemns* the policies and practices of the Israeli occupation government aimed at Judaizing the city of Jerusalem and isolating it from its Palestinian surroundings, and call on the international community to compel Israel to stop all its hostile acts and violations against Islamic and Christian holy sites, and its policies to change the historical and legal status quo in the Holy City, and everything it does against Al Haram Al Sharif/Al Aqsa Mosque, where incursions by the colonialists should be stopped; besides, further calls on the international community to force Israel to safeguard the freedom of worship for Christians and Muslims. In this context, stresses the importance of the decisions of the African Union and the United Nations, including relevant UNESCO resolutions, and also affirms that East Jerusalem is an integral part of the Palestinian land occupied in 1967, as well as notes the need to make joint efforts to ensure its return to Palestinian sovereignty as the capital of the State of Palestine;

11. *Rejects and condemns* any racist decisions or laws, including those taken by Israel against the Palestinian people, their rights and property, and those that prejudice the legal status of the city of Jerusalem and its demographic composition, in violation of international law and resolutions of international legitimacy, including Security Council resolutions 476 and 478 of 1980 and United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/ES-10/19 of 2017, and also rejects and condemns the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, or the transfer or establishment of diplomatic missions there; also stresses the need to respect and preserve the status quo of the city of Jerusalem, and stresses that any colonial measures and decisions taken by Israel, the occupying power in the city of Jerusalem, including the imposition of its laws, jurisdiction and administration, are illegal, null and void and have no legitimacy;

12. *Condemns* the policy of forced displacement and ethnic cleansing measures, especially those targeting the Palestinian people in the city of East Jerusalem and its neighborhoods, such as in the Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighborhoods and others, and the Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank, in addition to the demolition of homes, the confiscation of property, and the policy of racial discrimination, that are all aimed at creating demographic superiority to the colonizers at the expense of the Palestinian people, the original owners of the land;
13. *Expresses its condemnation* of this racist occupation regime, and call on the international community to dismantle and ban the Israeli system of colonialism and apartheid that constitutes a crime of apartheid and requires legal accountability in accordance with the International Convention for the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid of 30 November 1973;
14. *Welcomes* the decision of the International Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, issued on 30 April 2021, which affirms the admissibility and legality of the complaint submitted by the State of Palestine against Israel, the illegal occupying power, and calls on Member States to support the State of Palestine in this direction;
15. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Human Rights Council to form a continuing independent international investigation committee, in implementation of the Council's decision in its Thirtieth Special Session to investigate inside the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, as well in Israel, all alleged violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law that preceded 13 April 2021 and have happened since this date;
16. *Reaffirms* our solid support for the efforts of the State of Palestine to mobilize international support for the realization on the ground of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, especially the right to self-determination and independence for the State of Palestine on the 4 June 1967 lines, with East Jerusalem its capital, and the right of return for Palestinian refugees in accordance with the United Nations resolution 194 of 1948; further calls on the Security Council to accept the full membership of the State of Palestine in the United Nations, and we call on the countries that have not yet recognized the State of Palestine to do so, in order to support peace chances in the region;
17. *Condemns* the continuation of Israel, the occupying power, its policy of field execution, administrative and arbitrary detention, mistreatment and medical neglect of Palestinian prisoners, which are war crimes that require accountability in accordance with international humanitarian law; also demands once again the Israeli occupation authorities release Palestinian prisoners, foremost of whom children, women, the elderly and the sick, while ensuring their safety, and to end individual and collective oppressive practices against the Palestinian people; in addition, condemns the ongoing violations and crimes carried out by Israel and its subordinates, the settlers and their violence as well as the occupation forces and their courts that are biased against the human rights of the Palestinian people; besides, condemns the use of excessive force, killing and deliberate targeting, and warns against the Israeli adoption of unfair racist laws against the rights of the Palestinian people, with the aim of colonizing them and plundering their land and sources of livelihood;
18. *Condemns and rejects* the continuous barbaric Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, which targeted the Strip recently in May 2021, and resulted in the death of hundreds and the wounding of thousands of civilian victims, including women, children and the elderly, destroying homes and properties of civilians and displacement of thousands, and targeting educational and media institutions; further reiterates our rejection of the Israeli blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, which has resulted in a deterioration of the humanitarian situation and has become a harbinger of a humanitarian disaster that requires urgent relief;
19. *Expresses, once again, its deep concern* about the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip as a result of the Israeli siege and repeated military aggression, and hold the Israeli occupation fully responsible for the situation in the Strip. We consider the crisis in the Gaza Strip a crisis of occupation that must be dealt with by ending the occupation itself, and enabling geographical and political unity in

the Palestinian territories between the West Bank and Gaza Strip; also calls on the active forces in the international community to work to end this unjust Israeli siege;

20. *Calls on* the international community to abide by the United Nations mandate given to the UNRWA as stipulated in the resolution of its establishment, and to secure resources, contributions and a financial safety net that are necessary for its budget and activities in an adequate and sustainable manner, enabling it to continue its role towards the Palestinian refugees who have been displaced from their homes, as well as their descendants until they are able to exercise their individual and collective right, in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948, including their right to return and compensation;

21. *Recalls* the need for providing the necessary international protection for the land and people of the State of Palestine, in preparation for ending the occupation and preserving the chance for the two-State solution, pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 605 of 1987, resolutions 672 and 673 of 1990, and resolution 904 of 1994, and in line with the Geneva Conventions and their applicability to the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, and General Assembly resolutions, including those taken in its emergency extraordinary session in July 2018; We express our readiness to contribute and support the work of any international mission to provide protection to the Palestinian people;

22. *Reiterates* that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires the complete Israeli withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 4 June 1967, including the Syrian Golan Heights and the territories still occupied in southern Lebanon, and the embodiment of the independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine on the 4 June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XXXV)

