

AFRICAN UNION

DECLARATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS



BOOK THREE
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 that reflect “Africa Then”, “Africa Then and Now”, and “Africa Now and in the Future”.

Graphic design provided by Sean Bacon.

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Book Three

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Table of Contents

	Page
Seventeenth Extraordinary Session Industrialization and Economic Diversification (2022)	
Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XVII)	Niamey Declaration on Industrialization and Economic Diversification 3
Eighteenth Extraordinary Session African Continental Free Trade Area (2022)	
Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.2 (XVII)	Decision on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) 13
Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session (2023)	
Assembly/AU/Dec.839 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Institutional Reforms of the African Union by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda 19
Assembly/AU/Dec.840 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Report of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, on the ALM – Investing in Health: February 2023 19
Assembly/AU/Dec.841 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Proposal by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, to Designate the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) as a Specialized Agency of the African Union 20
Assembly/AU/Dec.842 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Report on the Activities of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the State of Peace and Security in Africa 20
Assembly/AU/Dec.843 (XXXVI)	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 26
Assembly/AU/Dec.844 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Outcome of the Second Regional Consultations of the Review of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council 28
Assembly/AU/Dec.845 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Report on Granting a Seat to the African Union within G20 by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal 29
Assembly/AU/Dec.846 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Establishment of an African and World Decade on Afforestation 29
Assembly/AU/Dec.847 (XXXVI)	Decision on Building a United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations to African 29
Assembly/AU/Dec.848 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Progress Report on Activities and Prospects for the Establishment of the High Committee in Charge of the 2021-2031 Agenda, "Decade of African Roots and Diasporas" 30
Assembly/AU/Dec.849 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Report on the Global Food Crisis 32
Assembly/AU/Dec.850 (XXXVI)	Decision on Structures 33
Assembly/AU/Dec.851 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Reports of the Forum of Heads of State and Government Participating in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APR Forum) by H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and

	Chairperson of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)	37
Assembly/AU/Dec.852 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Report of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, on the AUDA-NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC)	41
Assembly/AU/Dec.853 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Report of the AU Committee of Ten (C-10) Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the UN Security Council, by H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone	43
Assembly/AU/Dec.854 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Annual Report of the Union and its Organs including the Specific Thematic Issues by the Heads of State Champions	44
Assembly/AU/Dec.855 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC)	46
Assembly/AU/Dec.856 (XXXVI)	Decisions on Draft Legal Instruments	49
Assembly/AU/Dec.857 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Election of the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union for 2023	49
Assembly/AU/Dec.858 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Appointment of the Director General of Africa CDC	50
Assembly/AU/Dec.859 (XXXVI)	Decision on Date and Venue of the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union	50
Assembly/AU/Dec.860 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Date and Venue of the Fifth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting	50
Assembly/AU/Dec.861 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Africa Union Theme of the Year 2023: “Acceleration of AfCFTA Implementation”	51
Assembly/AU/Dec.862 (XXXVI)	Decision on the Africa Medicine Agency Establishment and Operationalization	51
Assembly/AU/Dec.863 (XXXVI)	Decision on the African Union Scale of Assessment	52
Assembly/AU/Dec.864 (XXXVI)	Decision on the African Union Theme of the Year for 2024	52
Assembly/AU/Dec.865(XXXVI)	Decision on the Negotiation of an African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls	53
Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXXVI)	Ministerial Declaration of Algiers on Start-Ups in Africa	53
Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XXXVI)	Declaration on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East	55
Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XXXVI)	Declaration on the Financial Sustainability of the African Union	57
Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXXVI)	Declaration on Accelerating the Path to Achieving the Goals and Targets of the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa	60
Assembly/AU/Decl.5 (XXXVI)	Declaration on the Outcomes of the Dakar 2 Summit on Food Sovereignty and Resilience	64
Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXXVI)	Resolution on the Impact of Sanctions and Unilateral Coercive Measures	65

Assembly/AU/Res.2 (XXXVI)	Resolution on the Lifting of the Economic, Commercial and Financial Blockade Imposed on the Republic of Cuba by the United States of America	67
Assembly/AU/Motion (XXXVI)	Motion of Appreciation to H.E. President Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and Outgoing Chairperson of the African Union	67
	African Climate Summit (2023)	
	The African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action	71

**SEVENTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
INDUSTRIALIZATION AND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION**

**Niamey, Niger
22 November 2022**

Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XVII)
25 November 2022

Niamey Declaration on Industrialization and Economic Diversification

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union (AU), meeting on 25 November 2022, for the Seventeenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on Industrialization and Economic Diversification in Niamey, Republic of Niger,

Having deliberated on the theme “Industrializing Africa: Renewed Commitment towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Economic Diversification”,

Acknowledging that Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals offer a unique opportunity for Africa to design and implement a coherent and effective development pathway that strengthens and sustains economic growth through sustainable industrialization and leads to a socially inclusive society that works for the well-being of all its people, through appropriate efforts to fight against poverty and inequalities, and offering opportunities of upward mobility to all, including women and young people,

Commending the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the hosting of the AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana, and the start of trading under this Agreement on 1 January 2021,

Recognizing that the sustainability of the AfCFTA calls for a strong commitment to accelerate Africa’s productive transformation with a view to building resilient regional value chains for a continental and global productive and competitive economy to fulfil the vision and aspirations of the African Union’s Agenda 2063,

Recalling the Industrial Development Decades for Africa (IDDA) I, II and III, the Strategy for the Implementation of the Plan of Action for Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) and other continental strategies and programmes relevant to industrialization,

Noting with concern the slow progress recorded so far on the implementation of these continental strategies and programmes in the light of their limited impact on industrialization, structural transformation and overall development towards the achievement of the ultimate goals of the African Union Agenda 2063,

Cognizant that the COVID-19 pandemic, the current geopolitical situations and climate change pose unprecedented threats to Africa’s economic growth,

Further recognizing that the interlinked and cascading effects of climate change, drought and land degradation, biodiversity loss and pollution threaten the ecological foundation of our economies and the lives and livelihood of millions across the continent,

Mindful of the deleterious impact of the global crises on African productive capacities, including capital accumulation, and productivity, and on social outcomes including poverty and inequalities,

Stressing the critical importance of industrial development for economic diversification, value addition, and structural transformation as a critical source of sustained economic growth for African countries,

Having examined the major structural challenges to industrialization within the continent, in the current context of the global situation, and the various ways of overcoming them,

Recognizing that economic diversification through an inclusive and sustainable industrial development that builds upon Africa’s human and natural resource potential is a dynamic tool for poverty eradication, economic resilience and structural transformation,

Underscoring the benefits of an African commodity-based industrialization in optimizing the utilization of African commodities to drive value addition, sustainable industrialization through development of industrial parks and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for transformative and inclusive development,

Being aware of the need to facilitate production of high-quality goods and services in Africa through harmonization of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment systems for market access through the elimination of technical barriers to trade,

Recognizing that the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and the digital transformation of industry are a driving force for innovative, inclusive, resilient and sustainable growth,

Emphasizing the transformative role that enhanced productive capacities in African industries, including health and pharmaceutical industries, can play in strengthening health systems and health security towards socio-economic development,

Further recognizing the urgent need to complement the public health agenda with a health industry development dimension, that can drive a truly transformational process enhanced through the facilitation of private sector partnerships, technology transfer and investment, skills development, access to affordable finance, mutual recognition of compliance with quality and standards requirements, trade facilitation efforts, and access to adequate infrastructure,

Being cognizant that fostering economic and social transformation in Africa will require a substantial amount of financial and non-financial resources from all sources,

Cognizant of the unpredictability of external financial resources, and underscoring the fundamental role of domestic resources as the main source of finance for economic and social transformation in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Being cognizant that investment by the diaspora network can deepen Africa's inclusion in the global financial market and boost foreign direct investments on the continent,

Hereby decide:

Structural Transformation, Economic Diversification and Industrialization

1. *Reiterate* our resolve to achieve the goals and objectives of industrialization set in Agenda 2063 and its flagship projects as well as the various continental programmes and strategies towards structural transformation and productive diversification;
2. *Reaffirm* our commitment to the upgrading and diversification of our economies for increased value addition and transformation of commodities through productive capacities, as well as the development of competitiveness in all productive sectors to take advantage of the AfCFTA market and enhance Africa's position in the global economy;
3. *Resolve also* to advance the Quality Policy and promotion of Africa branded products should be meant to improve the quality of products so that they are competitive enough to trade in the global arena;
4. *Call upon* the African Union Commission to elaborate industrial policies and programmes to support industrialization, economic diversification and the objectives of the AfCFTA;
5. *Also call upon* the African Union Commission and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities (RECs), to support the completion of all outstanding phases of the ongoing AfCFTA negotiations focusing on investment, intellectual property, competition and e-commerce protocols and ensure that such negotiations support the integration and transformative agenda for Africa to foster industrialization, digital transformation, skills upgrading and infrastructure development through the implementation of continental programmes, such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA PAP2), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development

Programme (CAADP), the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (DTSA), the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) and the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA);

6. *Further call upon* the African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, the African Development Bank (AfDB), Afreximbank, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and the African Trade Insurance Agency (ATI) to consider the feasibility of setting up an African Development Financial Institutions Coordination Mechanism and a Fund dedicated to Africa's industrialization following the due processes of the Union;

7. *Urge* AUDA-NEPAD and the AfCFTA Secretariat, in collaboration with the AUC and with the support of other partners such as the BADEA, the Afreximbank and the Africa Solidarity Fund to undertake country impact assessments on implementation of the provisions of AIDA and AfCFTA so as to identify national and regional challenges as well as opportunities to be factored by Member States during the design of their national development plans, and to accelerate regional integration;

8. *Call upon* the Member States to implement policies aimed at the inclusion of African diaspora in the ongoing development process to accelerate the continent's economic transformation through increased direct investment, transfer of know-how and experience of foreign markets;

Energy and Sustainability

9. *Urge* the African Union Commission and the AUDA-NEPAD, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the AFREXIMBANK, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the African Trade Insurance (ATI) Agency, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in liaison with the African Energy Commission (AFREC), to support Member States to significantly scale up energy investments as a fundamental priority for industrial development;

10. *Commit* to urgently engage in robust and innovative actions aimed at strengthening energy security and promote the growth of the green economy, making use of all available opportunities to continually accelerate Africa's clean energy transition to ensure universal energy access, availability of water for livelihood and green industrialization;

11. *Decide* to advance the emergence of trading and investment corridors across sub-regions of the continent, placing particular focus on green technology-enabled manufacturing clusters in rural and urban corridors, taking into account the need to promote universal access to energy;

12. *Resolve* to ensure that, by promoting investments in sustainable patterns of production and consumption, industrialization efforts in Africa acknowledge international environmental agreements and commitments – including the climate commitments under the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD);

13. *Call upon* the international community to support Africa's effort to leapfrog to an inclusive, resource efficient and low carbon economy through the promotion of green industrialization and circular economy based on efficient utilization of natural resource endowments;

Intellectual Property Protection

14. *Call for* the operationalization of the Pan African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO);

15. *Assert* the need to create mechanisms for intellectual property protection and commercialization, especially in the creative art and fashion industries, where Africa has special advantages;

Health and Pharmaceuticals

16. *Commit* to a collaborative approach to creating an overall market environment that supports investment in and development of the health industry in Africa in order to improve the availability of and access to affordable, safe and efficacious medicines and health products and make full use the WTO TRIPS Flexibilities;
17. *Request* the Commission to continue providing support to the Conference of the States Parties to the African Medicines Agency (AMA) Treaty and Rwanda, host of the AMA Headquarters, in the rapid operationalization of the Agency including its regional offices;
18. *Encourage* Member States that have signed the AMA Treaty to ratify it and call on other Member States to sign and ratify the Treaty to safeguard public health, safety and security by operationalizing a medicines regulatory agency that will improve access to quality, safe and efficacious medicines and medical products on the continent;
19. *Call upon* the African Union Commission in collaboration with the AUDA-NEPAD to strengthen collaboration in reviving and supporting the achievement of the goals of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) through improved procurement, including pooled procurement and supply chain management system as innovative mechanisms to incentivize local manufacturing and foster a conducive business environment that facilitates the attraction of leading generic pharmaceutical manufacturers to either build plants locally or to partner with local manufacturers and equip them to produce their products under licensed manufactures or in joint ventures;

Digitalization

20. *Call upon* the African Union Commission, the AUDA-NEPAD, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Afro-Champions Initiative to accelerate digital cooperation and partnership initiatives for the digital transformation of industry;
21. *Urge* the African Union Commission, the AUDA-NEPAD, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Afro-Champions Initiative to implement a comprehensive mapping of innovation and digitalization initiatives, policies, strategies, and stakeholders, to improve coordination, identify potential synergies and support the scaling-up of pioneering activities;
22. *Commit* to strengthening institutions to design and implement support tools that facilitate the promotion of dynamic innovation ecosystems that enable to fully utilize the opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution through digital start-ups in Africa with a view to harnessing the transformative potential of young entrepreneurs and boost economic diversification and transformation;

Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Private Sector Development

23. *Further commit* to reinforcing our efforts to strengthen innovation, research and development in Africa as a basis to develop capabilities and capacities by using global knowledge and developing domestic capabilities to accelerate industrialization and to leverage the continent's expertise;
24. *Reaffirm* that governmental support in improving the business and investment climate, and strengthening of business intermediary and investment promotion organizations will remain at the centre of our priority reform for creating a business environment conducive to private sector development to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth in Africa through industrialization and creation of employment opportunities;
25. *Call for* the synchronization of African investment policies while giving due focus to investment promotion policies, continuity of ongoing collaboration between the African Union Member States, reduction/removal of tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, and enabling reliable mechanisms, establishment of the requisite conducive business environment for the private sector to flourish through strengthened regulatory systems;

26. *Call upon* the Members States to create an ecosystem where the African micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) can thrive by easing access to skilled labour, finance and managerial expertise by operationalizing the Enterprise Africa Network;

27. *Urge* that much greater attention be given to expanding and strengthening local entrepreneurship, removing the various structural obstacles to redressing Africa's infrastructural deficits, and accelerating the efforts that have been made to date to remove practices that increase transaction costs to the detriment of industrial development;

28. *Call for* a better leveraging of opportunities for the development of women and youth entrepreneurship as a credible strategy for inclusive growth to ensure that Africa's youthfulness is translated into a full demographic dividend;

Reaffirm that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development;*

29. *Reiterate* the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies;

30. *Recommit* to adopting and strengthening sound policies and enforceable legislation and transformative actions for the promotion of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment at all levels;

Skills Development and Human Capital

31. *Commit* to develop the necessary skill sets for the development of an inclusive and sustainable industrial development and enhance university-industry cooperation as a strategic vehicle to build national innovation and technology development and management capacities;

32. *Further commit* to:

(i) Include in our national development plans initiatives to support the implementation of the AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth (young men and women) alongside the four thematic pillars namely, employment and entrepreneurship; education and skills development; health and well-being; and rights, governance and youth (and women) empowerment;

(ii) Strengthen Africa's evolving secondary and higher education systems in particular in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET);

(iii) Mobilize and allocate domestic resources and to promote partnerships in support of the aforementioned initiatives on harnessing the demographic dividend;

(iv) Introduce commercial knowledge at the level of kindergarten and above; and

(v) Undertake to do the following: (i) investing in more and better skills; (ii) aligning education with labour market needs; (iii) improving school-to-work transition; (iv) encouraging the long-term adaptability of skills; and (v) promoting international skills mobility with a particular focus on mobilizing and allocating domestic resources and promoting partnerships with a view to aligning skills with the priorities of a competitive industrial sector;

Financing and Resource Mobilization for Industrialization

33. *Commit* to enhancing domestic resources mobilization to ensure sustainable financing of Africa's industrialization;

* Editor's note: This paragraph is not numbered in the English or French text.

34. *Call upon* the African Union Commission and the AUDA-NEPAD to assist Member States in their efforts to broaden and diversify financial products for industrialization through innovative financial mechanism such as sovereign wealth funds (SWFs), pension funds, insurance savings, private equity funds, diaspora and sovereign bonds, impact investing, green bonds, remittances, public-private partnerships (PPPs) — as well as the curtailment of illicit financial flows and tax evasion practices;
35. *Also call upon* Member States to allocate a minimum of 5 to 10 per cent of the national budget to industrial development;
36. *Further call upon* Africa's development finance institutions to consider creating an African Development Finance Institutions Working Group and to study the feasibility and financial implications of setting up a Fund for Industrialization under the auspices of the African Union Commission, the AUDA-NEPAD, the African Development Bank, the Afreximbank and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), following due processes of the African Union;
37. *Recommit* to redouble efforts to reduce illicit financial flows with a view to eliminating them, including by combating tax evasion and corruption through strengthened national regulation and increased international cooperation;
38. *Urge* Member States that have not yet signed and ratified the legal instruments establishing the AU financial institutions (the African Investment Bank, the African Monetary Fund, the African Central Bank and the Pan-African Stock Exchange) to expedite their signing and ratification as a way of widening continental financial mechanisms for industrialization and development;
39. *Urge* the international community to deliver on their financial, technology transfer investment and human capital development commitments to achieve Africa's industrialization through the implementation of AU Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
40. *Further urge* Africa's development finance institutions to play an intermediary role between African States and international finance institutions towards reviewing their lending policies and related risk assessments, terms and conditions for accessing loans with a view to their adaptation to Africa's industrial development and structural transformation needs;
41. *Welcome with appreciation* the commitment of the African financial guarantee institutions: the African Solidarity Fund (ASF), the African Guarantee and Economic Cooperation Fund (FAGACE), the African Trade Insurance Agency (ATI-ACA), the African Guarantee Fund (AGF) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) to guarantee USD 1,000,000,000 towards lending that is targeted at supporting MSME's access to finance in the next twelve months;
42. *Urge* the said institutions to work with the African Union Commission and other stakeholders, including development and commercial banks in the implementation of the AU SME Strategy, as well as in improving MSME's access to financing across Africa so as to strengthen their competitiveness and their participation in regional, continental and global value chains;
43. *Also urge* the AUDA-NEPAD to work closely with the AfCFTA Secretariat, in coordination with the AU Commission and in partnership with stakeholders such as the BADEA, the African Solidarity Fund, the Afreximbank, the AfDB and the World Bank Group, to ensure the successful organization of the upcoming Second Infrastructure Financing High-Level Conference to be held in Dakar, Senegal, on 2 and 3 February 2023, in view of the acceleration of the implementation of the PIDA PAP 2 Financing Strategy;

Regional Value Chains and Special Economic Zones

44. *Request* the African Union Commission in close collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, UNECA and UNIDO to support Member States developing regional value chains in priority sectors of food, automotive, cotton apparel, pharmaceuticals, among others, in the context of the AfCFTA;

45. *Commit* to develop sustainable special economic zones/industrial parks as a means to overcome existing industrial infrastructure constraints and barriers to firm entry into the common AfCFTA market and leverage such special economic zones /industrial parks to become hubs for regional value chain integration;

46. *Recommit* to increasing investments in sustainable and resilient infrastructure through special economic zones and industrial parks, as a prerequisite for achieving industrial development with specific consideration for domestic investment, domestic market and women and youth;

Alignment and Implementation of Policies and Frameworks

47. *Commit* ourselves to the vigorous pursuit and implementation of the policy recommendations emanating from our deliberations and to aligning our national industrial development strategies with these in order to ensure that tangible results are achieved;

48. *Engage* to give high priority to clearly defined long-term industrial strategies and plans at national, regional and continental levels with a strategic focus on priority sectors in agriculture, industry and services by supporting the development of dynamic agro-industries to feed Africa and to become the bread basket of the world in the coming decade;

49. *Further call upon* the African Union Commission and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) together with all relevant partners to work closely to ensure a better interface among all continental policy standards, frameworks and strategies, to ensure complementarities and coherence;

50. *Request* the African Union Commission, in close collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD, RECs, UNECA, UNIDO and other relevant stakeholders taking into account the review of AIDA, to develop an up-to-date, implementable and results-based continental industrialization policy framework, embracing gains and lessons from monitoring and evaluating the experiences of the continent and other regions of the world, taking cognizance of current and emerging global trends, with particular attention to the continent's inclusive social and economic development priorities;

Governance and Coordination

51. *Note with concern* the slow progress recorded so far on the implementation of these continental strategies and programmes in the light of their limited impact on industrialization, structural transformation and overall development towards the achievement of the ultimate goals of the African Union Agenda 2063;