Declaration on Scaling-up Food Fortification and Biofortification In Africa

The Assembly,

Recalling its previous decisions of the Twenty-third Assembly of June 2014 under the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Africa Agriculture Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, in which we made a bold commitment towards supporting interventions leading to ending hunger in Africa by 2025 realized through, among others, eliminating child undernourishment,

Challenged by the high prevalence of stunting and micronutrient deficiencies on the continent, with its debilitating effects on health, productivity, educational and economic outcomes,

Concerned with the prevailing gaps and challenges in increasing access to nutritious diets in Africa, in terms of inadequate investment in nutrition, in general, and fortified and biofortified foods, in particular, along the agricultural value chains,

Appalled by overwhelming evidence indicating that a substantial number of African children, pregnant and lactating mothers and economically vulnerable populations, do not meet the recommended daily requirement of micronutrients through consumption of macro- and micronutrient-rich diets,

Cognizant of the recommendations and resolutions of global conferences for combating micronutrient deficiency through investing in sustainable food systems, food fortification and biofortification, with special reference to the second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2),

Encouraged by the realization that opportunities abound for women smallholder farmers and youth, who constitute the majority of food producers, to invest in food system-based approaches, including breeding, processing, distribution and marketing of biofortified foods,

Further encouraged by the substantial amount of research evidence that conventional biofortified crops and fortified foods could create impact in both controlling micronutrient deficiency and increasing economic opportunities for the vulnerable and the resource poor, especially in rural and urban communities,

Noting the cardinal role of food fortification and biofortification in enriching and galvanizing public-private partnerships, as it offers a wide spectrum of returns,

Also noting that food system-based approaches, including conventional food fortification and biofortification projects, feed firmly into the new efforts for implementing social protection through productive safety nets,

Appreciating that a broad range of actors are now more united and resolute with regard to scaling up programmes and projects that have succeeded on the continent and have potential to improve food and nutrition security,

1. *Declares* its resolve to promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture by ensuring that agriculture investment plans aim at making diversified nutrient-rich foods sustainably available, accessible and affordable in local markets;

2. *Pledges* to support development and implementation of nation-wide food system-based approaches, including supportive policies and programmes to promote industrial food fortification, biofortified food crops, based on innovative crop breeding technologies, or scale up the same in pursuit of the Ending Hunger in Africa by 2025 Goal and the second Sustainable Development Goal;

3. *Further pledges* to commit and enable the environment for scaling up nutrition-sensitive agricultural interventions, including industrial food fortification and research-based biofortification, and to this end undertakes to:

(a) Support and promote innovative projects and businesses that invest in production, processing, packaging and distribution of nutrient-rich foods;

(b) Encourage public procurement of produce from farmers producing biofortified foods with a view of incentivizing them, as well as industrially fortified staple foods and condiments;

(c) Encourage farmer input support programmes to incorporate biofortified seeds and training activities in order to bear larger impact;

(d) Promote the inclusion of biofortification and fortification, by way of knowledge management and promotion in relevant health programmes, including ante- and post-natal counselling and infant and young child feeding programmes; and

(e) Strengthen systems for inter-sectoral collaboration among institutions and for cooperation with non-State actors (farmer organizations, civil society, academia, and private sector) for implementation of this agenda;

4. *Encourages and supports*, within our resource limits, research into conventionally biofortified foods and industrially fortified foods in order to enhance knowledge dissemination and adaptation and to increase consumption of these foods;

5. *Requests* the AUC, FAO, WFP, HarvestPlus and other partners supporting implementation of sustainable food system approaches, that include industrial food fortification and biofortification projects, to support the initiative within their areas of influence and to work together and to support a community of practice that engages with policy makers in Member States; and

6. *Further requests* the AUC to follow up and report on the status of implementation of this Declaration in the next and subsequent Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and of relevant ministries.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXXV)

Resolution on the Impact of Sanctions and Unilateral Coercive Measures on African Union Member States

The Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Constitutive Act, inter alia, affirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the African Union Member States, as well as the commitment to promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels, for an integrated and prosperous continent,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Stressing that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the United Nations Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States,

Welcoming the adoption by the thirty-first meeting of the United Nations General Assembly of the resolution calling on States not to recognize unilateral coercive economic measures, and not to recognize or apply such measures or legislation imposed by any State across territorial boundaries, which were contrary to recognized principles of international law,

Cognizant of the Human Rights Council resolution 27/21 and Corr. 1 stressing that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States and highlighting that as long-term, these measures may result in social problems and raising humanitarian concerns in the States targeted,

Acknowledging that the socio-economic sanctions are one of the main obstacles impeding implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Expressing its grave concern at the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the right to development, international relations, trade, investment, cooperation, and peace and stability,

Alarmed by the disproportionate and indiscriminate human costs of unilateral sanctions and their negative effects on the civilian population, in particular women and children, of targeted States,

Deeply concerned at the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding, as well as on the African Union 2022 Theme of the Year: “Building Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent: Strengthen Agriculture, Accelerate the Human Capital, Social and Economic Development”,

1. *Strongly condemns* the continued unilateral application and enforcement by certain countries of such measures as tools of pressure, including political and economic pressure, against any country, particularly against African Union Member States, with a view to preventing these countries from exercising their right to self-determination;

2. *Urges* all States to refrain from imposing unilateral coercive measures, and urges concerned States to remove such measures, as they are contrary to the African Union Constitutive Act, the United Nations Charter and

the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States at all levels, and prevent the full realization of the economic and social development of nations while also affecting the full realization of human rights;