52. *Recall* the Industrial Development Decades for Africa (IDDA) I, II and III, the Strategy for the Implementation of the Plan of Action for Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) and other continental strategies and programmes relevant to industrialization;

53. *Stress* the critical importance of economic diversification, and structural transformation as a critical source of industrial development and economic growth in African countries for the successful implementation and benefit of the AfCFTA;

54. *Appoint* H.E. Mohamed Bazoum, President of the Republic of Niger, as the African Union Champion on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Productive Transformation to provide political leadership, awareness and ensure effective implementation of Africa's industrial development;

55. *Call upon* Member States to take the necessary national level measures to accelerate Africa's industrialization to achieve the vision and aspiration of Agenda 2063;

56. *Congratulate* the African Union Commission for the launch of the new African Women in Processing Initiative; applaud the successful organization, under the leadership of H.E. Mohamed BAZOUM, President of the Republic of Niger, of the First African Women in Processing Summit, and urge the African Union Commission to organize such continental gatherings as a regular annual event within the Africa Industrialization Week;

57. *Resolve* to set up an Inter-Institutional Coordination Mechanism to provide technical assistance to the AU Champion on industrialization and Productive Transformation under the auspices of the AUC in close collaboration with the AUDA-NEPAD. The Inter-Institutional Mechanism should work with Member States, RECs, UNIDO, UNECA, ACBF, ITC, the private sector, financial institutions (AfDB, Afreximbank, BADEA) and other partners to ensure coordination, harmonization, information sharing and resource mobilization for the follow-up of recommendations set forth in this Declaration and report on progress made at each session of the Assembly;

58. *Direct* the AUC to build a comprehensive implementation plan and follow-up mechanism capable of harnessing the political commitment, strong institutional foundation and relevant partnerships towards the achievement and impactful development results at scale;

Vote of Thanks

59. *We thank* the Government and people of the Republic of Niger for the hospitality afforded to all participants and for the courtesies which ensured the success of the Summit;

60. *Finally, we wish* to extend our gratitude to the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the AfroChampions, the AUDA-NEPAD, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Export and Import Bank (Afreximbank), the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) for successfully convening the African Industrialization Week and their support to the organization of the Seventeenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

**EIGHTEENTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA**

**Niamey, Niger
25 November 2022**

Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.2 (XVII)

Decision on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The Assembly,

Recalls Decision Ext/EX.CL/Dec.1 (XVIII) on the necessity of utilizing the potential of the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons in the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and AfCFTA to increase the attractiveness of the African market for trade and investment,

Takes note with concern of the low rate of ratification of the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment,

Recalls Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.831 (XXXV), which recognized the critical importance of the role of the Assembly in advancing progress in the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and in the remainder of the negotiations and approved the recommendation to convene a dedicated session on the AfCFTA,

Also recalls Decision Assembly AU/Dec.813 (XXXV) on the theme of the year for 2022 as “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” and emphasizes the role of the AfCFTA and intra-Africa trade to strengthen food security and health in Africa,

Further recalls the decision of the Assembly adopted in October 2022 through silence procedure, to hold the AfCFTA Extraordinary Session on 25 November 2022, in Niamey, Niger,

Report of H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, Former President of the Republic of Niger,
the Leader and Champion of the AfCFTA

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Report of H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, former President of the Republic of Niger, the Leader and Champion of the AfCFTA, and the recommendations thereof on the progress achieved on the AfCFTA;

Signature and Ratification

2. *Congratulates* the Republic of Cabo Verde, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, and Morocco following the deposits of their instruments of ratification of the AfCFTA with the Chairperson of the Commission, thus increasing the number of States Parties to forty-four (44);

3. *Calls upon* the remainder of the non-States Parties, which have not yet ratified or signed 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 market;

Status of AfCFTA Implementation

Trade in Services

4. *Takes note* of the Ministerial Directive on the Application of the Schedules of Specific Commitments on Trade in Services and adopts the Schedules of Specific Commitments on Trade in Services in the five (5) priority services sectors of the following States Parties: Djibouti; the Democratic Republic of Congo; Eswatini; Egypt; Lesotho; Namibia; Malawi; Mauritius; Seychelles; Zambia; Zimbabwe; the combined schedules of the East African Community (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania) and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (Gabon, Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, the Republic of the Congo and Equatorial Guinea);

5. *Also takes note* that with regard to the offer by Egypt, the AfCFTA Champion will undertake consultations with South Africa and Egypt with a view to finding a compromise;

6. *Also takes note* of the initial and revised offers in the five (5) priority services sectors of the following States Parties: Algeria; Angola; Botswana; Morocco; South Africa; and the combined offer of the 15 members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte D'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo; plus Mauritania, and urges these States and non-States Parties to attend to the Reports of the Secretariat on the verification of their services offers and submit their schedules of specific commitments for adoption by the ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union in February 2023;

7. *Calls upon* States Parties who are yet to submit their services offers to do so in order to enhance trading in services under the AfCFTA preferences;

Trade in Goods

8. *Welcomes* the additional¹ Provisional Schedules of Tariff Concessions submitted by the following States Parties, Algeria, the combined offer of EAC Partner States (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania), Tunisia, Zimbabwe and urges the remaining States Parties; Angola; São Tomé and Príncipe; the combined offer of the Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa), to attend to the agreed Modalities for Tariff Liberalization and the Technical Reports of the Secretariat on the verification of their tariff offers in order to meet the minimum threshold for trading under the AfCFTA preferences;

9. *Calls upon* the States Parties and non-States Parties who are yet to submit their tariff offers to do so in order to facilitate trading under the AfCFTA preferences;

10. *Takes note* of the progress made in the percentage of tariff lines with agreed Rules of Origin of 88.3 per cent, and directs the Council of Ministers to finalize the supplementary review mechanism for rules of origin;

11. *Welcomes* the Decision of the Ninth Meeting of the Council of Ministers on the Rules of Origin negotiations, and adopts the Rules of Origin Manual;

12. *Urges* the Council of Ministers to fast-track the adoption of the comprehensive strategies for automobiles and textile in order to finalize negotiations on the remainder outstanding tariff lines under annex II on Rules of origin;

AfCFTA Protocols

13. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the negotiations on the protocols on investment, competition policy and intellectual property and welcomes their adoption by the AfCFTA Council of Ministers;

14. *Requests* the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs to examine the said instruments in an extraordinary session in January 2023 in order to carry out legal vetting for their consideration by the policy organs in February 2023;

AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative

15. *Commends* the leadership of the AfCFTA Secretary-General in the implementation of the AfCFTA, including the execution of the AfCFTA Guided Trade, Secretariat-driven initiative that seeks to facilitate trade among States Parties that have met the minimum requirements for trade, and congratulates Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Ghana, Mauritius, and Rwanda for initiating the first trades under the Guided Trade Initiative;

¹ Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.831 (XXXV) adopted the Provisional Schedules of Tariff as part of the Ministerial Directive on the Application of the Schedules of Tariff Concessions.

16. *Encourages* States Parties to support their private sector to take advantage of the Guided Trade Initiative and directs the Secretariat to expand the Guided Trade Initiative to cover other States Parties that have met the minimum requirements for trade as set by the Council of Ministers, to take advantage of the AfCFTA market;

17. *Also directs* the AfCFTA Secretariat to support the States Parties in the establishment of the Trade Aggregating Companies, including exploring the possible legal framework required for finance and equity support to harvest the benefits of the AfCFTA;

18. *Further directs* the Secretariat to extend the Guided Trade Initiative to cover trade in services, to propel African economies as an enabler of both trade in goods and services and services trade in a liberalized market in a specific services sector of the economy;

19. *Directs* the Secretariat to support the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) under the Guided Trade Initiative in collaboration with the African Civil Aviation Commission, African airlines and other relevant stakeholders;

Trade Facilitation

20. *Notes* the progress made on trade facilitation along trade corridors and urges Member States to digitalize trade processes and procedures in order to streamline processes and enhance the movement of goods;

21. *Directs* the AfCFTA Secretariat to fast-track the implementation of a work programme related to the annexes for Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) specifically in the areas of standards harmonization;

AfCFTA Operational Tools

22. *Commends* the Secretariat for the development of the AfCFTA E-Tariff Book as a tool that promotes accessibility of AfCFTA preferences to businesses;

23. *Also commends* the Secretariat and the Afreximbank on the steps undertaken in the operationalization of the AfCFTA Adjustment Fund, and directs them to mobilize resources to the fund and report to the Assembly;

24. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.831 (XXXV) on the launch of the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), and congratulates the Republic of Ghana and the Federal Republic of Nigeria for initiating the first transactions under PAPSS, and calls upon other Member States to initiate transactions under the system;

Dispute Settlement

25. *Takes note* of the progress made in operationalizing the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures for the Settlement of Disputes, and directs the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) to finalize the process of selecting the Appellate Body Members and present to the next session of the Assembly for approval;

Development of Continental and Regional Value Chains

26. *Recognizing* the importance of AfCFTA implementation in addressing food security and nutrition challenges, encourages the States Parties to offer duty-free and quota free treatment and other appropriate measures on intra-Africa imports of agricultural products from 1 January 2023, subject to the AfCFTA;

27. *Encourages* the African Union Commission, the AfCFTA Secretariat, AUDA-NEPAD, the African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the African Medicines Agency (AMA) to collaborate to enhance medicines, vaccines and diagnostics manufacturing industry in Africa in ensuring significant benefits, including increased sovereign health security, protection of intellectual property rights, harmonization of regulations and policies, and boost manufacturing and technological expertise;

28. *Recalls* the Statute of the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization adopted in 2016 and directs the Commission to work with the AfCFTA Secretariat and AUDA-NEPAD to propose an arrangement for the rationalization of the institutional governance of intellectual property rights on the continent to enhance industrialization, address public health challenges, protect creative innovations and promote overall inter-African trade and to report back to the policy organs in June/July 2023;

29. *Commends* Member States already implementing the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment by improving the visa regime to enable African nationals to enter their territories for, among others, tourism, business, and education. To this end, appeals to Member States that have yet to sign or ratify the Protocol to do so and allow its entry into force;

30. *Directs* the African Union Commission to enhance close collaboration with the AfCFTA Secretariat and ensure regular reporting on the status of the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons in Africa, starting from the February 2023 Summit that will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.819 (XXXV) on the
Theme of the Year 2022 “Acceleration of AfCFTA Implementation”

31. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.819 (XXXV) relating to the theme of the year 2023 and requests the AfCFTA Secretariat to submit the concept note as well as the roadmap to the Forty-second Ordinary Session of the Executive Council through the PRC;

Private Sector Engagements, Resources Mobilization, Collaboration and Partnerships

32. *Commends* the organization of the first Women and Youth in Trade Conference, and congratulates H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, for hosting the Conference;

33. *Also commends* the role of all States Parties, the Council of Ministers Responsible for Trade, and other AfCFTA institutions, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the AfCFTA Cooperating Partners, on the significant progress made towards the implementation of the AfCFTA, and trading under the AfCFTA preferences;

34. *Further commends* the AfCFTA Strategic Partners, namely, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Afreximbank for providing financial support of \$11.4 million and \$6 million, respectively, towards the implementation of the AfCFTA and directs the AfCFTA Secretariat to work towards achieving financial autonomy, working closely with the relevant African Union organs and the private sector;

35. *Commends* the role of the private sector, and in particular the Equity Group, which has committed to support States Parties in the implementation of the AfCFTA through its economic recovery and resilience stimulus plan of \$7 billion and requests the Secretariat to continue its work with the private sector² for fund mobilization and other collaboration in support of the AfCFTA implementation;

36. *Requests* the AU Champion on AfCFTA, H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, former President of the Republic of Niger, to submit a progress report on the implementation of the AfCFTA at the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, in February 2023.

² Reference is made to the Private Sector Engagement Strategy: at the Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session the Assembly welcomed the AfCFTA Strategy for Private Sector Engagement Plan and directed the AfCFTA Secretary-General to intensify collaboration between the AfCFTA Secretariat and the private sector.

THIRTY-SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
18 to 19 February 2023**

Assembly/AU/Dec.839 (XXXVI)

**Decision on the Institutional Reforms of the African Union by
H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress made on institutional reforms and commends H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, for his leadership;
2. *Notes with concern* the long delays in the finalization of the remaining reform tasks and reiterates the imperative to complete the AU institutional reform process by July 2023;
3. *Recalling* Assembly/AU/Dec.798 (XXXIV), requests the Commission to organize a retreat of the PRC, organs and consultants and further requests the AU Commission to organize the said retreat in the first half of 2023 to consider the consultants proposals;
4. *Decides* to extend the deadline for submission of the final report on the remaining reform tasks until July 2023;
5. *Also decides* that the 2022 approved budget balance be carried over to the year 2023 to allow for conclusion of the requisite payments for consultants and firms recruited to support the remaining reform activities as well to cover operational costs of the Reform Unit;
6. *Requests* the Chairperson of the AU Commission, the Reform Unit as well as the Reform Team to ensure adherence to the set deadline.

Assembly/AU/Dec.840 (XXXVI)

**Decision on the Report of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, on the
ALM – Investing in Health: February 2023**

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the progress that has been made in the operationalization of the Regional Health Financing Hubs (RHH) in the SADC and EAC; and urges Member States and RECs to proactively support the roll-out of the RHHs within the remaining regions to ensure the ALM commitments are domesticated in line with national priorities;
2. *Notes with appreciation* the commitments of key development partners in their ongoing support of the ALM agenda and demonstrating their commitment towards increased domestic investments in health;
3. *Takes note* of the commitment of the Government of Malawi to hold the first National Health Financing Dialogue (NHFD); and encourages Member States to engage in the NHFDs in order to explore paths towards sustainable financing of their National Health Architecture in line with the continental commitments of the ALM;
4. *Urges* AUDA-NEPAD to prioritize research efforts in high-impact areas such as health research and development, which are essential elements in boosting domestic resource allocations and supporting the realization of the overarching ALM Declaration;
5. *Reaffirms* the need to retain the momentum of the Domestic Health Financing Agenda; and further requests the continued support of Member States in the allocation of domestic resources for the effective and sustained implementation of the ALM, which includes: (a) the establishment and operationalization of Regional Health Financing Hubs, as well as their operational costs; (b) the biennial meeting of Ministers of Health and Finance; and (c) hosting, managing, and yearly updating of the Africa Scorecard Website;

6. *Appreciates* the piloting of the domestic health financing tracker that will enable AU Member States to track step-by-step progress of resource allocation and key reforms towards increased domestic financing; urges that going forward, the professionalization and upgrading of community health worker programmes should be a priority for the domestic health financing agenda;

7. *Extends gratitude* to the leadership of H.E. President Paul Kagame, leader on the ALM – Investing in Health Initiative.

Assembly/AU/Dec.841 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Proposal by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, to Designate the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) as a Specialized Agency of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the call by H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, and supported by H.E. Mr. Lazarus Chakwera, President of the Republic Malawi, to consider designating the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) as a specialized agency of the African Union (AU);

2. *Expresses deep concern* over the persistent food insecurity on the continent, the slow pace of food systems transformation and the urgency needed to address food insecurity and malnutrition in Africa;

3. *Applauds* the complementary work that AGRA is doing in supporting AU Member States to transform their food systems in order to improve their food security and nutrition outcomes;

4. *Requests* the Commission to initiate the due process to designate AGRA a specialized agency of the AU and report to the Assembly in February 2024.

Assembly/AU/Dec.842 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Report on the Activities of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the State of Peace and Security in Africa

The Assembly,

1. *Commends* the PSC for its tireless efforts in addressing governance, peace and security challenges in 2022 and urges the PSC to continue with its efforts, mainly supporting countries in transition and those under suspension to facilitate their timely return to constitutional order; requests countries in political transition to extend their cooperation with the PSC for closer engagement and collaborative efforts towards achieving stability; requests the PSC to sustain its efforts and regularly engage Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) on further advancing peace, security and stability on the continent, including through the newly established Inter-Regional Knowledge Exchange Platform (I-RECKE); endorses the Conclusions of the Fourteenth Retreat of the PSC on the Review of its Working Methods, held from 17 to 19 November 2022, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe;

2. *Expresses grave concern* over the persistence of conflict, as well as terrorism and violent extremism on the continent; emphasizes the need for a robust response and collective security approaches, particularly inter-State and cross-border coordination and cooperation, to effectively address the intensity and transboundary nature of the threats to the peace, security and stability of Africa; urges the PSC to prioritize the implementation of the outcomes of the Sixteenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in May 2022, to robustly respond to the pressing twin security issues of unconstitutional changes of government (UCG) and the threat posed by terrorism and violent extremism;

3. *Applauds* the PSC for its efforts towards intensifying engagement with all relevant AU organs and institutions on peace and security matters; encourages them to continue synergizing their efforts; and endorses the Conclusions of the Second Joint Retreat of the PSC and African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) held from 14 to 15 November 2022, in Durban, South Africa;

4. *Welcomes* the PSC engagements with international partners on peace and security matters; commends the outgoing African member (A3) of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, the Republic of Kenya, for its exemplary work during its tenure in the UN Security Council; congratulates the Republic of Mozambique for its election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period of January 2024 to December 2025; and encourages the A3 to continue championing for and promoting African positions within the UN Security Council; and endorses the Conclusions of the Ninth High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa held in Oran, Algeria, from 7 to 9 December 2022;
5. *Urges* the Central African Republic (CAR) authorities, with the support of the AU, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), to take the required measures to continue to promote good governance, strengthen national institutions and the rule of law, in order to create conducive conditions for democratic change, lasting peace and stability in the country; calls on the Government and all political and social stakeholders of the CAR to take all necessary legal measures for the holding of the local elections, on the agreed dates, scheduled for 2023; and directs the AU Commission to continue to provide the necessary support for the success of this electoral process, including the possibility of deploying a preventive diplomacy mission of the AU Panel of the Wise;
6. *Requests* the AU Commission, in collaboration with ECCAS, ICGLR and the UN, to continue its support to the authorities of the CAR to complete the integrated implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (PAPR) and the Luanda Road Map and prepare for the forthcoming elections; commends the humanitarian assistance community on their efforts in the CAR and appeals to them to continue assisting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in the CAR, despite difficulties encountered; and requests the AU Commission to take appropriate measures to strengthen the capacity of the African-led International Mission to the CAR (MISCA) to enable it to carry out its mission in the CAR effectively;
7. *Endorses* the PSC Press Statement (PSC/BR/PR/1121(2022)) adopted at its 1121st meeting held on 11 November 2022 requesting the AU Commission to deploy the AU Panel of the Wise to Chad, as soon as possible, to gather first-hand information in consultation with all relevant stakeholders on the ground and brief the PSC before 31 March 2023; and requests the AU Commission to continue to provide technical support to Chad to ensure a smooth and successful end of the transition period;
8. *Reaffirms* the AU's continued commitment, as one of the guarantors of the Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Region and its full implementation; commends the efforts deployed by the East African Community (EAC), ICGLR, ECCAS and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to accompany the DRC and the region; and expresses appreciation to H.E. Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, for their support and commitment towards the implementation of the Nairobi and Luanda processes; underscores the need to ensure synergy and alignment of the Nairobi and Luanda Peace Processes on the eastern DRC, as well as harmonization and coordination of all efforts aimed at stabilizing the DRC; and calls for its full implementation; furthermore, endorses the deployment of the East African Regional Force and requests the Commission to implement the PSC Communique adopted at the 1140th PSC Meeting, at the Heads of State and Government level, on 17 February 2023, particularly the revitalization of the Framework Agreement and utilization of the AU Peace Fund to support the deployment and operations of the EAC Regional Force;
9. *Commends* member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission for their continued support for the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy for the Lake Chad Basin Countries affected by the activities of the Boko Haram Terrorist Group; calls on the UN, including its agencies and partners, to support efforts aimed at reintegrating surrendered Boko Haram fighters and resettling refugees and IDPs that have returned to their communities as a result of MNJTF successes in its military operations; urges AU Member States to also support the affected countries in enhancing their capacities to receive, reintegrate and resettle ex-Boko Haram fighters, refugees and IDPs in their communities;
10. *Congratulates* the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Government and Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) for embracing a negotiated political solution to the conflict through the signing of the Agreement on the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities for lasting Peace in Ethiopia on 2 November 2022, in Pretoria, South

Africa; calls on the parties to continue to honour their commitments in good faith and ensure full implementation of the Agreement within the agreed timeframes; commends H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa and former president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the High-Level Panel namely, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, former president of the Republic of Kenya, and H.E. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former deputy president of the Republic of South Africa and Member of the AU Panel of the Wise, for facilitating the signing of the Agreement;

11. *Equally extends its appreciation* to the Governments of South Africa and Kenya for hosting peace talks to end the conflict; and to the Governments of Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa for providing experts to monitor the implementation of the Permanent Ceasefire Agreement in the northern region of Ethiopia, in the spirit of demonstrating African support; recognizes the steadfast support of the AU Commission leadership and the technical support provided to the process; applauds the role played by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the UN, the European Union, the United States of America, the African Development Bank, as well as international and bilateral partners, to the AU-led peace process for Ethiopia; furthermore, calls on all partners to support the implementation of the Peace Agreement, through the AU-led process, to foster lasting peace and stability in Ethiopia;

12. *Requests* the AU Commission to continue supporting Madagascar to consolidate its democratic gains, particularly with the upcoming presidential elections, as well as the implementation of the Security Sector Reforms (SSR) coordination structure; urges the various national stakeholders to prioritize inclusive dialogue and consensus building to settle political disputes; and appeals to Madagascar's bilateral and multilateral partners to support the country's electoral process appropriately;

13. *Commends* H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, for his demonstrated commitment to addressing the challenges facing Somalia; welcomes the progress registered in the implementation of the Somali Transition Plan (STP); reiterates the urgency of force generation and integration; calls for urgent agreement by the FGS on the Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) to be handed over from the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) to the Somali Security Forces; expresses deep appreciation to all international partners for their continued support to ATMIS, especially the EU and the UN; reiterates deep concern over the ATMIS funding shortfall compounded by the UN Security Council Resolution 2670 extending the drawdown of 2,000 ATMIS troops from 31 December 2022 until 30 June 2023, without financial backing; and therefore appeals to Member States and partners to help mobilize the necessary funding for ATMIS, while welcoming the AU/UN Joint Roadshow to raise resources for ATMIS; appeals, once again, to the UN Security Council for access to UN-assessed contributions (additional to the UN Logistics Support Package facilitated by the UN Support Office to Somalia-UNSOS) to fund ATMIS and other AU-led Peace Support Operations (PSOs); stresses the need for scaling up humanitarian assistance to Somalia and calls on all Member States in a position to do so, as well as the rest of the international community, to support the efforts of the FGS to address this challenge;

14. *Calls for* accelerated implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) and urges the signatories to the Agreement to ensure that the new transition timeline ending in February 2025 is attained to restore peace and stability in South Sudan; applauds the parties for the graduation of the first batch of the Necessary United Forces, and encourages them to continue scaling up efforts at improving command and control of the Armed Forces of South Sudan and redouble efforts to establish transitional justice mechanisms including the Hybrid Court; renews the call on development partners to support South Sudan's political reconciliation and the peace process in close coordination with IGAD and the AU Commission; underscores the critical role of the AU Ad Hoc High-Level Committee for South Sudan (C5) in supporting the peace process in South Sudan, and in this regard emphasizes the need for a renewed commitment to the C5 engagements on the South Sudan peace process;

15. *Expresses deep concern* over the political impasse that has negatively impacted the stability and security of Sudan and welcomes the engagement of the Trilateral Mechanism and encourages the Mechanism to speed up the consultation to reach an agreement for a swift return to constitutional order with a civilian-led transitional government; requests the PSC to continue engaging with the Sudanese authority, supporting the transitional process for a swift return to constitutional order;

16. *Directs* the AU Commission to engage Sudan and South Sudan and provide support towards the implementation of the Agreement on Temporary Security and Administrative Arrangements for the Abyei Administrative Area, signed on 20 June 2011; requests the Chairperson of the AU Commission to expedite the process of appointing the facilitator for the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC) to avoid further delays in the work of the Committee; and to upscale the mobilization of the requisite resources to ensure the success of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel for South Sudan and Sudan (AUHIP) in carrying out its mandate and assisting Sudan and South Sudan in finding lasting solutions to the outstanding issues in Abyei;
17. *Calls on* the AU Commission to continue to provide technical and financial assistance to Comoros in promoting genuine and inclusive national dialogue and reconciliation;
18. *Calls for* the respect of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Libya, reaffirms the AU's commitment to a peaceful resolution of the crisis and recognizes that the national reconciliation process based on the principle of national ownership and inclusivity is a necessary prelude for national elections aimed at unifying State institutions and restoration of the rule of law; in this regard, commends the effort of H.E. Denis Sassou Nguessou of the Republic of Congo and Chair the AU High-Level Committee on Libya and H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission, for their continued support to Libya, including through the reconciliation process; and applauds the Presidency Council for the launch of the national reconciliation strategy and encourages the Presidency Council to designate members of the High National Reconciliation Commission; welcomes the organization of a preparatory meeting of the National Reconciliation Conference in Tripoli, Libya, from 8 to 12 January 2023, by H.E. Abdallah Al-Lafi, the Vice-President of the Presidency Council, in partnership with the AU, through the AU High-Level Committee on Libya; and encourages the Presidency Council and the High-Level Committee on Libya to continue to engage positively in order to convene the National Reconciliation Forum guided by the principle of inclusivity;
19. *Renews* the call for the immediate withdrawal of foreign forces and mercenaries; welcomes the strong relationship between the Presidential Council and all Libyan parties with the Chair of the AU High-Level Committee on Libya and his team; extends their resolute support to the AU Team deployed in Libya led, by H.E. Jean Claude Gakosso, Foreign Minister of Congo, Chair of the AU High-Level Committee, and Professor Mohamed El Hacem Lebatt, Chief of Staff of the AU Commission; requests Member States to provide political, financial and technical support to enable the Commission to assist the operations of the AU Team in Libya; welcomes the new appointment of Professor Abdoulaye Bathily, an African as a UN Special Representative for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya; emphasizes the imperative for close collaboration and coordination between the Presidency Council, the AU High-Level Committee on Libya and UNSMIL in their common efforts in Libya;
20. *Commends* the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for its deployment of troops in the Cabo Delgado Province in Mozambique; calls for enhanced cooperation and coordination between the SADC and the AU Commission through regular information sharing, as well as joint engagements in support of the Southern African Development Community Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) operations to further strengthen the effectiveness of the mission; reaffirms its continued support to SAMIM in support of the Government of Mozambique's fight against terrorism;
21. *Notes with concern* the unfolding situation in the Kingdom of Eswatini and requests the AU Commission, in coordination with SADC and the Kingdom of Eswatini, to promote peace and dialogue towards resolution of the political and social crisis in the country;
22. *Encourages* countries in the Western Africa region to commit further to ensuring sustained peace and stability in the region, using the existing counter-terrorism tools, including non-military approaches, comprehensive dialogue and mediation mechanisms, enhanced intelligence sharing, and the revitalization of collective mechanisms; encourages the countries of the region to further enhance collaborative approaches in addressing security threats in the region, including the operationalization of existing regional initiatives particularly the Nouakchott Process and Accra Initiative;
23. *Calls on* the countries in transition to respect the agreed timetables towards the swift restoration of constitutional order and underscores the urgent need for the revitalization of the Transition Monitoring Mechanisms established by the Council for all countries in political transition and requests the AU Commission

to scale up collaboration with ECOWAS, Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and key stakeholders in ensuring a seamless support programme for the countries in transition, especially Guinea, and to address issues relating to national reconciliation, governance, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR)/SSR, and institutional reforms while considering the principles of national ownership and leadership;

24. *Reaffirms* its commitments contained in the Malabo Declaration (Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl. (XVI)) and other instruments dealing with the threat of terrorism and violent extremism; reaffirms the need for closer information and intelligence sharing through the revitalization and coordination of security frameworks, such as the Nouakchott and Djibouti Processes, and the Accra Initiative in close partnership with the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services (CISSA) and the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL); takes note of the need to change the name of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) to the African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre (AUCTC), and review its status and structure, to enable it to be aligned with similar international bodies, and improve synergies, and further enhance the efficiency of Member States in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism; requests the Commission, in line with the AU Framework of Institutional Reforms, to undertake the due process and report back to the next Assembly;

25. *Requests* the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE), working closely with PAPS, to develop modalities for cooperation and oversight on the programmes in the nuclear field and to continue supporting Member States in collaboration with partners in the broader areas of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons; encourages States Parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba to fulfil their financial obligations and ensure timely implementation of the Fourth and Fifth Ordinary Sessions of the Conference of States Parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba held in March 2018 and May 2022;

26. *Encourages* Member States to continue to promote youth as partners in enhancing the peace, security and stability of Member States and regions, in line with the relevant AU instruments; requests all Member States to commit to promoting the youth, peace and security agenda, in particular through the development and implementation of national action plans (NAPs) on the said agenda; appoints H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of Burundi, as the AU Champion for the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa, to respond to the recommendations by the youth in the Bujumbura Declaration of April 2022 which the PSC endorsed; and endorses the convening of an annual Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security in Bujumbura, Burundi;

27. *Welcomes and endorses* the adoption of the two child protection policies and mainstreaming of child protection by the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STC-DSS) in accordance with its Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.753 (XXXIII)); furthermore, reaffirms the urgent need for the Chairperson of the AU Commission to appoint a Special Envoy for Children in Situations of Conflict in line with PSC decisions; and calls for the development of guidelines on child participation for the Council;

28. *Renews* its commitment to the promotion of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and urges Member States that have not yet done so to develop NAPs and prioritize women's empowerment programmes in their national development plans as well as service delivery programmes;

29. *Salutes* the holding of the Border Forum in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in October 2022; welcomes the decision to hold the Forum biennially and calls on the AU Commission to consider co-hosting the second edition of the Abidjan Border Forum;

30. *Expresses appreciation* to the AU Panel of the Wise on their preventive diplomacy efforts on the continent and encourages them to further enhance support to Member States undergoing complex political transitions; applauds the AU Commission's initiatives to prevent electoral-related violence through the integrated approach of conflict prevention with AUC election observation missions, and encourages the Panel of the Wise to undertake more preventive diplomacy and maintain regular contact with key political stakeholders in Member States;

31. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.578 (XXV) adopted in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2015 and the subsequent Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.605 (XXVII) adopted in Kigali, Rwanda, in 2016 on sustainable financing of the Union; commends the AU Commission for the finalization of the African Consensus Paper on Adequate, Predictable, and Sustainable financing of AU Peace and Security Activities and adopts the Consensus Paper on Predictable, Adequate, and Sustainable Financing for African Union Peace and Security Activities; and requests

the AU Commission to embark on all-inclusive advocacy and promotion to support the African position through mobilization of AU Member States, RECs/RMs, UN Security Council members, bilateral and multilateral partners;

32. In this regard, *commits* to accelerate progress towards realization of Agenda 2063 and pursuit of African solutions to African problems, through predictable and sustainable funding; in this regard, approves the immediate use of the AU Peace Fund and its Crisis Reserve Facility (CRF), specifically to support the deployment and operations of the EAC Regional Force and to fill the financial gap in ATMIS; and directs the AU Commission to work out detailed modalities and steps for the immediate utilization of the fund, in accordance with the AU Financial Rules;

33. In this context, *firmly renews its call* for the AU to be urgently granted access to the UN-assessed contributions based on the guiding principles of the UN Charter as the most assured means of achieving effective and sustainable financing of AU peace and security activities; applauds the rigorous efforts being made by the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Board of Trustees and EMC to operationalize the AU Peace Fund through pilot projects; and endorses the approval by the Executive Council (EX.CL/Dec.1168 (XLI)) in July 2022, in Lusaka, Zambia, of the ceiling of US\$ 5 million for the CRF and its replenishment modalities adopted by the Executive Council in February 2023; and calls for its immediate utilization to address the emergency crisis situations on the continent;

34. *Endorses* the Declaration of the First African Union Policy Conference on Promoting the Peace, Security and Development nexus in Africa – The Promise of Regional Integration adopted in Tangier, Kingdom of Morocco, in October 2022; and urges the AU Commission to implement its conclusions; in this regard, calls on the partners of the Tangier process to scale up support for the implementation of the nexus projects;

35. *Welcomes with appreciation* the report of the Champion for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development and commends H.E. President Abdel-Fattah El Sisi for his leadership;

36. *Welcomes* the AU Commission efforts in updating the AU-PCRD strategy, and requests the AU Commission to finalize the review of the strategy in 2023; notes with appreciation the inauguration of the temporary headquarters of the African Union Center for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in Cairo in 2021; and requests the AU Commission to fully operationalize the AU-PCRD Center during the first quarter of 2023;

37. *Reaffirms* the central role of the AU-PCRD Center in implementing the AU strategy on PCRD, developing programmes for building and sustaining peace, and implementing them in conflict-affected countries in partnership with the relevant RECs, regional and international financial institutions, and international partners;

38. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the "Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development" since its inception in 2019, as the first of its kind on the continent that captures the interdependency between peace and development in Africa; and further calls upon Member States, regional and international partners to continue their support for the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Peacebuilding, the official Secretariat of the Aswan Forum, in developing and implementing related peacebuilding and sustainable peace and development projects across the continent;

39. *Welcomes* the Communiqué (PSC/PR/COMM.1122 (2022)), adopted at the 1122nd meeting of the PSC in November 2022 to establish a working group to coordinate between relevant AU departments and organs on PCRD issues; further requests the AU Commission and the PSC to activate the PSC Subcommittee on PCRD based on the PSC communiqué adopted at its 958th meeting held on 23 October 2020, and to ensure close cooperation between the subcommittee, upon establishment, and the AU champion of PCRD;

40. *Renews its call* for more robust interventions in deepening democracy and good governance on the continent and encourages Member States which are yet to sign and/or ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) to do so; commends the AU Commission and the Kingdom of Morocco for conducting such training to build and enhance capacities of AU election observers and urges them to sustain this initiative; takes note of the African Rule of Law Training Manual designed by the AU Commission to support the capacity needs in Member States;

41. *Notes* the multi-stakeholders approach by the Commission for wider participation of African citizens in supporting peace and security initiatives on the continent, and in this regard, welcomes the launch of Wise Youth in November 2022, in Windhoek, Namibia, and the Network of African Think Tanks for Peace (NeTT4Peace) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2023; and directs the Commission to ensure the operationalization of the two initiatives by harnessing the enormous demographic dividends and substantive contributions of African youth and academia to conflict prevention and mediation;

42. *Underscores* the initiatives by the AU Commission, specifically the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, to improve document and knowledge management which provides support to Member States with regard to institutional memory and requests the Commission to provide the same support to the African members in the UN Security Council (A3).

Assembly/AU/Dec.843 (XXXVI)

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

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the Sixth 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 2030;

2. *Recalls* the Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) 50th 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; and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII) adopted at the Twenty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 and 31 January 2017, which endorsed, following submission by the PSC, the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020; also recalls the Johannesburg Declaration Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XIV) and Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XIV) adopted at the Fourteenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on Silencing the Guns, held on 6 December 2020, in Johannesburg, South Africa, which extended the duration of the implementation of the AU Master Road Map on Practical Steps to Silencing the Guns in Africa to the year 2030 (AUMR) and accordingly, extended the commemoration and conduct of the Africa Amnesty Month during September of each year for a period of ten (10) years (2021-2030) within the context of Agenda 2063;

3. *Further recalls* the United Nations (UN) Security Council resolution 2457 (2019) adopted on 27 February 2019 which underscored the importance of the two joint UN-AU partnership frameworks towards achieving its goal of creating a conflict-free continent and support for the implementation of the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa;

4. *Emphasizes* that the extension of the duration of AUMR implementation to 2030 constitutes yet another opportunity for the continent to collectively revitalize its political will to promote African solutions to African problems and to deploy more robust efforts towards building a conflict-free Africa by 2030 and beyond, by addressing fundamental root causes of violent conflicts, together with their triggers and factors that sustain them; also underlines the responsibility of Member States to fully implement the AU relevant normative frameworks and Instruments;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made, thus far, in the implementation of the AUMR, in all its aspects, namely, political, economic, social, environmental and legal; in this context, applauds the PSC for championing and steering the implementation of the AUMR; further commends the AU Member States, AU Commission, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), civil society organizations and the private sector for their efforts aimed at silencing the guns; in this regard, expresses deep appreciation to the United Nations (UN) and other partners for their continued support towards the implementation of the AUMR;

6. *Underlines* the need for demonstrable political will and commitment as well as the collective action of all concerned stakeholders to effectively implement the AUMR and create conducive conditions to end conflicts on the continent; encourages Member States to promote national ownership and leadership of the flagship project of Silencing the Guns in Africa within the context of Agenda 2063; in this regard, directs the AU Commission and RECs/RMs, under the leadership of the PSC, to intensify support to Member States in their efforts to domesticate and implement the AUMR in its five key dimensions;
7. *Expresses grave concern* over the persistence of multiple and complex challenges that still undermine the achievement of silencing the guns in Africa, particularly gaps in governance and democracy; terrorism and violent extremism; the surge of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries; illicit circulation of arms/weapons; corruption; transnational organized crimes, drug trafficking, human trafficking, illicit financial flows and illegal exploitation of natural resources; foreign political and military interference; outbreaks of epidemics and pandemic; the impact of climate change and slow process of ratification of AU instruments, among others, continue to hamper efforts to achieve the aspirations of Agenda 2063;
8. *Also expresses deep concern* over the continued proliferation and inflow of illicit arms and weapons within and to the continent, exacerbating insecurity and fueling violence in various parts of Africa, thereby creating challenges to public security, social cohesion and normal functioning of Member States institutions; further expresses its deep concern about the mutually reinforcing linkages between the illicit trafficking of arms and the activities of terrorist groups and transnational criminal organizations;
9. *Notes with appreciation* the significant gains in the observance of Africa Amnesty Month (AAM) as a soft approach in the collection of illicit arms and weapons on the continent; commends Member States which undertook activities in observance of the AAM for their commitments towards the goal of silencing the guns in Africa; particularly welcomes the initiative of the PSC to have launched, for the first time, the commemoration of the 2022 AAM outside the AU's Headquarters, in Lomé, Togo, and its decision to continue commemorating the AAM in the five geographical regions, on a rotational basis, in collaboration with the relevant RECs/RMs and with the full involvement and participation of civilians, such as civil society organizations, youth and women, as well as faith-based organizations;
10. *Encourages* Member States to fully utilize AAM in reducing the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons; stresses the need for the Member States and other stakeholders to actively involve the population in the observance of the AAM to facilitate the voluntary surrender of the illegally owned arms and weapons; in this context, requests the AU Commission and RECs/RMs, with the support of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), to continue extending their support to Member States willing to conduct AAM in their respective countries; in this regard, directs the AU Commission to develop guidelines to support the drafting of national legislation relevant to AAM implementation, particularly in countries where such implementation has faced legal challenges;
11. *Calls for* Member States and RECs/RMs to report on their actions and activities to silence the guns in the relevant dimensions within the five aspects of the AUMR for experience sharing and cross-learning to address the security challenges squarely; directs the AU Commission to develop standardized templates for reporting in line with the AU Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism of the implementation of the AUMR, in consultation with Member States and RECs/RMs;
12. *Recognizes* the importance of the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism as a guiding tool to fast-track the implementation of the AUMR; in this regard, welcomes the establishment of an AU-RECs/RMs Steering Committee on silencing the guns as a platform for coordinating, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the implementation of the AUMR, as well as to support Member States in the domestication of the Silencing the Guns Agenda, in line with the relevant AU instruments and policy organs' decisions; urges Member States and RECs/RMs to redouble efforts to domesticate and enhance implementation of the AUMR through adopting tailored national action plans; furthermore, encourages Member States to report on their national efforts to enable the Commission to accurately assess the progress made in the implementation of the AUMR and provide support as appropriate;
13. *Reiterates its concern* over the existence of porous borders and ungoverned spaces which continue to provide safe routes and havens for terrorist groups and transnational organized crime groups to expand their

activities, including illicit inflow of weapons, arms, ammunitions, trafficking in persons and drugs and equally facilitate their access to financial and material resources to support terrorist operations; calls on Member States to strengthen their law enforcement agencies along border areas, seaports and airports, and ensure effective presence of State institutions throughout their countries in order to enhance cross-border security and police coordination and cooperation within the framework of the AU's institutions and mechanisms, particularly the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services (CISSA), the Nouakchott and Djibouti Processes and the AU Border Programme;

14. *Directs* the AU Commission, in line with the PSC Communiqué (PSC/PR/COMM.1105 (2021)) adopted at its 1105th meeting of 15 September 2022, to initiate a process of elaborating a common African position, which will provide guidance to AU Member States during the Fourth Review Conference of the Programme of Action on Small Arms; and to explore the possibility of developing a continental legally binding instrument on small arms and light weapons within the spirit of the "Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation, and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons" of 2000;

15. *Underscores* the importance of streamlining the Governance of the Security Sector Reforms (SSR) and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) 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 AUMR; in this regard, the Assembly commends the collaboration between the Member States and the AU Commission for the continued provision of technical support to Member States on DDR and SSR;

16. *Welcomes* the Agreement for Lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) as an essential step in the efforts to silence the guns, as well as a solid foundation for the preservation of Ethiopia's sovereignty and territorial integrity as full testimony of the efficacy of African solution to African problems;

17. *Reemphasizes* the imperative to mobilize the requisite resources, once a peace agreement has been signed, in order to ensure its immediate, effective and full implementation, to prevent any risk of relapse into violence; requests the AU Commission and RECs/RMs to provide continued technical and financial support to the parties of a peace agreement to ensure its effective implementation;

18. *Underscores* that ensuring adequate, flexible, sustainable and predictable financing of the AU peace and security activities remains the main challenge facing the AU, RECs/RMs and Member States in achieving the silencing the guns objectives;

19. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Chairperson of the Commission of H.E. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, of Ghana, as the new High Representative for silencing the guns; in the same vein, applauds H.E. Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria and immediate former High Representative on Silencing the Guns, for his notable contributions and meritorious service to the continent in silencing the guns; in this regard, the Assembly requests the Chairperson of the Commission to strengthen the Coordination Unit of Silencing the Guns Programme at the AU Commission with the necessary technical and human resources.