3. *Strongly objects* to the extraterritorial nature of those measures which, in addition, threaten the sovereignty of States, and, in this context, calls upon all States neither to recognize these measures nor to apply them, and to take measures as appropriate, to counteract the extraterritorial application or effects of unilateral coercive measures;
4. *Also urges* the Government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing sanctions imposed on the Government and people of Zimbabwe, to facilitate the socio-economic recovery of the country; calls upon the Government of the Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to lift all sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe that it inherited when it withdrew from the European Union on 31 January 2020 and all the additional sanctions that it adopted on its own. We acknowledge the steps taken, inter alia, political dialogue and high-level engagements between Zimbabwe and the European Union towards the removal of sanctions. We further urge that the European Union takes the requisite actions to ensure that all remaining sanctions are terminated;
5. *Calls upon* the United States of America to lift all unilateral coercive sanctions imposed on the Government, its leadership and the people of South Sudan, which are counterproductive to efforts promoting post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding, and that due consideration be made by the United Nations to lift the arms embargo imposed on that country;
6. *Further urges* the European Union and the United States of America to lift the unilateral coercive sanctions imposed on the State of Eritrea;
7. *Mandates* the Panel of the Wise, once again, to lobby the capitals of those countries that have imposed illegal economic and other sanctions against African Union Member States, for their immediate and unconditional removal;
8. *Reaffirms* its solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe, South Sudan and Eritrea in exercising their sovereign right to determine their own destiny.

Assembly/AU/Res.2 (XXXV)

**Resolution on the Lifting of the Economic, Commercial and Financial Blockade Imposed
on the Republic of Cuba by the United States of America**

The Assembly,

1. *Expresses serious concern* about the continuous and illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Cuban Government and people;
2. *Reaffirms its full support* to the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly “Necessity to end the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”;
3. *Regrets* the regression in the bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States and, once again, calls upon the Government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing and unjustifiable economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Cuban people;
4. *Also regrets* the measures implemented by the Government of the United States since 9 November 2017, which strengthen the blockade, and expresses deep concern over the widening of the extraterritorial nature of the blockade, including the full implementation of Chapter III of the Helms-Burton Act (based on paragraph 293 of the G77 Ministerial Declaration of 2021, which maintains the same language agreed in 2020);

5. *Acknowledges* that the negative impact of the blockade is aggravated and even crueler in the current context, when Cuba is combatting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic;
6. *Also acknowledges* that the blockade is the main obstacle for Cuba's implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and shares this concern due to the importance that the African Union attaches to the achievement of the objectives on the said agenda;
7. *Also reaffirms* its solidarity with the people of Cuba.

Assembly/AU/Motion (XXXV)

Motion of Appreciation to H.E. President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Outgoing Chairperson of the African Union

The Assembly,

Taking note of the end of the mandate of H.E. President Tshisekedi as Chairperson of the African Union, and acknowledging the commendable and extraordinary efforts he invested during his chairmanship of the African Union (AU) in the year 2021, which contributed to advancing the Union and in addressing Africa's needs, as well as positioning Africa at its rightful place in the world,

Bearing in mind the achievements he made during his tenure, demonstrating great dedication, vision and commitment in the defence of the principles and objectives of the Union, as well as his rooted commitment to the ideals of Pan-Africanism and South-South solidarity,

Noting in particular his dynamic and efficient stewardship of the Union during the global COVID-19 pandemic:

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to H.E. President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo and outgoing Chairperson of our Assembly, for his vibrant, visionary and sterling leadership of the Union during his term of office;
2. *Commends* H.E. President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi, for the numerous achievements the African Union was able to make during his mandate, including leading the virtually conducted Third Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the AU, RECs and RMs;
3. *Reiterates* its appreciation to H.E. President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi for his significant contribution towards the continent's political, economic and social integration and stability process.

**FIFTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT AND PLEDGING CONFERENCE**

**Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
27 May 2022**

Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl. (XV)

Malabo Declaration of the Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference

We, the Heads of State and Government, meeting at our Fifteenth Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 27 May 2022,

Recalling previous decisions, in which bold commitments to reinforce Africa's humanitarian architecture were made, particularly:

- (i) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.828 (XXXV) of February 2022 on the dates and venue for the Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference,
- (ii) Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXXII) of February 2020, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which called on the Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and the AU Commission to work closely with the AU leader of the 2019 Theme of the Year, H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea, in convening a continental high-level conference on the humanitarian situation in Africa linked to the AU theme for 2020 on silencing the guns,
- (iii) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.719 (XXXII) of February 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the Fourth Report of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the Implementation of the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020,
- (iv) Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.8 (XXXII) on the 2019 theme of the year: "The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa", and recommendations in addressing challenges of forced displacement on the continent,
- (v) The Kampala Solemn Declaration adopted during the first African Union Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), on 23 October 2009, in Kampala, Uganda,
- (vi) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.604 (XXVI) of January 2016, establishing an African Humanitarian Agency,
- (vii) The Sirte Declaration AU/Decl.2 (XIII) adopted by the Assembly in July 2009 on Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security,
- (viii) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.351 (XVI) of January 2011, establishing the AU Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development to enhance structural transformation to prevent relapse into conflicts,
- (ix) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.813 (XXXV) of February 2022, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during the Thirty-fifth Assembly of the African Union on the theme of the year 2022 on "Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent: Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development",

Considering:

- (i) Agenda 2063: The Africa We want Agenda, which encapsulates our aspirations for the future to boost the continent's economic growth and development, and its emphasis on African solutions to African problems,
- (ii) The Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness, and its strategic priorities for the reform of Africa's humanitarian action, to make it more effective, timely, and relevant,
- (iii) The Africa Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Plan of Action (2022-2032) and African Green Recovery Action Plan (2021-2027), which aim to counter the negative consequences of climate change,

leverage the capacities, and opportunities to facilitate the attainment of the Agenda 2063 vision;

(iv) The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which outlines clear targets and priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks: commitments by Member States and the AU Programme of Action 2015-2030,

(v) Resolution 48/13 of 2021 of the Human Rights Council, on consequences of climate change on millions of people, especially persons and groups in vulnerable situations,

(vi) The 2013 Abuja Declaration and its priority areas on health in the Post-2015 Development Agenda,

Deeply concerned by the increasing humanitarian needs and protracted displacements in Africa due, inter alia, to armed conflicts, the growing effects of climate change and natural disasters, terrorism, and violent extremism; amidst structural forces that shape the future of our continent, namely demographic evolution, economic evolution, environmental context and technological development,

Noting that protracted armed conflicts and violent extremism constitute one of the main causes of forced displacement of massive populations, causing considerable humanitarian tragedies that need our urgent attention as well as pose a threat to the development agenda stipulated in Africa's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by disrupting livelihoods, transport and health systems, social protection nets, markets, and other social amenities, impeding timely humanitarian assistance, and further aggravating the needs of the communities that are in most cases dealing with multilayered shocks and leading to increased poverty and humanitarian needs,

Acknowledge and appreciate the Member States hosting large numbers of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants on their territories and encourage them to continue supporting these vulnerable members of our societies, in the spirit of Ubuntu and African solidarity, while efforts are being made to deal with the root causes and find durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa. To this end, urge for increased burden sharing and deeper appreciation of the enormous challenges borne by host countries supporting large numbers of refugees,

Deplore human rights violations, including gender-based violence as well as exploitation and violence against children, which have been on the rise amid the increased humanitarian crises in which the most vulnerable groups, including women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities among others, are most affected,

Additionally concerned regarding the discrimination against migrants and xenophobia, particularly in the context of pandemics and crisis,

Cognizant that climate disasters are increasing in frequency and magnitude contributing to vulnerability, human mobility, and displacement, and pose an increased risk to the livelihoods, well-being, and human rights of displaced persons, many of whom live in countries most affected by climate change,

Noting that the drought in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region further exacerbate other existing shocks such as conflict, flash flooding, receding of lakes, rivers and the sea, desert locust infestations, leading to increased humanitarian needs, food insecurity and malnutrition,

Concerned over the series of climate-related disasters in recent years affecting the Southern African region, which vary in frequency and severity, including El Nino drought and tropical storms, floods and cyclones that have led to loss of lives, destructions of homes, properties, infrastructure, social amenities and relocation and displacements of people to safer areas,

Further noting with concern, the worsening food insecurity and rising food prices across the continent caused by the impact of climate disasters, conflicts, as well as socio-economic conditions due to the impact of COVID-19 and an outbreak of pests such as fall-army worm and desert locust; as well as including the recent conflict in Europe

which further exacerbate the food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition nutrition security, especially for people in humanitarian crises,

Cognizant that the COVID-19 pandemic has, in particular, exacerbated humanitarian needs and stretched health systems and delivery of health services in humanitarian situations, this is in addition to Africa's already increasing burden of diseases as noted by the rising rates of non-communicable diseases, emerging and re-emerging infections, and endemic diseases,

Noting that the continent cannot achieve meaningful human capital and socio-economic development, integration, peace, and stability unless the root causes of forced displacement are decisively addressed,

Recognizing that refugees, IDPs who are mainly women and children and humanitarian operations have faced funding shortfalls over time, thereby increasing the burden on host countries especially for protracted caseloads,

Further recognize and appreciate the work of the national societies and volunteer networks on the ground who are auxiliary to governments and are involved in preparing and responding to disasters in Africa,

Acknowledging that financial resources allocated to address humanitarian concerns are inadequate to address increasing humanitarian needs caused by climate change, natural disasters, conflicts, and macro-economic conditions in Africa,

Urge Member States who have not done so to sign, ratify and implement the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa; the 2009 Convention on Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa as well as implement the 2016 AU Common African Position in Humanitarian Effectiveness and the AU Humanitarian Policy Framework,

Reaffirm our commitment to effectively address the humanitarian challenges in Africa, through the establishment and speedy operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency, and to provide it with all necessary resources, which will facilitate an effective and holistic African response towards the humanitarian needs on the continent,

Resolve to engage the international community and all stakeholders to support Africa's efforts in dealing with humanitarian challenges,

Hereby declare to undertake the following:

1. On Humanitarian Challenges in Africa

- (a) *Increase* investments in preventive intervention through early warning and anticipatory actions as a means to save lives and protect livelihoods;
- (b) *Strengthen* the continental frameworks, tools and guidelines that will ensure protection, humanitarian assistance and sustainable solutions to climate induced displacements in Africa;
- (c) *Reinvigorate* creative measures for the achievement of durable solutions to protracted displacement situations, including the speedy signature, ratification and implementation of relevant AU and international legal instruments;
- (d) *Respect and ensure respect for* international humanitarian law in conflict situations both by States and non-State actors;
- (e) *Prioritize* the sensitization of military personnel in the treatment of the most vulnerable, especially women and children, as responders to humanitarian emergencies during conflict situations, especially in line with international humanitarian law standards, codes and conduct;

- (f) *Establish* clear and concise monitoring and evaluation, data collection and reporting frameworks, tools and guidelines for refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs;
- (g) *Ensure* timely and inclusive humanitarian response mechanisms to humanitarian crises when they occur and address the root causes of forced displacement including conflicts, terrorism, disasters, climate change and unconstitutional change of government;
- (h) *Conscious* of national security dynamics posed by the prolonged reception of refugee communities, as well as the environmental degradation and resource conflict that can be caused by large refugee population, and the debt crisis in Africa which limits the fiscal space available to African countries to provide safety nets for their own citizens as well as the large refugee population;
- (i) *Call for* the documentation of Africa's contributions on humanitarian action relevant to the preservation of international peace and security, and the creation of an African Humanitarian Support Index to monitor, evaluate, and record Africa's endeavour. Further calls for the definition of a compensatory index that values and aggregates host country's contributions to refugees/migrant situations;