Assembly/AU/Dec.844 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Outcome of the Second Regional Consultations of the Review of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on the lack of consensus on the amendment of Article 5 (1) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council in accordance with paragraph 4 of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.823 (XXXV);

2. *Decides* to establish a High-Level Ad hoc Committee of Heads of States to report to the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly in February 2024.

Assembly/AU/Dec.845 (XXXVI)

**Decision on the Report on Granting a Seat to the African Union within G20 by
H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal**

The Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the leadership of H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and the outgoing Chairperson of the African Union, for his excellent initiative in requesting that the African Union be granted a seat in the G20;
2. *Commends* him for his commitment, strong advocacy and tireless efforts towards ensuring Africa's full membership of the G20, defending its interests and contributing to a fairer and more inclusive political, economic, financial and global governance;
3. *Appreciates* the invitations extended over the years by the G20 to the African Union to participate in its sessions and commends the regular and valuable participation of the countries chairing the African Union in those sessions;
4. *Recognizes* the importance of the G20 as the main forum for global economic, trade and financial dialogue for growth and sustainable development;
5. *Reaffirms* the need for Africa to be more fully involved in the decision-making processes on global political, economic, financial, security, environmental and health governance;
6. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to those G20 partners who have already expressed their support for the African bid for an African Union seat in the G20 and calls on all other G20 members to support such a bid;
7. *Calls upon* all Member States to mobilize for the success of such an initiative;
8. *Decides* that the current Chairperson of the African Union assisted by the Chairperson of the Commission shall represent the African Union in the G20;
9. *Requests* H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, in close collaboration with the current Chairperson of the African Union, to continue, with the support of the Commission, the advocacy for the effective granting of a seat to the African Union in the G20 at the next G20 Summit.

Assembly/AU/Dec.846 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Establishment of an African and World Decade on Afforestation

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note of and welcomes* the proposal by the Republic of Congo to launch an African and World Decade on Afforestation as a response to accelerating climate change;
2. *Endorses* the initiative and, while encouraging existing national and subregional initiatives, undertakes to advocate for its appropriation at the global level and for a more effective involvement of the international community in the implementation of the Paris Agreement;
3. *Decides* to organize the first International Conference on Afforestation and Reforestation (ICAR) from 11 to 12 November 2023, in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, under the aegis of the African Union and the United Nations Forum on Forests and requests the Commission to take all necessary measures for the organization of this Conference in line with the established practice and due process.

Assembly/AU/Dec.847 (XXXVI)

Decision on Building a United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations to African (Item proposed by Ghana)

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* the first Pan-African Conference on Reparations held in Abuja in April 1993, referred to as the “1993 Abuja Proclamation on Reparations”, which urged the international community to recognize the unique and unprecedented moral debt owed to the African peoples;
2. *Further recalls* the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, on the Effects of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance, which provided a comprehensive and visionary blueprint that embodies the world’s commitment to tackle the scourge of racism in all its forms and manifestations;
3. *Acknowledges* the Continental Consultations on the Restitution of Cultural Property and Heritage held in November 2021 and the AU’s efforts aimed at the return of stolen artefacts, including religious and cultural relics;
4. *Commends* the Republic of Ghana for co-organizing the Conference on the theme, “Advancing Justice: Reparations and Racial Healing” in August 2022, and its outcome document the Accra Declaration;
5. *Takes note* that the Accra Declaration called on African nations, their citizenry and political leaders, to enforce the demands for full reparations from the responsible nations, institutions and governments, given the negative impact visited by slavery, colonialism, apartheid and genocide, on Africans and people of African descent;
6. *Directs* the Commission, in consultation with Member States, ECOSOCC and other AU organs as well as the RECS, to establish an African Committee of Experts on Reparations for the purpose of developing a Common African Position on Reparations and incorporate therein, an African Reparatory Programme of Action; and collaborate with the Caribbean Community (CARICUM) to establish an African Caribbean Joint Mechanism on Reporative Justice based on the resolve of the Global African Diaspora Summit held in South Africa in 2012;
7. *Endorses* the proposal by the Republic of Ghana to co-organize with relevant stakeholders and host an International Conference in 2023 towards “Building a United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations to Africans”; further urges the Commission to collaborate with the Government of Ghana in organizing the Conference in 2023;
8. *Requests* the Commission to submit a progress report on the implementation of this decision to the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February 2024.

Assembly/AU/Dec.848 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Progress Report on Activities and Prospects for the Establishment of the High Committee in Charge of the 2021-2031 Agenda, "Decade of African Roots and Diasporas"

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.807 (XXXIV), adopted at the Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held on 6 and 7 February 2021, declaring the decade 2021-2031 the "Decade of African Roots and Diasporas", and in particular paragraph 11 of the PRC Decision;
2. *Takes note* of the interim Report on the implementation of the 2021-2031 Agenda, Decade of African Roots and Diasporas;
3. *Commends* the successful organization of the Forum on reduction of the cost of remittances from the African diaspora, co-chaired by the Kingdom of Morocco and Togo;

4. *Acknowledges* the efforts and the progress made by the Togolese Republic and the Commission to establish the High Committee for the Decade and its mandate;

5. *Commends* the Togolese Republic and the Commission for the work done in implementing the Decision on the Decade of African Roots and Diasporas, in particular the establishment of the draft composition and mandate of the High Committee for the 2021-2031 Agenda, Decade of African Roots and Diasporas;

6. *Decides* that the composition of the High Committee for the Decade shall be as follows:

Number	Region	Member States
01	Central Africa	Cameroon Equatorial Guinea Republic of Congo Gambia
02	West Africa	Ghana Senegal Togo Algeria
03	North Africa	Morocco Tunisia
04	East Africa	Ethiopia Tanzania South Africa
05	Southern Africa	Angola Namibia

7. *Further endorses* the mandate of the High Committee for the Decade as follows:

(a) Overall mandate of the High Committee for the Decade

The High Committee is mandated to work to support all initiatives involving members of diasporas and communities of African descent wherever they may be in the world and to take the necessary steps and measures for the effective achievement of the expected outcomes of the implementation of the Decade of African Roots and Diasporas;

(b) Specific mandate of the High Committee for the Decade

The High Committee for the 2021-2031 Agenda, Decade of African Roots and Diasporas has the specific tasks of:

- Ensuring the promotion of the 2021-2031 Agenda, Decade of African Roots and Diasporas by offering periodic programming of country events and flagship operations of the Decade of African Roots and Diasporas;
- Ensuring that projects led by various countries are showcased internationally;
- Contributing to highlighting the achievements of members of African diasporas and communities of African descent;
- Supporting all initiatives to combat discrimination and ill-treatment of persons, members of the African diaspora or of African descent and defend their interests;

- Establishing mechanisms and channels of exchange to facilitate the return of people of African descent from the West Indies, the Caribbean and the Americas;
 - Coordinating the mobility of people and co-development strategies for the integration of populations of African descent and for the emergence of the African continent;
 - Working to establish a genuine diaspora policy and a solid plan of action to materialize the return and greater involvement of the diaspora in the continent's development;
 - Carrying out activities to strengthen the role and contributions of people of African roots and diasporas to the economic development of the African continent;
 - Acting to bring together members of the diaspora and policymakers at national, regional, continental and global levels for the sustainable development of Africa;
 - Supporting productive investment and entrepreneurship initiatives of the African diaspora to improve and increase the impact of its actions on Africa's economic development by 2063;
8. *Also takes note* of the proposal of the Togolese Republic, as stated in the Progress Report on the Decade of African Roots and Diasporas, to organize, as part of the implementation of the Decade, an event in 2024 entitled “Renewal of Pan-Africanism and Africa's place in global governance: mobilizing, resourcing and reinventing for action”;
9. *Requests* the Commission and the Togolese Republic to continue their collaboration to ensure the smooth preparation, organization and success of this event;
10. *Decides* that the event “Renewal of Pan-Africanism and Africa's place in global governance: mobilizing, resourcing and reinventing for action” will be organized in the Togolese Republic in 2024;
11. *Calls upon* Member States, African Union partners and diaspora and Afro-descendant communities around the world to support the organization and smooth conduct of this event;
12. *Instructs* Togo and the Commission to report to the Assembly on the outcomes of this event in 2025;
13. *Requests* the African Union Commission, ECOSOCC and more specifically CIDO to support the implementation of the 2021-2031 Agenda, Decade of African Roots and Diasporas.

Assembly/AU/Dec.849 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Report on the Global Food Crisis

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the food crisis and expresses concern about the impact of the global food crisis on Africa;
2. *Underscores* the urgent need for robust initiatives and measures to ensure the continent's sovereignty and food security;
3. *Recalls* the need to accelerate the implementation of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the commitments made for the growth and transformation of agriculture in Africa in order to ensure a shared prosperity and better living conditions through the allocation of at least 10 per cent of public expenditure to agriculture;
4. *Welcomes* the efforts made by States to address the food challenges, particularly through increased production and investment in agricultural systems;

5. *Congratulates* President Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and current Chairperson of the African Union, for the holding of the Dakar 2 Summit from 25 to 27 January 2023 under the theme: "Feeding Africa: Food Sovereignty and Resilience"; and

6. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Dakar 2 Summit on Food Sovereignty and Resilience and requests the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to ensure the follow-up of its implementation.

Assembly/AU/Dec.850 (XXXVI)

Decision on Structures

The Assembly,

A. AUCIL and Africa CDC

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council pertaining to the structures of the Africa Centre for Disease Control (Africa CDC) and the African Union Commission for International Law (AUCIL);

2. *Urges* the Commission to operationalize the two institutions with immediate effect;

3. *Approves* the position of the Deputy Director General of the Africa CDC at D2 grade and his essential supporting staff as follows:

Office of the Deputy Director General (ODDG)	Number	Grade
Deputy Director General	1	D2
Administrative Assistant	2	GSA5
Driver – Director General	1	GSB7
Driver – Deputy Director General	1	GSB7

4. *Requests* the Commission and Africa CDC to fill the already approved structure of 65 positions and urges them to expedite the recruitment of the Director General and the Deputy Director General;

5. *Further requests* a detailed cost analysis of the overall Africa CDC structure for consideration during the Mid-Year Coordination Summit in July 2023;

6. *Commends* Equatorial Guinea for its offer to host the Secretariat and thanked the OLC for the support provided to the AUCIL so far;

7. *Requests* the Commission to provide detailed financial implications of staff cost but also relocating and any other costs that may arise as well as the evaluation report of the host country should also be made available to the Member States;

8. *Approves* the Structure of the AUCIL to be implemented in phases subject to budget availability as follows:

(a) Phase I: to be implemented from 2023 up to 2025 and is composed of 15 staff members with an estimated staff cost of US\$ 959,294.32;

(b) Phase II: to be implemented from 2026 up to 2028 and is composed of 10 staff members with an estimated staff cost of US\$ 387,366.47;

(c) Phase III: to be implemented from 2029 up to 2030 and is composed of 10 staff members with an estimated staff cost of US\$ 609,987.73:

Positions	No.	Grade	Recruitment
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THIRTY-SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION (2023)

Office of the Executive Secretary

1.	Executive Secretary	1	P6	Phase one
2.	Translator	1	P3	Phase one
3.	Translator	1	P3	Phase three
4.	Legal Officer Administrative & Institutional Matters	1	P2	Phase two
5.	Web Designer and Content Officer	1	P2	Phase one
6.	Communication Officer	1	P2	Phase two
7.	Documentalist	1	P2	Phase three
8.	Bilingual Secretary	1	GSA4	Phase two
9.	Administrative Assistant	1	GSA5	Phase two

Research Division

10.	Head of Research Division	1	P5	Phase one
11.	Senior Legal Researcher	1	P3	Phase one
12.	Senior Legal Researcher	1	P3	Phase three
13.	Legal Researcher	1	P2	Phase one
14.	Legal Researcher	1	P2	Phase three
15.	Legal Researcher	1	P2	Phase one
16.	Legal Researcher	1	P2	Phase three
17.	Bilingual Secretary	1	GSA4	Phase two

Publication and Dissemination Division

18.	Head of Publication and Dissemination Division	1	P5	Phase one
19.	Senior Programme Officer - Knowledge Management	1	P3	Phase three
20.	Programme Officer Publication	1	P2	Phase one
21.	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	1	P2	Phase three
22.	IT Officer	1	P2	Phase two
23.	Library and Archives Officer	1	P2	Phase three

Administration and Finance Unit

24.	Senior Administration and Finance	1	P3	Phase one
25.	Finance Officer	1	P2	Phase one
26.	HR Officer	1	P2	Phase two
27.	Procurement Officer	1	P2	Phase three
28.	Procurement Assistant	1	GSA5	Phase two
29.	Assistant Accountant	1	GSA5	Phase two
30.	Administrative Assistant	1	GSA5	Phase one
31.	Bilingual Secretary	1	GSA4	Phase one
32.	Front Desk	1	GSA3	Phase two
33.	Senior Record Assistant	1	GSA3	Phase one
34.	Driver	1	GSB7	Phase one
35.	Driver	1	GSB7	Phase three

Total 35

9. *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;

10. *Decides* to delegate its authority to consider and adopt the structure amendments of the African Union Commission and other organs to the Executive Council during the Mid-Year Coordination Summit to be held in July 2023;

B. Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security in the
Bureau of the AUC Chairperson in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

11. *Takes note* of the Report of the Executive Council on the PRC and its Subcommittee on Structural Reforms EX.CL/1347 (XLI), and the Report of the Executive Council on the Third Ordinary Session of the STC on Trade, Industry and Minerals Decision EX.CL/Dec.1144 (XL);

12. *Recalls* the following decisions that created technical and specialized offices:

(i) Decision EX.CL/Dec.1108 (XXXVIII) directing the PRC to re-examine the outcomes of the Fifth Ordinary Session of the STC on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment specifically on implementing the decisions of the African Union Peace and Security Council in its 803rd, 887th and 951st meetings to institutionalize the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security;

(ii) Decisions EX.CL/388 (XII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.173 (X) which call on the Union to expedite the recruitment of qualified staff and to build the institutional capacity of the Pan-African Institute for Education for Development IPED;

(iii) Decision EX.CL/Dec.626 (XVIII) endorsing the choice of Douala, Cameroon, for the establishment of the logistical continental base of the African Standby Force and requesting the Commission to take appropriate measures for the implementation of this decision;

13. *Adopts* the proposed structures as follows:

C. Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security in the
Bureau of the AUC Chairperson in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Position	Grade	No. of staff
Special Envoy	D1	1
Senior Policy Adviser	P6	1
Office Coordinator	P5	1
Research, Monitoring and Reporting Senior Officer	P3	1
Advocacy and Communication Officer	P2	1
Administrative and Operations Assistant	GSA3	1
Total		6

The annual estimated staff cost of the Office of the Special Envoy is US\$ 590,000. Recruitment for those positions should be phased and subject to budget availability;

D. IPED in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

Position	Grade	No. of staff
Office of Executive Secretary		

THIRTY-SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION (2023)

Executive Secretary	P6	1
Protocol Officer	P2	1
Bilingual Admin. Assistant	GSA5	1
Bilingual Secretary	GSA4	1
Communications Officer	P2	1

Education Management and Information System Unit

Principal Officer Information Systems (Head of Unit)	P4	1
Senior Policy Officer – IT (Information Technology/Knowledge Management)	P3	1
EMIS Data Base Manager	P2	2
IT Officer (Web Master)	P1	1
Junior Professional Officer	P1	1

Policy, Action Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit

Principal Education Planning and Capacity Building Officer (Head of Unit)	P4	1
Senior Programme Officer	P3	2
Senior Statistics Officers in charge of regions (5 positions)	P3	5
Programme Officer	P2	2
Junior Professional Officer	P1	1

Administration, Finance & Support Unit

Senior Finance and Administrative Officer	P3	1
Finance Officer	P2	1
HR Officer	P2	1
Driver	GSB7	2
Senior Record Assistant	GSA3	1
Security (Outsourced)		
Cleaning (Outsourced)		
Total		28

The annual estimated staff cost of the IPED is US\$ 2,123,349.16. Recruitment for those positions should be phased and subject to budget availability.

E. AU Continental Logistics Base (CLB) in Douala, Cameroon

Position	Grade	No. of staff
Head of CLB	P6	1
Program Officer	P2	1
Admin. Assistant/Bilingual Sec. - HCLB office	GSA5	1
Principal Admin/Finance Officer	P4	1
Senior Admin. Officer	P3	1
Senior Communication/IT Officer	P3	1
Communication/IT Assistant	GSA5	2
Mechanics Drivers	GSA4	2
Procurement Officer	P2	1
Procurement Assistant	GSA5	1

THIRTY-SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION (2023)

Senior Finance/Budget Officer	P3	1
Financial Management/Accounting Officer	P2	1
Asset/Property/Control Officer	P2	1
Assistant Accountant	GSA5	1
Transport Officer	P2	1
Senior Security Officer	P3	1
Security Officer	P2	1
Principal Logistics & Supply Chain Officer	P4	1
Senior Facilities Management Engineering Officer	P3	1
MHE Operator	P2	1
Engineering Assistant	GSA5	1
Mechanic/Maintenance Officer	GSA5	1
Movement/Shipment Officer	P2	1
Senior Logistics & Warehouse Officer	P3	1
Cold Chain Officer	P2	1
Assets Inventory Entry Data Clerk	P2	1
Receiving and Inspection Officer	GSA5	1
Senior Supply Officer	P2	1
Supply Assistant	P3	1
Electro Technician	GSA5	1
Movement/Shipment Assistant	GSA5	1
Total		34

The annual estimated staff cost of the AU Continental Logistics Base is US\$ 4,717,606.45. Recruitment for those positions should be phased and subject to budget availability.

F. Renaming of the Department of Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining (ETIM)

Current Name	To be renamed as:
Department of Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining (ETIM)	Department of Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals (ETTIM)
Directorate of Industry, Mining and Entrepreneurship (IMI)	Directorate of Industry, Minerals, Entrepreneurship and Tourism (IMET)
Division of Industry Mining and Innovation (IMI)	Division of Industry, Minerals and Innovation (IMI)

14. *Decides* that the recruitment process should be undertaken in line with the Merit Based Recruitment System (MBRS) and Union-wide quota system;

15. *Decides* to take stock of progress in the implementation of the above-mentioned structures after each implementation phase.