2. On Climate Change, Disasters and Forced Displacement in Africa

- (a) *Demonstrate* strong commitments and establish governance systems at national, regional, and continental levels, including through the establishment of relevant frameworks, policies, guidelines and tools of a continental civilian capacity for disaster preparedness and response to address disasters and displacements of people affected by climate change;
- (b) *Enhance* the capacity of State institutions in preparedness and response efforts, given that humanitarian needs are expected to increase due to extreme weather events such as challenges of droughts in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel and the Southern region;
- (c) *Increase* investments in multi-hazard early warning and early response systems and prevention strategies focusing on disaster risk reduction as provided for in the Sendai Framework;
- (d) *Call on* Member States and other stakeholders to work towards multisector and well-coordinated approaches that reinforce complementarity and inclusive planning from all stakeholders;
- (e) *Call upon* States parties to the international conventions and treaties on climate change including the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement to uphold their commitments in availing adaptation finance, technology transfer and means of implementation of climate actions, within the framework of common but differentiated responsibilities, to avoid any secondary consequences;
- (f) *Welcome* the Arab Republic of Egypt's hosting COP27 on behalf of Africa in November 2022, extend full support and encourage Member States to use the opportunity to voice Africa's interest and highlight challenges of climate change and natural disasters and their impact on displacements in Africa;
- (g) *Establish* an African alliance, based on experience sharing and coordinated actions, regionally and continentally, to address climate change through the implementation of relevant African initiatives to strengthen resilience measures and adaptation on the continent;
- (h) *Engage* the various partners concerned to accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to ensure an adequate transfer of technologies within the framework of partnerships for a sustainable resilience of the continent in the face of the various physical effects of extreme weather events;

3. On Food Security and Nutrition Situation in Humanitarian Situations in Africa

- (a) *Address* the underlying deep-rooted causes of food insecurity and malnutrition;
- (b) *Prioritize* investments in food and nutrition security data and information systems;
- (c) *Establish* social protection safety nets that are inclusive and nutrition-sensitive which should be adapted and strengthened to meet the needs of communities affected by crises;
- (d) *Identify* preventive and adaptative approaches that focus on enabling communities to cope with the adverse effects of climate change, support small holder farmer support including women and youth as part of addressing agriculture inequalities, and transformation of the agricultural sector to provide continuous food supply and quality for Africa;
- (e) *Actively engage* local actors at the community level in identifying the needs and durable solution to food security and nutrition challenges, including those that focus on building communities' resilience;
- (f) *Promote* multifaceted approaches that focus on increased investment for nutrition as well as effective implementation of policies and strategies, that lead to long-term development including eradication of poverty;
- (g) *Build* a sustainable and resilient agri-food system to ensure food sovereignty;
- (h) *Revitalize* the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and mobilize resources to achieve the programme's goals in developing Member States' capacities in boosting agricultural productivity;
- (i) *Encourage* the implementation of the Maputo and Malabo Declarations under the flagship of the CAADP for food sovereignty in Africa;
- (j) *Call for* support for the operationalization of African adaptation initiatives, in particular the Adaptation of African Agriculture and the three climate commissions created on the side lines of COP22 in Marrakech, which are dedicated to conducting a continental policy of sustainable development to reduce the risks of disasters and develop early warning systems;

4. On COVID-19 and Health Challenges in Humanitarian Space in Africa

- (a) *Implement* the many lessons learned from the COVID-19 and Ebola responses as well as other pandemics experienced in Africa. One of these lessons is that investment in healthcare systems is a critical instrument to secure economic development;
- (b) *Highlight* the importance of boosting the African continent infrastructure and capabilities in vaccine manufacturing and the technology transfer to enable the continent to face any upcoming future health emergencies;
- (c) *Strengthen* logistics and supply chain in humanitarian crises, in order to increase access to health services to migrants, displaced persons, and refugees in remote and difficult to reach areas;
- (d) *Ensure* that health systems are more "migrant-sensitive" by including refugees and displaced persons and provide an opportunity for multisectoral engagement;
- (e) *Ensure* that humanitarian health policies and health responses provide inclusive, equitable, affordable, and timely interventions for migrants, refugees and displaced persons as well as facilitate access to essential health services including health education, disease prevention, and palliative health services;

- (f) *Prioritize* maintaining a minimum information and health care package for reproductive health, maternal health care including emergency obstetric services, prenatal and postnatal care as well as prevention, treatment, care, and support for sexually transmitted infections including HIV, victims of human trafficking, specialized care for survivors of sexual violence among women and children as the most vulnerable displaced populations;
- (g) *Prioritize* social protections and health insurance as an important instrument to achieve universal access to key health and social services, including basic primary health care, health education, nutrition, and environmental health;
- (h) *Strengthen* the Africa CDC to respond to health crises, strengthen the public health workforce in humanitarian settings and strengthen community health systems;
- (i) *Support* the establishment of the Africa Medicines Agency (AMA) as an important agency that will ensure quality and safety of medical and pharmaceutical technologies/products as well as provide for equitable access and affordable medicine including to migrants, refugees, and displaced persons;
- (j) *Strengthen* health information systems through research, data collection and data analysis;
- (k) *Advocate* for greater financing for health in fragile settings and equitable supply of COVID-19 vaccines, vaccine manufacturing, and vaccine procurement from African vaccine manufacturers;
- (l) *Always ensure* that the safety of health care workers who are at the front line is paramount to the continuity of health services delivery to the society and even more so in the humanitarian context where communities are already faced with limited access to health care;
- (m) *Enhance* public health communications, community engagements and accountability approaches, that are vital to encourage acceptance of public health measures among communities;
- (n) *Ensure* that essential health services especially for women and children are fully gender sensitive and geared towards meeting their specific needs;