Assembly/AU/Dec.851 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Reports of the Forum of Heads of State and Government Participating in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APR Forum) by H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Report of the Second Special Summit of the African Peer Review (APR) Forum of Heads of State and Government, held on 28 July 2022, the Report of the Thirty-second Ordinary

Session of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, held on 9 February 2023, and the African Governance Report 2023;

2. *Commends* H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government for his sterling leadership of the APRM, including ensuring that the APRM continues to carry out its mandate, despite limitations of both financial and human resources;
3. *Recalls* its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.814 (XXXV) adopting the APRM Continental Secretariat organizational structure and reiterates the need for the APRM to be provided with adequate budgetary allocations in order to implement the APRM Continental Secretariat organizational structure without any impediments;
4. *Further reiterates* its previous 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. *Acknowledges* the APRM Annual Youth Symposium as the highest platform for ensuring meaningful participation of youth in the APRM processes and provides youth with an opportunity to share experiences and best practices in democracy and good governance;
6. *Adopts* the Outcomes of the Third Youth Symposium and encourages the APRM Continental Secretariat to continue organizing the Annual Youth Symposium, in close collaboration with the African Union (AU) Commission and Member States, as a platform for youth mainstreaming in the promotion of democracy and good governance on the continent;
7. *Recalls* its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.686 (XXX) in which the Assembly welcomed 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, and welcomes with great satisfaction the Conclusions emanating from the First Retreat between the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and the AU Panel of the Wise, and the Second Retreat between the APRM and the AU Peace and Security Council, held in November 2022, in eThekweni, Republic of South Africa;
8. *Further recalls* its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.631 (XXVIII), in which the Assembly welcomed the commitment towards the revitalization of APRM, key among them is sharing the APRM model, experience and knowledge with other regions of the world, for benchmarking and enhancing the international recognition of the Mechanism; acknowledges with much appreciation the Declaration and Recommendations of the Second Africa High-Level Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development, held in January 2023 in Kampala, Uganda;
9. *Recalls* its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.818 (XXXV), in which the Assembly requested the APRM, in collaboration with AU 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; welcomes the offer of the Government of the Republic of Uganda to host the African Migration Governance Conference; requests the APRM to work closely with the Republic of Uganda, the AU Commission, the International Organization for Migration and all relevant stakeholders in the organization of the Conference during the second half of 2023 and further requests that adequate financial resources be provided towards the successful hosting of the African Migration Governance Conference by the AU policy organs and partners;
10. *Welcomes with appreciation* the peer review Reports of the Republic of Niger and the Republic of Djibouti and congratulates H.E. Mohamed Bazoum, President of the Republic of Niger, and H.E. Ismail Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti, for their commitment to good governance, as evidenced in the implementation of the APR process in their respective countries; also commends H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, for the launching of the peer review which was held on 12 December 2022;
11. *Encourages* the Republic of Niger and the Republic of Djibouti to take into account observations of Member 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. *Further welcomes with appreciation* the first inaugural National Governance Report of the Republic of Kenya, commends H.E. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, and the Government of Republic of Kenya and calls upon all AU Member States to emulate Kenya's example and develop national governance reports as a self-assessment tool for promoting good governance;

13. *Congratulates* the Union of the Comoros for acceding to the APRM as the forty-third participating State and commends H.E. Azali Assoumani, President of the Union of Comoros, for his firm commitment to democracy and good governance;

14. *Reiterates a call* for 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;

15. *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 to avert highlighted challenges in their peer reviews;

16. *Encourages* all AU Member States that have not yet joined the APRM to accede to the Mechanism, and those that had acceded but not undertaken the first APRM country review process, to do so and requests the APRM to continue to follow up with all AU Member States that have not yet acceded to the APRM, in order to expedite the implementation of numerous Assembly Decisions on Universal Accession to the APRM by 2023;

17. *Endorses* the appointment as members of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons by the Second Summit of the APR Forum of Dr. Cherif Rahmani, from the People's Republic of Algeria, representing the North African Region, and H.E. Ambassador El-Henfy Houssam El Din, from the Arab Republic of Egypt, representing the North African Region;

18. *Appoints* Dr. Abdoulie Jannah, representing West Africa, as the new Chairperson of the APR Panel of the Eminent Persons, and Dr. Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika, representing Southern Africa, as the Vice-Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons for the year 2024;

19. *Takes note* with immense appreciation of the exceptional leadership, competency and sustained efforts made by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the APRM Continental Secretariat, Professor Eddy Maloka, in the revitalization, restoration, reinvigoration and integration of the APRM into the AU system; further takes note that Professor Eddy Maloka's tenure of office as the APRM CEO is ending in February 2023 and endorses the decision of the APR Forum to initiate the recruitment process of the new CEO of the APRM, in line with the provisions of the APRM legal instruments and the AU rules, regulations and procedures;

20. *Decides* to extend, on exceptional circumstances, the contract of the CEO of the APRM Continental Secretariat, Professor Eddy Maloka, until the completion of the recruitment process, appointment of the new CEO, assumption of duty and proper handover to the new CEO by May 2024 and emphasizes that this decision is aimed to ensure stability, continuous and smooth operations of the APRM Continental Secretariat, as well as safeguarding and consolidating all gains so far achieved;

21. *Adopts with satisfaction* the modalities, the road map, the job profile and terms of reference of the independent consultant, for the recruitment and appointment of the new CEO of the APRM Continental Secretariat; urges the APR Committee of Focal Points assisted by the independent consultant, the APRM Continental Secretariat and the AU Commission to speedily undertake and conclude the recruitment process of the new CEO, in line with the provisions of the APRM legal instruments, the AU rules, regulations and procedures and the approved road map and requests the APRM Continental Secretariat and the AU Commission to ensure that the advert for recruitment of the new CEO is widely communicated and circulated to Member States, in order to attract the best candidates;

22. *Recalls* that the APRM was established on 9 March 2003 and that the Assembly through Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.765 (XXXIII) declared it as the founding day of the APRM, which should be annually celebrated by the continent and the AU family; takes note of the progress achieved thus far including the establishment of the task force working on the series of activities in preparation of the celebrations; calls upon all AU Member States and the entire AU system to join the APRM in the celebration of its twentieth anniversary with year-long activities and events and requests AU policy organs to avail sufficient financial and human resources necessary for the excellent celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the APRM;
23. *Takes note* of the APRM Continental Secretariat 2022 Annual Report; commends the Secretariat for the unprecedented successes realized in 2022 and encourages the APRM Continental Secretariat to broaden and deepen its efforts in implementing the APRM Strategic Plan (2020-2024) and to support the delivery of the AU Agenda 2063;
24. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Africa Governance Report 2023 (AGR-2023) focusing on unconstitutional changes of governments presented by H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government;
25. *Recalls* its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.720 (XXXII) adopted at its Thirty-second Ordinary Session held in February 2020, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, mandated the APRM, in collaboration with the African Governance Architecture (AGA), to develop the Africa Governance Report and present it to the ordinary sessions of the Assembly every two (2) years for consideration; further recalls Decision 818 (XXXV) which had instructed the APRM and AGA to develop the Third Africa Governance Report with a focus on the nexus between Governance and the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR);
26. *Also recalls* the Decision adopted at the Sixteenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in May 2022 in which the Assembly directed the APRM in collaboration with AGA to refocus the theme of the AGR-2023 to reflect on issues and factors contributing to unconstitutional changes of governments on the continent;
27. *Commends* the AU and APRM structures, AGA Platform Members and Member States who participated in the targeted reviews on unconstitutional changes of governments, as part of the development of the AGR 2023 and expresses appreciation to African research institutions and independent experts for the commendable work done in developing the AGR 2023;
28. *Acknowledges with satisfaction* the targeted review reports of the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Union of Comoros, the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Chad on unconstitutional changes of governments on the continent; takes note of the Gap Analysis Report of the Republic of Sudan and urges the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Union of Comoros, and the Republic of Chad to implement the recommendations contained in the reports on the development and implementation of their national programmes of action, as a necessary step towards achieving peace, security and stability on the continent and thereby achieving the Africa We Want;
29. *Congratulates* the APR Panel of Eminent Persons Members that led the conduct of targeted reviews for their resilience and commitment to the APRM review processes;
30. *Expresses appreciation* to the partners for their support in the successful development of the AGR-2023;
31. *Endorses* the AGR-2023 with observations and recommendations of Member States; urges all AU Member States to implement the recommendations contained in the report, with a view to enhancing good governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and sharing of best practices at both country and continental levels and further urges the APRM Continental Secretariat to ensure a wider dissemination of the AGR 2023 after consolidation of observations and recommendations of Member States into the report;
32. *Underscores* the importance of mobilizing adequate financial resources for the dissemination of the AGR-2023 and the implementation of its recommendations, requests the APRM to launch the AGR-2023 officially in collaboration with AGA; urges all AGA members to incorporate the report in their annual work plans

and urges all AU Member States to develop national governance reports as a self-assessment tool for promoting good governance and prevention of unconstitutional changes of government, in line with the recommendations of the AGR-2023;

33. *Congratulates* the Chairperson of the APR Forum, H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, for the sterling leadership provided to the APRM and the exceptional success realized by the APRM.

Assembly/AU/Dec.852 (XXXVI)

**Decision on the Report of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda,
on the AUDA-NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC)**

The Assembly,

1. *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);
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Fortieth NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee;
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 African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) and the NEPAD programme;
4. *Reiterates* the continued significance and relevance of AUDA-NEPAD as the African Union implementation agency that is mandated to execute priority projects, promote regional integration towards the accelerated realization of Agenda 2063 and strengthen the capacity of Member States and regional bodies, as well as to advance knowledge-based advisory support, undertake the full range of resource mobilization, and serve as Africa's technical interface with all development stakeholders and partners;
5. *Applauds* AUDA-NEPAD for the conceptualization and launch of the Energize Africa Initiative and reiterates its support for the rollout of the flagship programme; also applauds the Agency for the conceptualization and development of the Triple Nexus Programme; underscores the importance of having a strategic plan aligned to the Agenda 2063 Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan; commends the Agency for the ongoing Agenda 2063 evaluation exercise as well as the technical and financial support provided to Member States; and requests the AU Commission and AUDA-NEPAD working in close collaboration with Member States, RECs and partners to continue the work on the formulation of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan Framework Document for adoption by the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in July 2023 and the development of a normative framework by December 2023;
6. *Recalls* the decision taken by the Heads of State and Government to establish a Development Fund and, in this regard, requests the Agency to prioritize the operationalization of the Fund;
7. *Acknowledges* the budgetary and financial challenges faced by AUDA-NEPAD; reiterates the urgent need for the Agency to be funded in a predictable and sustainable manner, with the full ownership of the African Union Member States and, in this regard, urges Member States to substantially increase their voluntary contributions to the AUDA-NEPAD budget and proposes exploring possible statutory funding for AUDA-NEPAD;
8. *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 and agility to carry out its mandate; and recalls further Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1057 (XXXV) of July 2019, which adopted the new proposed structure of AUDA-NEPAD and stated that the structure is to be implemented over a period of three years; and recognizes the need for the Agency's structure to be fit-for-purpose, and more agile in assessing and responding to the development needs of Member States; to this effect, further requests AUDA-NEPAD to accelerate the implementation of the ongoing internal reorganization of its delivery model and explore with Member States

the possibility of expanding its national and regional presence to accelerate the delivery of priority programmes of Agenda 2063;

9. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the implementation of the Abuja Declaration 15 per cent target on domestic financing for health while transitioning away from dependence on partners' funding;

10. *Requests* the Commission, the AUDA-NEPAD and the Africa CDC to develop a fully costed Road Map to 2030: "Sustaining the AIDS Response, Ensuring Systems Strengthening and Health Security for the Development of Africa" and submit it to the Assembly at its next session and decides to hold an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly on Ending AIDS by 2030, and Addressing Preventable Maternal Deaths, Communicable, and Non-Communicable Diseases Endemic to the Continent, and Strengthening Health Systems by 2030, as soon as possible but not later than July 2024;

11. *Congratulates* H.E. President Macky Sall for the successful hosting of the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure Development in the Republic of Senegal from 2 to 3 February 2023; endorses the Dakar Declaration; further endorses the infrastructure financing summit to become a biennial financing conference; and requests AUDA-NEPAD in coordination with the AUC, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the RECs to set up a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the outcomes of the Dakar Financing Summit, in particular relating to the financial commitments and the execution of the PIDA PAP 2 projects and report to the next session of the Assembly;

12. *Applauds* the sterling quality of AUDA-NEPAD technical output under the leadership of CEO Nardos Bekele-Thomas;

13. In line with the Rules of Procedures of the NEPAD Governance structures adopted by Decision EX.CL/Dec.1063 (XXXV) and after due consultations by the HSGOC Leaders, endorses the election of H.E. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as the Chairperson of the NEPAD HSGOC, as well as the four vice-chairpersons for a single term of two years. The position of fourth vice-chairperson and Rapporteur will be held by the outgoing Chairperson of the NEPAD HSGOC and the three other vice-chairpersons will be nominated after regional consultations;

14. *Congratulates* H.E. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi as incoming Chairperson of the HSGOC and looks forward to his leadership of this governance structure;

15. *Commends* H.E. Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, for the results achieved during his mandate and expresses its profound gratitude for his exceptional leadership as the Chairperson of the NEPAD HSGOC;

16. *Recalls* article 7 of the AUDA-NEPAD Statute on the membership of thirty-three Member States and further endorses the renewed membership of the NEPAD HSGOC as follows:

Central Africa	East Africa	North Africa	Southern Africa	West Africa
1. Cameroon	6. Ethiopia	11. Algeria*	16. Lesotho	21. Cote d'Ivoire
2. DRC	7. Kenya	12. Egypt*	17. Malawi	22. Ghana
3. Central Africa	8. Rwanda	13.	18. South Africa*	23. Guinea Bissau
4. Equatorial Guinea	9. Uganda	14.	19. Zambia	24. Nigeria*
5. Gabon	10. Tanzania	15.	20. Zimbabwe	25. Senegal*

* non-rotating initiating Members

Regional Economic Communities

- 26. ECOWAS
- 27. ECCAS
- 28. IGAD
- 29. UMA

- 30. COMESA
- 31. SADC
- 32. EAC
- 33. CENSAD.

Assembly/AU/Dec.853 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Report of the AU Committee of Ten (C-10) Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the UN Security Council, by H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

The Assembly,

1. *Adopts* the Twenty-third Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
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), Assembly/AU/Dec.724 (XXXII), Assembly/AU/Dec.819 (XXXV);
3. *Reiterates* the need to reform the United Nations to conform to the present geopolitical realities, in particular, the need to rectify the historical injustice done to Africa by addressing Africa's non-representation in the permanent category and its gross underrepresentation in the non-permanent category of the United Nations Security Council;
4. *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 United Nations Security Council Reform;
5. *Welcomes*, in that regard, the growing momentum of the support and legitimacy of the Common African Position on the reform of the United Nations Security Council;
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 United Nations Security Council;
7. *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;
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 United Nations Security Council, with a view to advancing the Common African Position on the reform of the United Nations 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 United Nations Security Council;
 - (iii) All African Union Member States, to reflect in their respective national statements at the opening of the seventy-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2023, a concise common

language to advance the Common African Position, and to reiterate the call for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council;

(iv) 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;

(v) The Committee of Ten to prepare for appropriate “engagement” in the IGN process in accordance with the Common African Position, guided by the 2015 Framework Document; and

(vi) Paragraph 81 of previous decision Dec 62/557;

9. *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;

10. *Also reiterates* 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;

11. *Decides* 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 workplan and, in this regard, requests the Commission to continue to facilitate the work of the Committee of Ten;

12. *Further decides* to increase the allocation in the Commission’s budget for the purpose of funding and facilitating the activities of the Committee of Ten on United Nations reforms;

13. *Also 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.

Assembly/AU/Dec.854 (XXXVI)

**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;

(i) Decision on the Progress Report on the African Union Response on COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa, by H.E. Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa

The Assembly,

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report by AU Champion for COVID-19 Response, H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa;

3. *Commends* the Champion for the valuable contribution and endorses his recommendations as follows:

(i) To note the progress report on the implementation of the mandate of the AU COVID-19 Champion;

(ii) To encourage the AU Member States to support the proposal for the financial sustainability of the Africa CDC as it becomes independent;

- (iii) To increase efforts and political will to improve vaccination rates in pursuit of the target of 70 per cent vaccination on the continent, bearing in mind that SARS-COV-2 transmissions surged in many parts of the world during the holiday season and new variants of concern continue to emerge;
- (iv) To continue to advocate for GAVI, UNICEF and other procurers of vaccines to acquire 30 per cent of their vaccines from Africa;
- (v) To endorse the draft decision requesting the AU Member States to negotiate a legal instrument to coordinate outbreak preparedness and response on the continent effectively;
- (vi) To adopt the New Public Health Order Declaration; and
- (vii) To remain seized with this matter by:
 - Adopting the report of the African Union Champion on COVID-19;
 - Appointing South Africa's President to serve as AU Champion for another two years, up to December 2024; and
 - AU COVID-19 Champion advocating for the replenishing of the Africa Epidemic Fund.

(ii) Decision on the Report of H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, Former President of Niger and African Union Champion on the Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The Assembly,

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, the Leader and Champion of the AfCFTA and former President of the Republic of Niger, and adopts the recommendations thereof on the progress achieved in the implementation of the AfCFTA;
5. *Also takes note* of the Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Council of Ministers Responsible for Trade held in Gaborone, Botswana, on 11 and 12 February 2023;
6. *Commends* the ratification by Botswana, Mozambique and Comoros, making them the forty-fifth, forty-sixth and forty-seventh countries to join the family of States parties to the AfCFTA Agreement and urges the Member States who have not yet ratified the Agreement to do so by December 2023;
7. *Welcomes* the submission of tariff offer by SACU the AfCFTA Secretariat and urges the remaining nine States parties and non-States parties, namely, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, Mozambique, Somalia, Sahrawi Republic, and Sudan, to submit their tariff offers by June 2023 in order to enable commercially meaningful trading under the AfCFTA preferences which is inclusive of all the AU Member States;
8. *Adopts* the Ministerial Regulations on Special Economic Arrangements/Zones so as to enable goods produced in SEZs to be treated as originating goods;
9. *Further adopts* the recommendation of the Council of Ministers to remove the brackets on article 9 of annex 2 on Rules of Origin of the Protocol on Trade in Goods;
10. *Welcomes* the launch of the AfCFTA Automotive Strategy and the finalization of the establishment of the Automotive Task Force launched by the Council of Ministers at their eleventh meeting and directs the Council of Ministers to fast-track the conclusion of the outstanding Rules of Origin on the Automotive Sector and Textiles by June 2023;
11. *Urges* the remaining three countries, namely, Ethiopia, Sahrawi Republic and Tunisia, to finalize and submit their offers on trade in services;
12. *Adopts* the Protocol on Competition Policy as recommended by the Executive Council;

13. *Further adopts* the Protocol on Investment and requests the Council of Ministers to review articles 19 and 21 of the Protocol on Investment to ensure alignment with domestic legal and constitutional requirements, taking into account historical factors of some Member States, and submit these two articles to the Assembly in July 2023;

14. *Also adopts* the Protocol to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR); and directs the AfCFTA Secretariat to develop the necessary annexes to these respective Protocols and submit them to the relevant AfCFTA institutions for consideration;

15. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Council of Ministers for the appointment to the Appellate Body of the following five selected persons:

Full Name	Country	Region
(1) Davis Dennis Martin	South Africa	Southern
(2) Deyo Mbaïtangamal Julienne	Chad	Central
(3) Konan Sommla Clémence Lydie	Côte d'Ivoire	Western
(4) Lilongo Baende Cedric	DR Congo	Central
(5) Mohamed Sameh Amr	Egypt	Northern

16. *Urges* AU Member States to constantly organize national consultations and strengthen collaboration between the different ministerial departments so that the decisions of the Ministers of Trade are not reopened for substantive discussions during the deliberations of other policy organs of the African Union; and

17. *Requests* the Champion/Leader of the AfCFTA, H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, to submit a report on the status of implementation of the AfCFTA to the Fifth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of July 2023.