5. On Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa

- (a) *Ensure* that recovery and reconstruction efforts in post-conflict societies address the demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration of former combatants, the return and reintegration of displaced populations, and grassroots level reconciliation;
- (b) *Invigorate* measures for the achievement of durable solutions to protracted situations of displacement, including in tackling root causes of forced displacement, especially the growing challenges of terrorism and unconstitutional changes of government;
- (c) *Develop* regional emergency response plans for refugee and migrant hosting countries, including through their respective Regional Economic Communities, since most refugees' crises are a result of regional conflicts or directly impact the stability of the regions;
- (d) *Utilize* the capacities and skills of the affected people as innovative approaches in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating development-oriented humanitarian programmes;
- (e) *Strengthen* capacities of Member States faced with climate disasters to implement preventive measures and early warning responses to ensure that Africa remains a strong and resilient continent;
- (f) *Strengthen* the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AU PCRDR) Centre in Cairo, Egypt, to effectively implement AU PCRDR programmes and projects addressing humanitarian and emergency

responses on the continent;

- (g) *Promote* post-conflict reconstruction and development programmes that play a critical role in the humanitarian response with regard to saving lives and sustaining lives, maintaining basic human dignity, ensuring the ability of State institutions to protect civilians and deliver adequate social services, supporting the return and reintegration of displaced populations, and helping resuscitate socio-economic activities, particularly in the immediate post-conflict, stabilization and post-crisis situations;
- (h) *Mobilize* resources necessary for creating conducive conditions for supporting the return, readmission, rehabilitation, and reintegration of refugees voluntarily returning to their country of origin;
- (i) *Ensure* gender mainstreaming in PCRD initiatives, policies, programmes and activities at national, regional and continental levels;
- (j) *Stress* the importance of building bridges between humanitarian and development projects;
- (k) *Highlight* the legal responsibility of host countries in the process of registering refugees and internally displaced persons, in order to avoid any exploitation of refugees;

6. On Resource Mobilization and Financing for Humanitarian Action in Africa

- (a) *Allocate* sufficient resources for the African Humanitarian Agency to enable it to execute its strategic mandate and for effective and timely responses to humanitarian crisis situations and needs on the continent;
- (b) *Recall* Executive Council Decision EX.CL/567 (XVII) adopted during its Seventeenth Ordinary Session in July 2010 in Kampala, Uganda, to “increase Member States contribution to the Refugees and IDP’s Fund from 2 per cent to 4 per cent of the operational budget of the Commission gradually with effect from 2023 and request the PRC through its Advisory Subcommittee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters to work out modalities for its implementation”;
- (c) *Direct* humanitarian financing towards the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to address the needs by providing durable solutions that are focused on prevention strategies and sustainable development strategies at community, national, regional, and continental levels;
- (d) *Promote* strategic partnerships in resource mobilization and burden sharing and identify other non-traditional financing mechanisms beyond the “traditional” mechanisms to complement the limited humanitarian resources;
- (e) *Strengthen* partnerships with the international and regional financial institutions and the private sector in humanitarian action with an aim of enhancing greater partnerships in resourcing of humanitarian products and services within Africa, promote intra-Africa trade and eventually lead to increased capacities of African manufacturers to produce high standard products;
- (f) *Use* the Malabo Pledging Conference and continue to mobilize predictable, reliable and sustainable resources for humanitarian action based on the spirit of Pan-Africanism and solidarity to support countries and communities’ large numbers of displaced populations and also to target the affected populations to enable them to cope and rebuild their lives during and after situations of displacement;
- (g) *Work* with the international community, United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, donor countries and other partners to share the burden of humanitarian assistance, particularly for IDPs and refugees, by supporting Africa’s humanitarian, peace, and development strategies;

7. Follow-up

FIFTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION (2022)

- (a) *Call on* the AU Commission to follow up on pledges made during the Fifteenth Extraordinary African Union Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference that took place on 27 May 2022, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, attached as an annex to this Declaration and report to the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly;
- (b) *Establish* a humanitarian support index to monitor and illuminate the contributions of AU Member States and partners in addressing the growing humanitarian crises and hosting of refugees on the continent;
- (c) Formulate a plan of action for the implementation of the outcomes of this Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference and regularly report to the Assembly.

**SIXTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
TERRORISM AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES OF
GOVERNMENT IN AFRICA**

**MALABO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA
28 MAY 2022**

Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl. (XVI)

**Declaration on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government
Robust Response, Deepening Democracy and Collective Security**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), meeting at the Sixteenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 28 May 2022,

Guided by existing AU legal instruments, particularly the Constitutive Act (2000); the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (2002); the Common African Defense and Security Policy (CADSP) (2004); the AU Non-Aggression and Common Defense Pact (2005); the AU Agenda 2063 specifically aspirations 3, 4 and 7; and the Johannesburg Declaration on Silencing the Guns in Africa (2020), as well as the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by 2030,

Recognizing the continued relevance of various instruments adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the AU over the past years to address the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, including the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism (1999); the Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa (2002), the Protocol to the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism (2004) and the Tripoli Declaration on Conflict Reduction, Sustaining and Promoting Peace in Africa (2009),

Recalling Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.256 (XIII) on combating the payment of ransom to terrorist groups (2009) and Assembly/AU/Dec.311 (XV) on the prevention and combatting of terrorism (2010),

Bearing in mind our pledge to silence the guns on the continent, as contained in the Fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration (2013) and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.501 (XXII) declaring 2014–2024 as the “Madiba Nelson Mandela Decade of Reconciliation in Africa” (2014),

Also guided by the principles enshrined in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007), the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (1981), and other relevant AU human rights instruments,

Further reiterating our decisions and pronouncements on unconstitutional changes of government in Africa, including Decisions AHG/Dec.141 (XXXV), AHG/Dec.142 (XXXV) (1999) and Assembly/AU/Dec.253 (XIII) (2009), the Declaration on the Framework for the OAU Response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government (Lomé Declaration) (July 2000), as well as the PSC Ezulwini Framework for the Enhancement of the Implementation of Measures of the African Union in Situations of Unconstitutional Changes of Government (2009),