Assembly/AU/Dec.855 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC)

The Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change meeting on 18 February 2023, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, adopts the following decisions and recommendations:

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. William Ruto, President of the Republic Kenya;

2. *Expresses appreciation* to the Republic of Kenya for coordinating the work of CAHOSCC and for the outstanding achievements in providing political direction and maintaining the unity of Africa as well as leading the continent during the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the 17th Meeting of the Parties serving as the Conference of the Parties to its Kyoto Protocol (KP) and fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;

3. *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 COP27;

4. *Congratulates* H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Sameh Shoukry, the President of COP27, and the people of Egypt for hosting a successful COP and delivering critical decisions to advance climate action and implementation;

5. *Congratulates* the United Arab Emirates on being endorsed as the incoming host country for the 28th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP28) to the UNFCCC, and welcomes the United Arab Emirates as the host of COP28 and commits to support UAE towards a COP that delivers ambitious outcomes that accelerate climate action across the globe;

6. *Congratulates* H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou N'Guesso, President of the Republic of Congo and Chairperson of the Congo Basin Climate Commission;
7. *Welcomes and supports* the initiative taken by the President of the Republic of Congo, on behalf of the Congo Basin Climate Commission, to launch the World Decade of Afforestation and the Preservation of the Planet, and to host, in June 2023 in Brazzaville, the Amazon/Congo/Bornéo-Mékong Summit of the Three Basins and the World Decade of Afforestation Summit under the auspices of the African Union and the United Nations;
8. *Recalls* Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.723 (XXXII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.764 (XXXIII) requesting the Commission to organize an African Climate Summit and calling upon African Union Member States to offer to host the proposed summit and, in this regard, welcomes and approves the offer by Kenya to host the said Summit from 4 to 6 September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya;
9. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the role of H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, in coordinating and setting up climate change events at COP27, which promoted case studies and climate actions for Africa and thus elevated the profile of our continent;
10. *Expresses appreciation* to the African Group of Negotiators led by the Republic of Zambia for presenting the interests of Africa in the climate change negotiations, and urges the Group to continue to represent the interests of Africa, in close consultation with Member States, to ensure Africa speaks with one voice;
11. *Welcomes* the decisions of COP27 and CMA 4 that recognize the limited access to early warning systems and call for scaled-up public grants for sub-Saharan Africa and for developed country parties to provide additional resources in line with these decisions;
12. *Urges* the AGN to continue to work with parties and the incoming COP28 presidency to reach decisions that recognize the special needs and special circumstances of Africa under the Paris Agreement;
13. *Takes cognizance* of the decision of COP27 that acknowledges the impacts of climate change exacerbated by the global energy and food production crises, and calls for additional resources up to \$4 trillion per year investments in renewable energy;
14. *Stresses* the need for swift operationalization of 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 COP28 that facilitates enhancing adaptation action and implementation and increasing the ability of parties to adapt to adverse impacts of climate change through provisions of additional finance for adaptation;
15. *Deeply regrets* the inadequacy of adaptation financing for responding to the worsening climate change impacts in developing countries and further stresses the need for developed countries to deliver on their commitment to double adaptation finance by 2025 as decided in 1/CMA3, paragraph 18;
16. *Expresses deep concern* over 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;
17. *Registers deep regret* over the unfulfilled pledges of the US\$ 100 Billion Goal by 2020, and recognizes its impacts for delivering ambitious climate action and implementation, urges developed country parties to not only honour their pledges as soon as possible but also to increase climate finance to developing country parties to restore trust in the multilateral process of addressing climate change;
18. *Urgently calls for* the launching of the work by the Transitional Committee to operationalize the loss and damage fund by COP28, and further urges the Committee to be guided by the previous COP decisions while defining institutional arrangement, governance, and eligibility; the establishment of the loss and damage financing mechanism and fund calls for swift operationalization of the fund;

19. *Approves* the submission by the AU Legal Counsel on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for the African Union to participate in the proceedings initiated by Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS) and authorizes the PRC to adopt the necessary budget for the implementation of these activities;
20. *Urges* developed country parties to provide enhanced climate finance for climate action highlighting the needs of developing countries reaching up to \$6 trillion for the pre-2030 period, and stress our call to developed country parties to allocate new financial resources, representing progression and highest possible ambition from previous efforts to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, in particular, the Green Climate Fund in the context of its replenishment this year;
21. *Welcomes* the establishment of a work programme on just transitions pathways in the context of article 2 of the Paris Agreement, recalls its call for the recognition of the multiple forms and stages of just transitions, and urges parties to consider just transitions, including pathways to low emissions and climate-resilient development in the different IPCC sectors, and in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication while recognizing the need for scaled-up climate finance for the transitions and transfer of technology and capacity-building for the creation of new and quality jobs;
22. *Welcomes* the progress of the first global stocktake that assessed the collective progress towards achieving the three goals of the Paris Agreement (i.e. the long-term temperature goal, the global goal on adaptation and the climate finance goal), and urges all parties to progress towards reaching outcomes and recommendations for the respective three goals to inform and guide parties and subsequently nationally determined contributions;
23. *Acknowledges and appreciates* the work of the African Climate Commissions, namely the Congo Basin Climate Commission, The Sahel Climate Commission, the African Islands Climate Commission; also acknowledges and appreciates the work of the initiatives, namely, the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), and the Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative (AAA), in coordinating the implementation of Africa's response to climate change and calls for additional support to scale up the implementation of these initiatives;
24. *Further expresses appreciation* to the Arab Republic of Egypt for the successful operationalizing the African Adaptation Initiative Technical Support Unit at the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) Northern Africa Regional Office in Cairo;
25. *Notes with appreciation* the complementary support provided by all partners to the African Group of Negotiators, in particular by the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the ClimDev Africa Programme, the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Federal Republic of Germany;
26. *Commends* the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, AUDA-NEPAD, Afrexim Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa for the establishment and effectiveness of the Africa Pavilion at COP27 and appreciates the space provided by the Pavilion for African countries and institutions to showcase Africa's response to climate change, and calls on Member States to support the continued mounting of an Africa Pavilion at future COPs;
27. *Requests* the African Union Commission to support a broad-based and participatory process for the development of Africa's common position on climate change that will include women, youth, private sector, civil society, academia and governments;
28. *Takes note* of the implementation of the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032), requests the African Union Commission to enhance the capacity of Member States to access climate finance required for implementation of multiple programmes for both adaptation and mitigation as well as just transitions including through the Africa Climate Change Governance programme;

29. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.723 (XXXII) for the Commission to develop the rules of procedure for CAHOSSC and requests the Subcommittee of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) to follow due process in order to finalize the development of the rules of procedure with the support of the AU Commission by the next CAHOSSC meeting;

30. *Welcomes* the outcome of the Second Conference of Head of States and Government of the Sahel Region Climate Commission held on 17 February 2023 at the AU Headquarters under the presidency of H.E. Mohamed Bazoum, President of the Republic of Niger, and endorses the recommendations therein.

Assembly/AU/Dec.856 (XXXVI)

Decisions on Draft Legal Instruments

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Executive Council for the consideration and adoption of draft legal instruments;

2. *Adopts* the following draft legal instruments:

(i) Draft Statute of the African Training Center for Statistics (PANSTAT);

(ii) Draft Statute of the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC);

(iii) Draft Statute of the African Humanitarian Agency (AfHA);

(iv) Draft Protocol to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Competition Policy;

(v) Draft Protocol to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Investment;

(vi) Draft Protocol to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR);

(vii) Draft Statute of the African Inclusive Markets Excellence Centre (AIMEC); and

(viii) Draft Revised Staff Regulations and Rules (SRR);

3. *Recalls* its Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.2 (XVII) of November 2022 requesting the Commission to work with the AfCFTA Secretariat and AUDA-NEPAD on a proposal for an arrangement for the rationalization of the institutional governance of the IPR on the continent and to report to the policy organs in June/July 2023;

4. *Requests* the Commission and the PRC to continue working on the proposals of the Commission relating to salary and benefits review, education allowance, accrued leave days as well as retirement age, and to report to the Forty-third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2023.

Assembly/AU/Dec.857 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Election of the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union for 2023

The Assembly,

1. *Elects* the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union for 2023, as follows:

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| (i) | Chairperson: | Union of Comoros; |
| (ii) | First Vice-Chairperson: | Ongoing consultations; |
| (iii) | Second Vice-Chairperson: | Republic of Botswana; |

- (iv) Third Vice-Chairperson: Republic of Burundi;
- (v) Rapporteur: Republic of Senegal.

Assembly/AU/Dec.858 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Appointment of the Director General of Africa CDC

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report and recommendations of the Committee of Heads of State and Government of the Africa CDC on the selection of the Director General of the Africa CDC;
2. *Recalls* its Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.835 (XXXV) of February 2022 that granted Africa CDC the status of an autonomous institution of the African Union to be led by a Director General as the Chief Executive Officer;
3. *Further recalls* Decision EX.CL/Dec.1169 (XLI) adopted by the Executive Council in July 2022, which adopted the revised Statute of the Africa CDC and requested the Commission to accelerate the recruitment of the Director General of Africa CDC at SP3 grade;
4. *Commends* the Governing Board of the Africa CDC and the African Union Commission for facilitating the selection process of Director General of the Africa CDC following the due process as outlined in the revised Statute;
5. *Decides* to appoint with immediate effect Dr. Jean Kaseya of the Democratic Republic of Congo as the Director General of the Africa CDC for a mandate of four years.

Assembly/AU/Dec.859 (XXXVI)

Decision on Date and Venue of the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union

The Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the dates of the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly, which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, shall be the following:
 - (i) Forty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), from 15 to 26 January 2024;
 - (ii) Forty-fourth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, 14 and 15 February 2024;
 - (iii) Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly, 17 and 18 February 2024;
2. *Requests* the Commission to make all the necessary arrangements for the successful hosting of the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly and the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC according to the aforementioned dates.

Assembly/AU/Dec.860 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Date and Venue of the Fifth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.558 (XXIV) adopted in January 2015 which approved the offer made by Member States to host the June/July 2023 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 Fifth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting and preceding Executive Council and PRC sessions, shall be as follows:

- (i) Forty-sixth Ordinary Session of the PRC from 19 June to 4 July 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- (ii) Forty-third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council on 13 and 14 July 2023, Nairobi, Kenya;
- (iii) Fifth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union and the RECs on 16 July 2023, in Nairobi, Kenya;

4. *Requests* the Commission to put in place all the necessary measures in order to organize the Fifth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting as well the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC according to the aforementioned dates.

Assembly/AU/Dec.861 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Africa Union Theme of the Year 2023: “Acceleration of AfCFTA Implementation”

The Assembly,

- 1. *Recalls* the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), as set out in the African Union flagship project of Agenda 2063;
- 2. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.819 (XXXV) of February 2022 and Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.2 (XVII) of November 2022 requesting the concept note and road map for the theme of the year 2023 under “Acceleration of the AfCFTA implementation”;
- 3. *Welcomes* the concept note and road map, adopts the theme of the year as “Acceleration of the AfCFTA Implementation” and emphasizes that the implementation of the AfCFTA is a critical step towards Africa’s economic integration and calls for the necessary funds to be made available for the theme of the year;
- 4. *Underlines* that the 2023 theme of the year will play a critical role to compliment other flagship projects of the Agenda 2063, and to the second 10-year implementation plan of the Agenda;
- 5. *Directs* the AfCFTA Secretariat and the Africa CDC to mainstream the trade and health nexus in the implementation of the 2023 theme of the year and the realization of accelerated implementation of the AfCFTA;
- 6. *Further directs* the relevant African Union organs, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), institutions, permanent representations and specialized technical offices to support the implementation of the 2023 theme of the year, and the overall AfCFTA Private Sector Engagement Strategy and ensure throughout the continent and beyond;
- 7. *Requests* the AfCFTA Secretariat, in close collaboration with AUC and AUDA-NEPAD, to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the theme of the year to the Fifth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting and the Thirty-seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

Assembly/AU/Dec.862 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Africa Medicine Agency Establishment and Operationalization

The Assembly,

- 1. *Takes note* of the progress in the establishment and operationalization of Africa Medicine Agency;
- 2. *Appeals* to the Member States to sign and ratify the Africa Medicine Agency Treaty to fast-track the operationalization of the AMA;

3. *Commends* the 31 Member States who have signed the AMA Treaty and the 23 Member States who have ratified and deposited the legal instrument of ratification at the Commission;
4. *Further commends* the host country of the Africa Medicine Agency, Rwanda, for the effort made to establish the headquarters of the agency;
5. *Welcomes and acknowledges* the technical and financial contribution from partners and development agencies in supporting AMA's operationalization;
6. *Requests* Member States, and partners to mobilize financial resources to fast-track the operationalization of the Africa Medicine Agency;
7. *Urges* the Northern and Central regions, relevant and respective Regional Economic Communities and regional health organizations to send their nominations for the AMA Governing Board to accelerate the establishment of the Board;
8. *Requests* the African Union Commission to fast-track operationalization of the AMA and continue high-level advocacy at the continental level, and further requests the Commission, AUDA-NEPAD and the Africa CDC to coordinate the AMA operationalization plan.

Assembly/AU/Dec.863 (XXXVI)

Decision on the African Union Scale of Assessment

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.838 (XXXV) of February 2022, in which the Assembly decided to extend the application of the current scale of assessment 2020-2022 by one year up to 2023 and requested 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;
2. *Takes note* of the Decision of the Executive Council on the report of the joint sitting of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions and F15 which took note of the three options proposed for the AU successor scale of assessment for the period 2024-2026 and approved the request by Member States for additional time to undertake further consultations with the relevant experts at their respective capitals, mindful of enduring social and economic challenges in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, inflationary pressures, debt surge, and the increasing negative effects of climate change among other factors, that impact on Member States' capacity to pay, and subsequently requested the Commission and F15 experts to agree on a road map for undertaking the necessary regional consultations, and following due process, present a single option for consideration and adoption by the Executive Council in July 2023;
3. *Decides* to delegate to the Executive Council the powers to adopt the new scale of assessment in July 2023.

Assembly/AU/Dec.864 (XXXVI)

Decision on the African Union Theme of the Year for 2024

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Council on its Forty-second Ordinary Session held on 15 and 16 February 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, requesting the Assembly to designate Education as the AU theme of the Year 2024;

2. *Recalls* the outcomes of the Summit on Transforming Education convened by the United Nations Secretary General H.E. Antonio Guterres on 18 September 2022, and that of the AU Heads of State and Government High-Level Side Event on 20 September 2022, convened by H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Chairperson of the Commission at the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, USA;
3. *Decides* to designate Education as the African Union theme of the year 2024; and
4. *Requests* the Commission in collaboration with Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and development partners to prepare a comprehensive concept note and road map for implementation of this decision and submit them to the Assembly in 2024 for the launch of the theme of the year.

Assembly/AU/Dec.865 (XXXVI)

Decision on the Negotiation of an African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls

The Assembly,

1. *Recalls* Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1190 (XLII) taking note of the outcomes of the Second Conference on Positive Male Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence against Women and Girls, and recommends it for adoption by the Assembly;
2. *Also recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.819 (XXXV) adopting the Kinshasa Declaration on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence against Women and Girls, and institutionalizing the Office of the Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security;
3. *Further recalls* Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.837 (XXX) appointing H.E. Félix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, as the AU Champion for the positive masculinity programme;
4. *Commends* H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, and Chairperson of the African Union for 2022, for the successful organization of the Second AU Conference on Positive Masculinity held in November 2022 in Dakar, Senegal;
5. *Acknowledges* that the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence in conflict situations and harmful practices, are basic requisites for the attainment of full equality between men and women in all spheres of life, in line with Goal 17 of Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063;
6. *Requests* Member States, supported by the AU Commission, to negotiate an AU Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls, and to submit it to for adoption by the Thirty-seventh AU Summit in 2024;
7. *Further requests* the Commission to regularly report on the implementation of this decision to the Assembly through the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXXVI)

**Ministerial Declaration of Algiers on Start-Ups in Africa
(Item Proposed by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria)
African Start-up Conference 5 to 6 December 2022**

The African Ministers in charge of start-ups, joined by the Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of the African Union Commission, the representatives of African civil society, the private sector and the experts,

Recalling the significant role that African start-ups can play in achieving the goals set by the African Union Agenda 2063, the United Nations Agenda 2030 SDGs, the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa 2020-2030, and in particular the African Union's STISA-2024 Science, Technology and Innovation strategy for Africa,

Reiterating the determination of the African governments to promote knowledge economy and the role of start-ups and innovative projects in developing the continent's economy, through the mobilization of relevant resources and the implementation of adequate policies and programmes,

Recognizing the progress made by African countries in establishing ecosystems conducive to the emergence and promotion of start-ups as a tool for descent job and wealth creation that will improve the lives of vulnerable populations and strengthen the foundations for sustainable inclusive growth,

Mindful of the challenges and hurdles faced by innovative project leaders in terms of financing needs, administrative procedures and formalities to create start-ups,

Aware of the need to further strengthen African countries' capacity to support young talents during their entrepreneurial journey and to enable them to create effective and sustainable start-ups,

Welcoming the level of technological knowledge and capability achieved by African youth and their unwavering enthusiasm and commitment to contribute to the progress of the continent through innovation and partnership,

Reaffirming the important role that African start-ups can play as a spearhead in the implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),

Determined to bring together, coordinate, align and harmonize the efforts of African countries towards a Pan-African start-up strategy promoting SDGs such as no poverty, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, environment and climate change action, etc.,

Agreed to:

(i) *Further strengthen* the Pan-African cooperation in the field of innovation and new technologies to ensure a better deployment of African start-ups, especially on the continent, for an optimal exploitation of this important market;

(ii) *Invite* all actors of the continental ecosystem to contribute to the establishment of an exchange mechanism for best practices on public policies designed to support start-ups and innovation, as well as to the harmonization of African governments' efforts in this area;

(iii) *Outline* the promotion of start-ups as a national economic priority within the framework of governmental development programmes through the strengthening of national capacities dedicated to innovative project holders, in a triple helix vision that includes universities, government and industry;

(iv) *Coordinate* appropriate policies and activities at the continental and international levels to promote Africa's place in the global innovation and start-up ecosystems and protect the continent's interests in this critical area;

(v) *Encourage* African institutions in charge of entrepreneurship and start-ups to build up strategies and action plans in view of accelerating the continent's economic development and technological growth, facilitating continental talent, knowledge and technology transfer and make easier the access to funding to all entrepreneurial categories;

(vi) *Enable* African start-ups to benefit from a better deployment on the whole continent, by facilitating their mobility through the designation of one incubator for each country, which will act as a focal point to assist start-ups and ensure their "soft landing";

(vii) *Engage* in a deeper reflection aimed at creating an African Startup Fund, mapping existent funds and looking to innovative funding schemes and contributions from different stakeholders, that will serve as a financing and support tool for start-ups in African countries, as well as a booster for the venture capital sector on the continent;

(viii) *Promote* the development of a road map and action plan for the implementation, execution, follow-up and monitoring of all the strategic objectives and goals agreed upon during this conference.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (XXXVI)

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-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa on 18 and 19 February 2023,

Taking note of the report on the situation in the State of Palestine and the Middle East and recalling all previous declarations, decisions and resolutions 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,

Expressing our full support for the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle against the Israeli occupation, represented by the Palestine Liberation Organization under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, in order to restore their inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination, return of refugees and independence in their State of Palestine existing side by side with the State of Israel,

Reiterating our desire and 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 which call for the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine on the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, by ending the long-standing Israeli occupation, applying the principle of a two-State solution, finding a just solution to the issue of Palestinian refugees and guaranteeing their right to return in conformity with the United Nations resolution 194 (III),

Renewing our call for the launch of a credible political process to end the Israeli occupation and to dismantle the system of apartheid on the territory of the State of Palestine in order to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East through a multilateral international mechanism, within a specific time frame, in accordance with the international consensus,

Notes with dismay the unceasing Israeli illegal settlements, a mechanism for gradual annexation of the occupied Palestinian territories that constitutes a major obstacle to ending the occupation and achieving peace in accordance with the international consensus, and also, the continuation of Israel in implementing annexation schemes, imposing control over the Palestinian territories, changing the demographic structure, imposing new realities on the ground and consolidating the apartheid regime,

Disapproving of Israel's continued intransigence in rejecting the repeated initiatives and calls of the Palestinian leadership to engage in peaceful negotiations leading to the granting of an independent State for the Palestinians, in accordance with the principle of a two-State solution,

Reaffirming our support for the request of the Palestinian President to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to work vigorously to develop an international plan to end the occupation of the territory of the State of Palestine in order to achieve a just and a comprehensive peace in the region,