Reaffirming our commitment to promote constitutionalism, the principles of separation of powers and independence of the judiciary, and political pluralism with the full participation of citizens, in conformity with the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) and the Union’s Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections,

Reiterating the decisions of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on the issues of terrorism, violent extremism and unconstitutional changes of government in Africa,

Taking note of the Reports of the Chairperson of the Commission on Terrorism and Violent Extremism and on Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa,

Acknowledge that:

- (i) The resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government, the expanding threat of terrorism and violent extremism across the continent, including the influx of foreign terrorist fighters, private military companies and

mercenaries, the proliferation of armed groups, as well as transnational organized crime, negatively impact the peace, security, stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity of some Member States;

(ii) Africa continues to face structural challenges in adequately addressing the root causes of terrorism, violent extremism, and unconstitutional changes of government;

(iii) Governance deficits, terrorism and violent extremism are being compounded by the impact of climate change, and the concern over the use of natural resources by terrorist groups as a source of financing;

(iv) Despite these challenges, Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) and AU organs continue to make gradual progress towards the consolidation of democracy and constitutionalism, as well as countering terrorism and violent extremism; and

(v) There is an imperative for greater collective action to address the challenges of terrorism, violent extremism and unconstitutional changes of government.

We hereby declare the following:

A. On Terrorism and Violent Extremism

1. *Our unequivocal condemnation* of all manifestations of terrorism and violent extremism across the continent; and reaffirm our commitment to preserve the indivisibility of the security of African States in line with the Common African Defence and Security Policy and within the spirit of finding African security solutions;

2. *Salute* all African citizens and peace operations personnel who paid the ultimate sacrifice as a result of terrorist attacks on the continent and globally;

3. *Scale up* implementation of all relevant AU instruments and decisions, particularly the 1999 Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the Fiftieth OAU/AU Anniversary Solemn Declaration;

4. *Accelerate* the signing and ratification of relevant continental instruments, including the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, the AU Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation, and the African Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Africa;

5. *Full operationalization* of the African Standby Force (ASF) without further delay and to strengthen coordination with RECs/RMs on its utilization; and to expedite the finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding between the AU and RECs/RMs on the ASF;

6. *Reiteration* of decisions, particularly Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.753 (XXXIII) of February 2020, and Assembly/AU/Dec.815 (XXXV) of February 2022 on the establishment of a Counter-Terrorism Unit within the ASF;

7. *Affirmation* of the call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries from the continent; and on the Commission to speed up the conclusion of the revision of the OAU Convention on Mercenaries;

8. *Strong rejection* of external interference in Africa's domestic affairs and call upon all external actors to cease their support to terrorist groups on the continent;

9. *Reaffirmation* of the imperative of adequate, sustainable and predictable financing for counter-terrorism efforts on the continent and consequently renew the call to the United Nations, particularly the United Nations Security Council, for use of assessed contributions for AU-mandated Peace Support Operations (PSOs), to further strengthen counter-terrorism efforts and promote stabilization on the continent;

10. *The AU Peace Fund* is a viable instrument for addressing urgent peace and security challenges on the continent and commend the contributions by Member States made thus far;
11. *Strong commitment* to provide adequate budgetary allocation for national initiatives and programmes aimed at strengthening the prevention and combatting of terrorism and violent extremism;
12. *Strengthen* the fight against local and external financing of terrorism and to accelerate the implementation of the Assembly Decision on the criminalization of the payment of ransom to terrorist groups; and to promote concerted efforts on the improved management of natural resources;
13. *Scale up* efforts to combat transnational organized crime especially the proliferation of illicit arms, including through enhanced intelligence sharing mechanisms, border management, cooperation and control;
14. *Develop* a comprehensive Continental Strategic Plan of Action on countering terrorism in Africa, premised on existing national and regional strategies, to enhance coordination and coherence, in order to consolidate coordination and enhance actions;
15. *Deploy* more efforts and resources to strengthen cyber security, including through legislation at the national level, ratification of the AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection and enhanced cooperation; and institute necessary legal and regulatory action to prevent the abuse of social media platforms by terrorists, as well as support the development of the Continental Cyber Security Strategy and the Child Online Safety and Empowerment Policy;
16. *Establish* an AU Ministerial Committee on Counter-Terrorism to serve as a high-level coordination, monitoring, evaluation and follow-up mechanism of the implementation of the commitments made in this Declaration;
17. *Substantially increase* support for children, youth and women affected by armed conflict especially terrorism, radicalization and insurgency, in collaboration with RECs/RMs and AU organs; and initiate concerted actions in building capacity for community-based resilience and stabilization, to promote effective long-term recovery through the post-conflict reconstruction and development programmes;
18. *Promote* a multidimensional and proactive approach in empowering the youth by reinforcing peace education, tolerance and coexistence in order to consolidate the fight against terrorism and violent extremism;
19. *Strengthen* the institutional capacity of the Commission, and specialized agencies of the AU, including the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the AU Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) and the AU Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), to build synergies with and improve the efficiency of Member States in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism;
20. *Promote* experience sharing and lesson learning among Member States and RECs/RMs to better coordinate and enhance regional and continental efforts in combating terrorism;
21. *Build, diversify and consolidate* strategic international partnerships to reinforce cooperation and coordination of efforts in preventing and countering terrorism;
22. *Welcome* the initiative of the AU-UN Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) on security and governance in the Sahel under the auspices of the Chairperson of the Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, and the United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. António Guterres, and the appointment of the former President of the Republic of Niger, H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, as Chair of the JSA Independent High-Level Panel;
23. *Welcome* the outcome of the Meeting of Directors-General and Heads of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa held on 26 May 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, and, in this regard, call for greater

intelligence and information sharing and joint operations through the platform of the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA), as well as the various regional fusion centres, to ensure effectiveness of our intelligence governance initiatives on the continent;