Further reaffirming the centrality of the just cause of Palestine and the steadfastness of our supportive position and decisions based on our common values against colonialism, oppression and apartheid and the historically established African solidarity with the Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for freedom and an independent State,

Urging all Member States to continue supporting the Palestinian cause guided by the values and principles of the African Union, and to refrain from any action that would undermine the principles of solidarity with the Palestinian people,

Following with concerns the grave developments in the occupied Palestinian territories and the escalation of violations by the Israeli occupation authorities and settlers against the Palestinian civilians and their properties,

the confiscation of land and the replacement of settlers, and the continued desecration and attempts to Judaize the Islamic and Christian holy sites,

Rejecting the Israeli violations of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people by continuing the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the consolidation of an apartheid regime that discriminates on the basis of ethnicity and religion,

We hereby declare the following:

1. *Affirm* the need to resolve the Palestinian issue to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region by ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, on the basis of the two-State solution in conformity with the international law, and also, the need to launch a credible peace process, in accordance with the agreed international terms of reference, within a specific time frame, leading to the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on the borders of 4 June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital;
2. *Renew our support* for the initiative of H.E. the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for peace and his repeated calls, including his last speech before the United Nations General Assembly on 23 September 2022, and his call to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to develop an international plan to end the occupation of the State of Palestine in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and the State of Israel is encouraged to seize this opportunity to achieve peace;
3. *Support* the renewal of the State of Palestine's request for full membership in the United Nations, and urge all Member States to support this request aimed at holding the Israeli occupation accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed and continues to commit against the Palestinian people;
4. *Acknowledge* the request for an Advisory Opinion by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/247 (2022) on the "Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem" to the International Court of Justice (ICJ);
5. *Request* Member States and the international community to observe the provisions of international law and relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the African Union, and to work to end the Israeli occupation, which undermine the basic fundamentals of the international legal order; Member States should not recognize the illegal status that Israel has established in the Palestinian and Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, which perpetuates the system of colonialism and apartheid;
6. *Further request* Member States to end all direct and indirect trade, scientific and cultural exchanges with the State of Israel; and, moreover, to take all measures to stop such dealings in accordance with the resolutions of United Nations, in particular Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), paragraph 5, and the relevant decisions of the African Union;
7. *Also request* the AU Commission, through the Office of the Legal Counsel, to exert all necessary efforts to make an AU written submission in accordance with Article 66 of the ICJ Statute and to carry out the necessary campaign to bring more AU Member States and other organizations to support the Palestinian people in their legitimate and legal struggle against occupation as well as to make submissions to the advisory proceedings before the ICJ; and, accordingly, authorizes the PRC to adopt the necessary budget for the implementation of these activities;
8. *Call on* Member States to respect the legal status of East Jerusalem as the occupied capital of the State of Palestine, and reject any actions taken by Israel against the Palestinian people, their rights and their property, that affect the legal status and demographic composition of the city of Jerusalem guided by Security Council resolutions 476 and 478 of 1980 and the General Assembly resolution ES-10/19 of 2017;
9. *Condemn* the Israeli policies in the Holy City aimed at Judaizing the Islamic and Christian holy sites especially the establishment of the spatial and temporal division in the Holy Mosque, and the forcible displacement of Jerusalemites, replacing them with settlers to create a demographic and geographical reality

that perpetuates the apartheid system, in an effort to create a single racist State that promotes religious intolerance;

10. *Also condemn* the Israeli colonialist practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, discriminating between the Palestinian and Israeli people on the basis of race and religion, and giving the Israelis more rights and privileges over the Palestinian landowners; the international community is called on to dismantle and prohibit the Israeli system of colonialism and apartheid in accordance with the International Convention for the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid adopted in 30 November 1973;

11. *Further condemn* Israel's continued policy of on-the-spot executions, administrative and arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and medical neglect of Palestinian prisoners, which constitute war crimes under international humanitarian law; urge the Israeli occupation authorities to release all Palestinian prisoners, particularly children, women, the elderly and the sick, to ensure their safety; and further urge the Israeli authorities to end its policy of keeping the corpses of martyrs and prisoners, which is contrary to the provisions of international law;

12. *Deplore* the brutal and repeated targeting of medical and media personnel, elderly, women, and children in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention, and condemn the assassination of Palestinian journalist Ms. Shireen Abu Akleh while she was reporting, and support an international and independent investigation to uncover the circumstances of her death;

13. *Reject* the barbaric and ongoing Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, which recently targeted the Strip in August 2022, resulting in more than forty martyrs and the injury of hundreds of civilian victims, in addition to the demolition of civilian homes and properties, and the displacement of thousands of civilians;

14. *Reiterate* the call on the international community to ensure the protection of the Palestinian people in accordance with Security Council resolutions 605 of 1987, 672 and 673 of 1990, and 904 of 1994, and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including its emergency special session in July 2018, and we stand ready to support the work of an international mission to provide protection to the Palestinian people;

15. *Further reiterate* our grave concern at the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation in Gaza Strip, which has become an alarming humanitarian catastrophe requiring urgent relief as a result of the Israeli blockade and the repeated military aggression, and make efforts to enable geographic and political unity in the Palestinian territories between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip;

16. *Applaud* the efforts of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to unify the Palestinian parties and welcome the signing by the Palestinian parties of the "Algiers Declaration", which emanated from the "Conference of Reunion for Palestinian National Unity" held in Algiers from 11 to 13 October 2022. We look forward to the completion of efforts and noble endeavours to achieve the final steps that will unite the Palestinian parties within the framework of the Palestine Liberation Organization — the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; and further applaud the efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt to promote peace and reconciliation between the Palestinians within the framework of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian peoples;

17. *Welcome* the international consensus to extend the legal mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) until 2026. We call on the international community to support and secure the financial resources, contributions enabling this United Nations agency to continue playing its role towards the Palestine refugees;

18. *Reaffirm* that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires the complete Israeli withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab territories, including the Syrian Golan Heights and the territories still occupied in southern Lebanon, and also, the embodiment of the independence of the sovereign State of Palestine on the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes.

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (XXXVI)

Declaration on the Financial Sustainability of the African Union

The Assembly,

Taking note of the Communiqué issued by the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance, following its annual retreat held on 13 and 14 June 2022 in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, under the theme “Beyond COVID-19 Pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia Conflict: Enhancing the Resilience of African Economies and Financial Sustainability of the African Union”,

Recalling the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, adopted in May 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, affirming the commitment to support Africa’s new path for attaining inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development, further marking the rededication of Africa towards the attainment of the Pan-African Vision of “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena” as encapsulated in the African Union’s Agenda 2063,

Further recalling the Declaration on Self-Reliance adopted by the Assembly in June 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa, which recognized that in order to achieve the goals set out in Agenda 2063, Member States would need to take practical and concrete measures to achieve self-reliance and reaffirmed that self-reliance is not self-isolation, but a commitment to base the development of the continent primarily on its own resources,

Also recalling the monumental Financing Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.578 (XXV) of June 2015 in Johannesburg which boldly spelled out the self-financing targets for the Union’s operational, programme and peace support operations’ budgets, Decision 605 of July 2016 which adopted the 0.2 per cent import levy mechanism to facilitate assessed contributions and also revitalized the African Union Peace Fund, and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.605 (XXVII) of January 2017 in Addis Ababa which adopted, as one of the five areas in the proposed reforms that is critical for a transformed and strengthened Union, the recommendation to “Finance the African Union sustainably and predictably with the full ownership of the Member States”,

Cognizant of the enduring and compounding economic and social challenges occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, and worsened by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and including other challenges related to civil and political strife and climate change, all of which have disrupted Africa’s development agenda, and to a considerable extent, reversed gains attained in the medium-term and exacerbated pre-pandemic economic, social and political vulnerabilities,

Encouraged by the swift coordination and cooperation at the continental level between various public and private entities, including stimulus packages to cushion against the associated disruptive effects of the pandemic and support economic recoveries, not excluding the mobilization of financing for the purchase and distribution of vaccines, bearing in mind that they remain a vital component in the strategies towards the full resumption of economic activity and social interactions within and between countries,

Stressing the importance of the African Continental Free Trade Area to promote inclusive economic development and structural transformation of African economies through its promising prospects to yield multiple benefits by promoting industrialization and enhancing value-chain systems, including the rapid development of infrastructure and digital technologies, human capital development and the generation of decent jobs opportunities; and its latent potential to shield the continent against pressures from unprecedented global economic, political and health crises, as well as advancing the cause of regional integration,

Cognizant of the fundamental interlinkages between sustainable development and peace and security, and the increasing need for comprehensive and multifaceted approaches at the national, regional, and continental levels for conflict prevention and resolution, including mechanisms which emphasize and promote dialogue-centred approaches that equally require adequate, timely and sustainable financing,

Hereby:

1. *Commit* to continue with institutional reforms across the African Union out of which is expected a realigned and re-energized African Union that performs significantly better, with continuous improvement year

upon year, to deliver results in a visible and measurable way in the short- and medium-term, in line with the goals and aspirations of Agenda 2063;

2. *Urge* the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15) to deepen engagements with the African Union Commission to support the budget and financial reforms aimed at attaining the highest fiduciary, transparency, and accountability standards in the utilization of the financial resources availed for the implementation of the various development programmes;

3. *Call upon* Member States to renew their determination for self-reliance by ensuring that the development agenda of the African Union is adequately, predictably, and sustainably financed through financial resources mobilized from within the continent;

4. *Further call upon* Member States to reinvigorate the efforts to domesticate the 0.2 per cent Union levy on eligible imports, as the levy remains one of the viable resource mobilization mechanisms for Member States to meet their annual statutory remittances sustainably and predictably, while cushioning national treasuries from fiscal pressures induced by the financial requirements of a strengthened Union;

5. *Also call upon* national governments to continue working in close and earnest collaboration with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat to support the full implementation and operationalization of the AfCFTA, and capitalize on the vast opportunities for economic growth and transformation with respect to the diversification of the regional productive capacities, optimization of intraregional markets and the strengthening regional integration;

6. *Call for* synergistic collaboration between the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, regional development financial institutions and other Pan-African institutions in the efforts to support the mobilization of domestic and external financial resources required to close the development financing gaps in the critical areas of agriculture, health, education, infrastructure, research and development, and sustainable environment management, including climate change adaptation and resilience, among others;

7. *Pledge* to support the role of regional development financial institutions in the global financial architecture, as they leverage their collective financial capacities to support the implementation of national and regional development plans, including support to initiatives that would build the resilience of Member States to shocks triggered by economic, social, and political challenges;

8. *Call for* the expedited operationalization of African financial institutions which are key to accelerating the continent's economic and regional integration including their focal role in the mobilization of domestic resources for development programmes and better management of the continental financial sector;

9. *Call upon* Member States to continue with reforms at the national level that stimulate development friendly and quality foreign direct investments that balances responsibilities and rights of investors, particularly as it relates to simplified and stable tax systems, transparent and accountable administrative systems and processes, strong legal institutions, and skilled and affordable labour markets, among others. This should be underpinned by investments in digital technologies and infrastructures that foster efficient and effective administrative and operations systems;

10. *Determine* to curb illicit financial flows (IFFs) that drain from the continent of Africa, substantial financial resources paramount for economic and social development, and remains a key undermining factor to the attainment of the goals and aspirations of Agenda 2063, as IFFs continue to hamstring development efforts, exacerbate inequalities and aggravated instabilities, plunging a significant population of Africa into deeper destitution;

11. *Reaffirm* the commitment of Member States to continue resourcing the revitalized Peace Fund and urge the African Union Commission to continue supporting its relevant governing structures to sustain the highest standards for its operationalization, including support on enhanced coordination and cooperation in policy planning, adoption, and implementation;

12. *Call for* renewed vigour on the part of Member States to address the longstanding concerns of, in some cases, inequity and none-access to public services, inefficient and ineffective public institutions, and the exclusion of benefits accruing from the continent's vast wealth of resources, all of which considerably constitute, among others, the root causes of conflicts and civil unrests that stagnate or reverse Africa's development gains and undermine durable peace and security. We further emphasize the need to optimize revenues from mineral resources primarily through in-country beneficiation, including the harmonization of fiscal regimes and royalties along value chains;

13. *Commit* to intensify our efforts to build economies that are more resilient to food insecurity, severe price distortions in the commodity markets and disruptions in the supply chain of petroleum products and fertilizers among other strategic goods. We further recognize the particular importance of coordinated efforts to mobilize financial and technical resources required for the accelerated improvement of health care systems and services, including substantial investments towards the elimination of high-burden diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV, and the swift and comprehensive management of pandemics.

Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXXVI)

Declaration on Accelerating the Path to Achieving the Goals and Targets of the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa, having met in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya, on 19 November 2021 on the occasion of the Seventh High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was preceded by the Eighth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, from 16 to 18 November 2021 on the theme, "Towards disaster risk-informed development for a resilient Africa in a COVID-19 Transformed World",

Express appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Kenya for hosting these events and for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to the delegates,

Further appreciate the efforts made and the support provided by the African Union Commission, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to organize the Eighth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Seventh High-level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction,

Recognize with deep concern the continuing negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Africa's social and economic development, including the disproportionate impact on women, and welcome the efforts being made across the continent to respond to and recover from the pandemic,

Further appreciate Member States and Regional Economic Communities for their continued efforts to implement priorities and decisions in the Tunis Declaration and in the Africa Common Position to the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, while the continent continues to grapple with the COVID-19 crisis,

Further recognize the systemic nature of risk, illustrated by interconnected and simultaneous disasters and their cascading and devastating impacts, including loss of lives and livelihoods, damage to infrastructure, and displacement, exacerbated by COVID-19, climate change, environmental degradation, unplanned and rapid urbanization, poverty, inequality and conflict, including disproportionate vulnerability and exposure on women and girls, all of which undermine efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want,

Express deep concern on the growing severity and frequency of climate-related disasters and the increasing vulnerabilities of Member States, especially Small Island Developing States to such disasters and the resulting negative effects on their economies and development,

Recall the decision of the African Union Executive Council at its Thirtieth Ordinary Session, January 2017 (EX.CL/Dec.943 (XXX)), endorsing the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa (Programme of Action), and the Mauritius Declaration on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa; and the Ministerial Declaration on the Specialized Session

of African Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources on the Challenges and Opportunities presented by the COVID-19 pandemic (13 November 2020),

Further recall the decision of the Third Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment of the African Union (STC3/ARDWE/MIN), endorsing the Tunis Declaration on accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction; and urging the African Union Commission to accelerate the establishment of a continental system for multi-hazard, impact-based and inclusive early warning and preparedness for natural hazards,

Commend the African Union Commission for its support and leadership in translating priorities and decisions contained in the Tunis Declaration and in the Africa Common Position to the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, including institutionalization of disaster risk reduction in its regular organizational structure, the development and launch of the Biennial Report on the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa, strengthening capacities for early warning and early action, as well as the establishment and operationalization of the Africa Science and Technology Advisory Group and a Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction,

Appreciate the role of stakeholders, including parliamentarians, the civil society organizations, media, academia, youth, women, private sector, local authorities and communities in supporting and implementing the Sendai Framework, as well as regional, subregional, national, and local disaster risk reduction programmes and plans,

Further appreciate the work being carried out by the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction in coordinating and guiding the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action across the continent, including the revision of the Implementation of the Matrix of the Programme of Action (2021-2025),

Note the importance of ensuring coherence among global, regional, subregional, national and subnational disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development actions; and the need to ensure national development strategies and adaptation plans reflect disaster risk reduction,

Stress the important role of regional, subregional, national and subnational disaster risk reduction platforms and institutions in coherently implementing, monitoring and reporting progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action,

Further stress the importance of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action in providing guidance to sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from disasters, including COVID-19 across the continent, as well as identifying and addressing underlying drivers of disaster risk in a systematic manner,

Recognize the role of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference in promoting integrated actions for disaster risk reduction and in ensuring risk-informed interventions in implementing Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063,

Further recognize the partnership between the African Union Commission, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, World Meteorological Organization and other development partners to launch and operationalize the continental programme for the implementation of the Africa Road Map for Improving the Availability, Access and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action, including in the Context of Transboundary Risk Management,

Appreciate the support provided by the Governments of Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative, as well as other development partners, United Nations agencies, and international and regional financial institutions to implement the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa in coherence with climate change, sustainable development, and other related actions for resilience,

Further appreciate the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for its continued support, in partnership with the African Union Commission, in capacity-building, including development of tools and guiding documents

such as the Sendai Framework Monitor (including the regional module), as well as development, implementation, monitoring, and review of progress of disaster risk reduction strategies and plans at all levels,

Welcome the launch of Making Cities Resilient 2030 as a successor of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign to facilitate the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action at the local level,

Acknowledge the support being provided by the United Nations Development Programme and other partners to develop the COVID-19 Recovery Framework for Africa under the leadership of the African Union Commission,

Aware of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/216 of 21 December 2020 on holding “a midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework in 2023 to assess progress on integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, identify good practice, gaps and challenges and accelerate the path to achieving the goal of the Sendai Framework and its seven global targets by 2030”,

Mindful of the outcomes of the COP-26 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Glasgow, United Kingdom, and concerned about the continued insufficient finance for adaptation to climate change including the increasing severity and frequency of climate change induced disasters particularly in Africa and Small Island Developing States,

Declare our determination to deliver on our commitments to the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Programme of Action, the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as subregional and national strategies and plans of action for disaster risk reduction as key instruments for the realization of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, and

Hereby:

1. *Adopt* the Matrix of the Programme of Action (2021-2025) to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa;
2. *Further adopt* the Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Early Action;
3. *Call upon* Member States, Regional Economic Communities, local authorities, the private sector, academia, civil society organizations, development partners and other stakeholders to support the rollout and implementation of the Matrix of the Programme of Action (2021-2025), as well as the Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Early Action across the continent;
4. *Further call upon* the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions to consider the Matrix of the Programme of Action, as well as the Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Early Action in multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes;
5. *Request* the African Union Commission to continue to regularly prepare the Biennial Report on the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa;
6. *Further request* Member States, Regional Economic Communities, local authorities, the private sector, academia, civil society organizations, development partners and other stakeholders to support the development and implementation of disaster risk-informed, inclusive, holistic and gender-sensitive strategies, programmes and plans of action at all levels;
7. *Call for* Member States and Regional Economic Communities to increase the annual budgetary allocation, as well as establish innovative financing solutions, including by participating in the Africa Risk Capacity's innovative risk pooling mechanism, for the implementation of gender sensitive and inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies, programmes and plans of action, in coherence with climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, combating desertification and sustainable development actions and Great Green Wall initiative at all levels;

8. *Call upon* Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission, United Nations organizations, Parliamentarians, the Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and other stakeholders to strengthen capacity for resource mobilization, implementation and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting processes;
9. *Reiterate* the need for scaling up investments in nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction, climate action and supporting sustainable land and biodiversity management, as well as ensuring the early and full implementation of the African Union Green Recovery Action Plan and the Africa Green Stimulus programme as key instruments for building resilience;
10. *Reiterate* the need for Member States to ensure stronger partnerships between institutions responsible for disaster risk reduction, environmental management, climate change action, planning and finance and other sectors to ensure a coherent, integrated and a whole-of-society approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at all levels;
11. *Urge* Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission, the Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and other stakeholders to strengthen the capacity of Member States to better prepare for, respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic; and consider disaster risk reduction in the overall COVID-19 response, recovery plans and mechanisms for resilience;
12. *Request* Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission, the Private Sector, and Development Partners to strengthen financial and technical support to use the existing Sendai Framework Monitor system for monitoring and reporting on progress in achieving all targets of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action;
13. *Urge* Member States to ensure the development and use of multi-hazard and multisectoral risk assessments, collection and analysis of disaster loss data disaggregated, where relevant, by income, age, gender, disability, and geographical location, as well as putting in place a mechanism for the exchange of disaster related data between institutions responsible for disaster risk reduction and management and other relevant sectors;
14. *Call upon* the African Union Commission, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and other partners to support the integration of disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework Monitor into the African Peer Review Mechanism processes, methodology and questionnaire to facilitate the assessment of Member States' resilience, including the commitment to avail experts, as well as strengthen their capacities and mechanisms to effectively prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, including COVID-19;
15. *Encourage* Member States to ensure the development and implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks that are risk-informed and aligned to the national development plans to support their efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063;
16. *Further encourage* the adoption of a whole-of-society approach that integrates women, children and youth, local communities, the elderly, people living with disabilities, displaced people, and other people in vulnerable situations, as well as considers indigenous and local knowledge systems and practices, age and cultural perspectives into the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies and plans;
17. *Urge* Member States to establish strong risk governance systems supported by regulatory and legal frameworks to buttress the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Africa Programme of Action at all levels;
18. *Further urge* Member States and Regional Economic Communities to actively participate in and follow up on the outcomes of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference to strengthen the integration of disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development actions, as well as consideration of disaster risk reduction in voluntary national reviews and subnational voluntary reviews;

19. *Call upon* the African Union Commission, United Nations organizations, especially the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Development Programme and other development partners to continue to strengthen their support to Member States and Regional Economic Communities through the provision of guidance, tools and technical assistance, and by facilitating the exchange of experiences, including for the strengthening of the multi-hazard and impact-based early warning systems for early action and for effective transboundary risk management;
20. *Urge* Member States, Regional Economic Communities, regional climate centers, the African Union Commission, the private sector, academia, civil society organizations, development partners and other stakeholders to strengthen hydrological and meteorological systems and improve weather and climate information generation and outreach, for effective early warning and early action, and transboundary risk management at all levels;
21. *Call upon* Member States, Regional Economic Communities and the African Union Commission to consider disaster-induced displacement in regional, subregional, national, and local levels and integrate disaster risk reduction, climate change and development strategies and plans to reduce and prevent the risk of disaster displacement, and thus build the resilience of displaced people and host communities;
22. *Further call upon* Member States and other stakeholders to actively participate in and contribute through inclusive and evidence-based processes to the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa;
23. *Request* Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission and development partners to strengthen support to the African Science and Technology Advisory Group, as well as the Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction as key instruments contributing to the realization of the outcomes of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action;
24. *Call upon* the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, other United Nations organizations and development partners to strengthen partnerships and cooperation through enhancing regional, subregional and national coordination mechanisms, as well as North-South, South-South, and Triangular cooperation in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action at all levels;
25. *Request* the African Union Commission to accelerate the development of the COVID-19 Recovery Framework for Africa for consideration and adoption by the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment; and urge Member States, Regional Economic Communities and other stakeholders to support the process;
26. *Mandate* the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction to coordinate the development of the Africa position to the 2022 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction; and ensure that these processes are inclusive, participatory and Member States driven;
27. *Request* the Government of the Republic of Kenya, as the Chair of the Eighth Africa Regional Platform and the Seventh High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, to submit the Nairobi Declaration to the African Union policy organ for endorsement and advocate for the follow-up and implementation of this Declaration.