B. On Unconstitutional Changes of Government

1. *Unequivocally condemn* all forms of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa and reiterate our zero tolerance in this regard;
2. *Recall* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.818 (XXXV) which mandated the Third Africa Governance Report to focus on the nexus between governance and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR); however, given the spate of unconstitutional changes of government on the continent, directs the Commission and African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to remodel the Third Africa Governance Report 2023 to reflect issues related to unconstitutional changes of government;
3. *Recommit* to our total adherence to the relevant principles, norms and shared values contained in the AU Constitutive Act, the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the Lomé Declaration;
4. *Determine* to further enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of AU support to Member States in political transition and post-conflict situations, to build durable peace, entrench democratic culture and governance, including through transitional justice, and prevent relapse to cycles of violence, within the context of silencing the guns in Africa;
5. *Commend* the strides made by Member States in organizing free, fair, credible and transparent elections, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic; and the continued respect for electoral outcomes and constitutional provisions relating to term limits;
6. *Take due note of and endorse* the Accra Declaration arising from the Reflection Forum on Unconstitutional Changes of Government held from 15 to 17 March 2022 in Accra, Ghana, under the leadership of H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufoaddo, President of the Republic of Ghana and current Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government;
7. *Consolidate* our efforts to create a conducive environment for the effective participation of women and youth in political processes, as well as addressing the impact of unconstitutional changes of government on children;
8. *Strengthen* national, regional and continental mechanisms on early warning and conflict prevention, as well as the interface between the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), to consolidate good governance, particularly constitutionalism and the rule of law through multi-level engagements; and to that end, call on Member States yet to accede to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), to do so, to concretize national ownership of governance processes.

We are fully cognizant of the ultra-importance of building resilient societies, social cohesion, national unity and regional cooperation, as the bedrock for lasting peace, and in the spirit of the Madiba Nelson Mandela Decade of Reconciliation in Africa; institute 31 January of each year, as "Africa Day of Peace and Reconciliation"; and, to this effect, appoint H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, as AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa.

As Heads of State and Government of the African Union, speaking with one voice, mindful of our responsibility and commitment, we recommit to build on the shared vision of Pan-Africanism and the legacy of African unity and solidarity, by upholding constitutionalism, democracy and good governance and to embrace the multidimensional

approach to achieve peace, security and sustainable development, in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want.

Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec. (XVI)

Decision on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the Reports of the Chairperson of the Commission on Terrorism and Violent Extremism and on Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa; the Report of the African Union (AU) Champion of the Fight against Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa, H.E. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria; the Report of the Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU for May 2022, H.E. Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon; and the Report of the Chairperson of the African Peer Review Mechanism Forum of Heads of State and Government, H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone;
2. *Commends* the PSC for its efforts in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, and unconstitutional changes of government, as well as supporting Member States in political transition and post-conflict situations;
3. *Notes with deep concern* the persistent threat of terrorism and violent extremism, and the proliferation of foreign terrorist fighters and armed groups in the five regions of the continent, as well as the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa;
4. *Reaffirms* the Declaration adopted by the Sixteenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa, held on 28 May 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea;
5. *Reiterates* its commitment to redouble efforts to address governance deficits on the continent in line with the AU normative frameworks and legal instruments;
6. *Requests* the Commission to develop modalities for the operations of the AU Ministerial Committee on Counter-Terrorism to be considered by the PSC, before its consideration by the Executive Council in June/July 2022, while welcoming the offer of the Republic of Togo to host the inaugural meeting of the Committee, once it is officially constituted;
7. *Directs* the Commission to urgently operationalize the AU Special Fund for Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism, in line with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.614 (XXVII) of July 2016 on the establishment of the AU Special Fund;
8. *Requests* the Commission to undertake an in-depth study on the sources of financing, foreign interests and local collaborators of terrorist and extremist groups in Africa, and report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in February 2023;
9. *Calls on* the PSC to immediately operationalize its Subcommittee on Counter-Terrorism in accordance with Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM. (CCXLIX) of November 2010;
10. *Requests* the Commission, working with RECs/RMs, to expedite the finalization of the AU Guidelines for the Amendment of National Constitutions, in line with existing frameworks on constitutionalism and the rule of law, and report to the ordinary session of the Executive Council in January/February, 2023;

11. *Further requests* the PSC to establish a subcommittee on unconstitutional changes of government in line with Article 8, paragraph 5, of the PSC Protocol, to monitor trends and report annually to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;
12. *Urges* the PSC to reactivate its Subcommittee on Sanctions towards coordinated oversight on the impact of sanctions, pursuant to the Lomé Declaration;
13. *Requests* the Commission to continue providing technical support to Member States towards building sustainable democratic governance, justice, peace and development on the continent, through the implementation of AU Transitional Justice Policy;
14. *Directs* the Commission to review the implementation of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) towards a robust response to the persistent and emerging challenges on the continent;
15. *Delegates* to the Executive Council at its Forty-first Ordinary Session during the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in June/July 2022, after due consideration by the PSC, upon recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Peace Fund, to promptly determine the appropriate level of funds for use from within the Crisis Reserve Facility (CRF) of the AU Peace Fund, to enable the Union to respond rapidly and effectively to emerging conflicts on the African continent, especially those arising from terrorism;
16. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.818 (XXXV) which mandated the Third Africa Governance Report to focus on the nexus between governance and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR); however, given the spate of unconstitutional changes of government on the continent, directs the Commission and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to remodel the Third Africa Governance Report 2023 to reflect issues related to unconstitutional changes of government;
17. *Furthermore, notes with concern* the latest developments on the common border between the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Rwanda, and in the framework of the principle of complementarity and subsidiarity, mandates the Chairman of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, to maintain contacts with the concerned parties and to report on his diplomatic efforts for an immediate silencing of guns in the region and the expeditious re-establishment of the dialogue mechanisms between the two Member States.