Assembly/AU/Decl.5 (XXXVI)

Declaration on the Outcomes of the Dakar 2 Summit on Food Sovereignty and Resilience

The Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the statement of H.E. President Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and Outgoing Chairperson of the African Union, on the Dakar 2 Summit on Feed Africa: Food Sovereignty and Resilience that took place in Dakar, Senegal, from 25 to 27 January 2023;
2. *Commends* the Republic of Senegal and the African Development Bank Group for convening this important and timely Summit towards developing Country Food And Agriculture Delivery Compacts to address

rising food prices, disruption in global food supply and worsening of food insecurity in Africa due to the effects of Covid-19, climate change and external conflicts that have worsened food insecurity in Africa;

3. *Notes* that Africa has 65 per cent of the world's remaining uncultivated arable land and has the potential to produce enough food to feed itself and contribute to feeding the rest of the world. However, despite its huge agricultural potential, Africa continues to suffer from high food insecurity, with one third of the 828 million hungry people in the world being on the continent;

4. *Agrees* that achieving and sustaining food sovereignty requires delivering agricultural technology to farmers at scale, raising food production and increasing investments in food and agricultural systems, and that support to Africa's agriculture sector depends on strong political will and commitment of African governments, development partners, and the private sector and the scaling up of highly impactful continental programmes such as the African Development Bank's Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) and other successful country and partner programmes;

5. *Acknowledges* that the Country Food and Agriculture Delivery Compacts developed at the Dakar 2 Summit convey the vision, challenges, and opportunities in agricultural productivity, infrastructure, processing and value addition, markets and financing that will contribute to the acceleration of the implementation of the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP);

6. *Supports* the implementation of the Country Food and Agriculture Delivery Compacts with time-bound and clearly measurable indicators for success, including concrete national policies, incentives, and regulations to establish an enabling environment for wider and accelerated investments across the agriculture sector;

7. *Recalls* the commitments made in line with the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated 3 Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods for Member States to allocate at least 10 per cent of public expenditure to agriculture;

8. *Welcomes* the planned investment of \$10 billion by the African Development Bank and a further \$20 billion by several other partners in support of Africa's agricultural transformation as well as the continued support to the agriculture sector in Africa from international and national agricultural research and development centres and others who have partnered with African countries to develop and deploy robust production packages to boost farm-level productivity and increase resilience;

9. *Calls on* the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to follow up with various development partners to finalize their planned financial support to complement the \$30 billion of financing announced at the Dakar 2 Summit and to report on the overall investment of development partners at the next ordinary session of the Assembly in February 2024.

Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXXVI)

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 18 and 19 February 2023 at our Thirty-sixth 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 31st 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 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 African Union 2023 theme of the year: “Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation”,

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 the 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, and call 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. *Call upon* the United States of America to lift all unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Government, its leadership and people of South Sudan in an effort to promote post-conflict reconstruction and

* Editor’s note: General Assembly resolution 57/5 Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion.

peacebuilding, and that due consideration be made by the United Nations to lift the arms embargo imposed on that country;

6. *Urge* the European Union and the United States of America to lift the unilateral coercive sanctions imposed on the State of Eritrea;

7. *Mandate* 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. *Reaffirm* its solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe, South Sudan and the State of Eritrea in exercising their sovereign right to determine their own destiny.

Assembly/AU/Res.2 (XXXVI)

**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 300 of the G-77 Ministerial Declaration of 2022, which maintains the same language agreed in 2021);

5. *Acknowledges* that the negative impact of the blockade is aggravated and even crueler in the current context, when Cuba is facing the economic and social 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 achievements of the objectives on the said Agenda;

7. *Also reaffirms* its solidarity with the people of Cuba.

Assembly/AU/Motion (XXXVI)

**Motion of Appreciation to H.E. President Macky Sall,
President of the Republic of Senegal and Outgoing Chairperson of the African Union**

The Assembly,

Taking note of the end of the mandate of H.E. President Macky Sall as a Chairperson of the African Union, and acknowledging the commendable and significant efforts he invested during his chairmanship of the African Union (AU) in the year 2022, which contributed to advancing the Union, addressing Africa’s needs, as well as placing Africa in a better position on the international scene,

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 against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and the post-pandemic era,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to H.E. President Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, 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 Macky Sall, for the numerous achievements the African Union was able to make during his mandate, including leading the *****;
3. *Reiterates* its appreciation to H.E., President Macky Sall for his significant contribution towards the continent's political, economic and social integration and stability process.

AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT

**Nairobi, Kenya
4 to 6 September 2023**

**The African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action
6 September 2023, Nairobi, Kenya**

Preamble

We, the African Heads of State and Government, gathered for the inaugural Africa Climate Summit (ACS) in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4 to 6 September 2023, in the presence of other global leaders, intergovernmental organizations, Regional Economic Communities, United Nations agencies, private sector, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, local communities, farmer organizations, children, youth, women and academia,

1. *Recall* the Assembly Decisions (AU/Dec.723 (XXXII), AU/Dec.764 (XXXIII) and AU/Dec.855 (XXXVI)) requesting the African Union Commission to organize an African Climate Summit and endorsing the offer by the Republic of Kenya to host the Summit;
2. *Commend* H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Chair of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), for providing the political leadership of an African vision that simultaneously pursues climate change and development agenda;
3. *Commend also* H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), for his dedication and commitment towards the convening of the Summit;
4. *Further commend* the Arab Republic of Egypt for the successful COP27 and its historic outcomes, particularly regarding loss and damage, just transition and energy, and call for the full implementation of all COP27 decisions;
5. *Acknowledge* that climate change is the single greatest challenge facing humanity and the single biggest threat to all life on Earth, demanding urgent and concerted action from all nations to lower emissions and reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere;
6. *Take note* of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), stating that the world is not on track to keeping within reach the 1.5°C limit agreed in Paris and that global emissions must be cut by 43 per cent in this decade;
7. *Underscore* the IPCC confirmation that Africa is warming faster than the rest of the world and, if unabated, climate change will continue to have adverse impacts on African economies and societies, and hamper economic growth and well-being;
8. *Recognize* that Africa is not historically responsible for global warming, but bears the brunt of its effects, impacting lives, livelihoods, and economies;
9. *Reaffirm* the principles set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, namely, equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;
10. *Express concern* that many African countries face disproportionate burdens and risks arising from climate change-related unpredictable weather events and patterns, including prolonged droughts, devastating floods, out-of-season storms, and wildfires, which cause massive humanitarian crisis with detrimental impacts on economies, health, education, peace and security, among other risks;
11. *Recall* that only seven years remain to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, and note with concern that 600 million people in Africa still lack access to electricity while about 970 million lack access to clean cooking;

12. *Further note* that extreme weather events and changes in water cycle patterns are making it more difficult to access safe drinking water, resulting in about 400 million people in Africa having no access to clean drinking water and 700 million without good sanitation;
13. *Further recognize* that African cities and urban centres are growing rapidly, and by 2050 would be home to over 1 billion people; cognizant of the fact that rapid urbanization, poverty, and inequality limit planning capacities and other urban dynamics which increase people's exposure and vulnerability to hazards and have thus turned cities into disaster hotspots across the continent;
14. *Concerned* that despite Africa having an estimated 40 per cent of the world's renewable energy resources, only US\$ 60 billion or two per cent of US\$ 3 trillion renewable energy investments in the last decade have come to Africa;
15. *Reiterate* Africa's readiness to create an enabling environment, enact policies and facilitate investments necessary to unlock resources to meet our own climate commitments, and contribute meaningfully to decarbonization of the global economy;
16. *Recognize* that Africa's vast forests, especially the Congo Basin rainforest are the largest carbon sinks globally, and the important ecosystem services provided by Africa's vast savannahs, Miombo woodlands, peatlands, mangroves, and coral reefs, it is time that Africa's natural capital wealth is properly measured by recognizing its contribution to reducing global carbon emissions;
17. *Further recognize* the critical importance of the oceans in climate action and commitments made on ocean sustainability in multiple fora such as the Second United Nations Oceans Conference in 2022, and the Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa in 2023;
18. *Emphasize* that Africa possesses both the potential and the ambition to be a vital component of the global solution to climate change. As home to the world's youngest and fastest-growing workforce, coupled with massive untapped renewable energy potential, abundant natural assets and an entrepreneurial spirit, our continent has the fundamentals to spearhead a climate compatible pathway as a thriving, cost-competitive industrial hub with the capacity to support other regions in achieving their net zero ambitions;

Now hereby identify the following to be critical agendas for urgent collective action at the continental and global level:

19. *We call upon* the global community to act with urgency in reducing emissions, fulfilling its obligations, honouring past promises, and supporting the continent in addressing climate change, specifically to:
 - i) Accelerate all efforts to reduce emissions to align with goals of the Paris Agreement;
 - ii) Honour the commitment to provide US\$ 100 billion in annual climate finance, as promised in 2009 at the UNFCCC COP15 in Copenhagen, Denmark;
 - iii) Uphold commitments to a fair and accelerated process of phasing down unabated coal power and phase out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards a just transition;
20. *We call for* climate-positive investments that catalyze a growth trajectory anchored in the industries poised to transform our planet and enable African countries to achieve stable middle-income status by 2050;
21. *We urge* global leaders to join us in seizing this unprecedented opportunity to accelerate global decarbonization, while pursuing equality and shared prosperity;
22. *We call for* the operationalization of the Loss & Damage Fund as agreed at COP27 and resolve for a measurable Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) with indicators and targets to enable assessment of progress against negative impacts of climate change;

In recognition of the scale, urgency and importance of these collective actions, we commit to:

23. *Develop and implement* policies, regulations and incentives aimed at attracting local, regional and global investment in green growth, inclusive of green and circular economies;
24. *Propel* Africa's economic growth and job creation in a manner that reflects our commitments to the Paris Agreement and also aids global decarbonization efforts, by leapfrogging the traditional progression of industrial development and fostering green production and supply chains on a global scale;
25. *Focus* our economic development plans on climate-positive growth, including expansion of just energy transitions and renewable energy generation for industrial activity, climate smart and restorative agricultural practices, and essential protection and enhancement of nature and biodiversity;
26. *Promote* clean cooking technologies and initiatives as a just energy transition and gender equality for African rural women, youth, and children;
27. *Strengthen* actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, deforestation, and desertification, as well as restore degraded lands to achieve land degradation neutrality; and implement the Abidjan declaration on achieving gender equality for successful land restoration;
28. *Strengthen* continental collaboration, which is essential to enabling and advancing green growth, including but not limited to regional and continental grid interconnectivity, and further accelerating the operationalization of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement;
29. *Advance* green industrialization across the continent by prioritizing energy-intensive industries to trigger a virtuous cycle of renewable energy deployment and economic activity, with a special emphasis on adding value to Africa's natural endowments;
30. *Promote* investments in reskilling to unlock the human capital that will power Africa's inclusive green transition;
31. *Redouble* our efforts to boost agricultural yields through sustainable agricultural practices, to enhance food security while minimizing negative environmental impacts;
32. *Contribute* to the development of global standards, metrics, and market mechanisms to accurately value and compensate for the protection of nature, biodiversity, socio-economic co-benefits, and the provision of climate services;
33. *Finalize and implement* the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, with the view to realizing the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature;
34. *Provide* all the necessary reforms and support required to raise the share of renewable energy financing to at least 20 per cent by 2030;
35. *Promote* the production of green hydrogen and hydrogen derivatives such as green fertilizer and synthetic fuels;
36. *Integrate* climate, biodiversity and ocean agendas into national development plans and processes to increase resilience of local communities and national economies;
37. *Promote* regenerative blue economy and support implementation of the Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa, and the Great Blue Wall Initiative, while recognizing the circumstances of Africa's island States;
38. *Support* smallholder farmers, indigenous peoples, and local communities in the green economic transition, given their key role in ecosystems stewardship;

39. *Identify, prioritize, and mainstream* adaptation into development policy-making and planning, including in the context of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
40. *Build* effective partnerships between Africa and other regions, to meet the needs for financial, technical and technological support, and knowledge sharing for climate change adaptation;
41. *Promote* investments in urban infrastructure including through upgrading informal settlements and slum areas to build climate resilient cities and urban centres;
42. *Strengthen* early warning systems and climate information services, as well as taking early action to protect lives, livelihoods and assets and inform long-term decision-making related to climate change risks. We emphasize the importance of embracing indigenous knowledge and citizen science in both adaptation strategies and early warning systems;
43. *Support* implementation of the Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP), which aims to close the Africa water investment gap by mobilizing US\$ 30 billion by 2030;
44. *Enhance* drought resilience systems to shift from crisis management to proactive drought preparedness and adaptation, to significantly reduce drought vulnerability of people, economic activities, and ecosystems;
45. *Further enhance* our inclusive approach including through engagement and coordination with the children, youth, women, persons living with disabilities, indigenous people, and communities in climate vulnerable situations;
46. *Accelerate* implementation of the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032);

Call to action:

47. *We call upon* world leaders to recognize that decarbonizing the global economy is an opportunity to contribute to equality and shared prosperity;
48. *We invite* development partners from the global north and south to align technical and financial support to Africa for sustainable utilization of Africa's natural assets for low carbon development that contributes to global decarbonization;
49. *To accomplish* this vision of economic transformation in harmony with our climate needs, we further call upon the international community to contribute to the following:
 - i) Increase Africa's renewable generation capacity from 56 Giga Watts (GW) in 2022 to at least 300 GW by 2030, both to address energy poverty and to bolster the global supply of cost-effective clean energy for industry;
 - ii) Shift exports of energy intensive primary processing of Africa's raw material back to the continent, to serve as an anchor demand for our renewable energy and a means of rapidly reducing global emissions;
 - iii) Access to, and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including technologies to support Africa's green industrialization and transition;
 - iv) Design global and regional trade mechanisms in a manner that enables products from Africa to compete on fair and equitable terms;
 - v) Request that trade-related environmental tariffs and non-tariff barriers must be subject to multilateral discussions and agreements and not be unilateral, arbitrary or discriminatory measures;
 - vi) Accelerate efforts to decarbonize the transport, industrial and electricity sectors through the use of smart, digital and highly efficient technologies such as green hydrogen, synthetic fuels and battery storage;

vii) Design industry policies that incentivize global investment to locations that offer the most and substantial climate benefits, while ensuring benefits for local communities;

viii) Implement a mix of measures that elevate Africa's share of carbon markets;

50. *Reiterate* the decision 1/COP27 that states that global transformation to a low-carbon economy is expected to require investment of at least US\$ 4 to 6 trillion per year and delivering such funding in turn requires a transformation of the financial system and its structures and processes, engaging governments, central banks, commercial banks, institutional investors and other financial actors;

51. *We call for* collective global action to mobilize the necessary capital for both development and climate action, echoing the statement of the Paris Pact for People and the Planet, that no country should ever have to choose between development aspirations and climate action;

52. *We call for* concrete, time-bound action on the proposals to reform the multilateral financial system currently under discussion specifically to:

i) Build resilience to climate shocks, including better deployment of the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) liquidity mechanism and disaster suspension clauses;

ii) Re-channeling of at least US\$ 100 billion SDRs to Africa, including through institutions such as the African Development Bank, which will be able to leverage the SDRs by three to four times. We also call for the formation of a group of SDR donors to expedite this re-channeling ahead of COP28;

iii) Propose for consideration a new SDR issue for climate crisis response of at least the same magnitude as the COVID-19 issue (US\$ 650 billion);

iv) Better leverage of the balance sheets of MDBs to scale up concessional finance to at least US\$ 500 billion per year;

v) Improve debt management, including:
a. the inclusion of "debt pause clauses"; and
b. the proposed expert review of the Common Framework and the Debt Sustainability Analysis;

vi) Provide interventions and instruments for new debt relief to preempt debt default to:
a. extend sovereign debt tenor; and
b. include a 10-year grace period;

vii) Decisively act on the promotion of inclusive and effective international tax cooperation at the United Nations with the aim to reduce Africa's loss of US\$ 27 billion annual corporate tax revenue through profit shifting, by at least 50 per cent by 2030 and 75 per cent by 2050;

viii) Put additional measures to crowd in and de-risk private capital, such as blended finance instruments, purchase commitments, partial foreign exchange (FX) guarantee and industrial policy collaboration, which should be informed by the risks that drive lack of private capital deployment at scale;

ix) Redesign MDB governance, to ensure a "fit for purpose" system with appropriate representation, voice, and agency of all countries;

53. *Note* that multilateral finance reform is necessary but not sufficient to provide the scale of climate financing the world needs to achieve 43 per cent emission reduction by 2030 required to meet the Paris Agreement goals, without which keeping global warming to 1.5°C will be in serious jeopardy;

54. *Further note* that the scale of financing required to unlock Africa's climate-positive growth is beyond the borrowing capacity of national balance sheets, or at the risk premium that Africa is currently paying for private capital;

55. *Draw attention* to the finding that inordinate borrowing costs, typically 5 to 8 times what wealthy countries pay (the “great financial divide”), are a root cause of recurring debt crises in developing countries and an impediment to investment in development and climate action;
56. *We call for* adoption of principles of responsible sovereign lending and accountability encompassing credit rating, risk analysis and debt sustainability assessment frameworks and urge the financial markets to commit to eliminate this disparity by 2025;
57. *Urge* world leaders to consider the proposal for a global carbon taxation regime including a carbon tax on fossil fuel trade, maritime transport and aviation, that may also be augmented by a global financial transaction tax (FTT) to provide dedicated, affordable, and accessible finance for climate-positive investments at scale, and establish a balanced, fair and representative global governance structure for its management, with an assessment of the financial implications on socio-economic impacts on Africa;
58. *Propose* to establish a new financing architecture that is responsive to Africa’s needs including debt restructuring and relief, and the development of a new Global Climate Finance Charter through United Nations General Assembly and COP processes by 2025;
59. *We call for* revaluation of the Gross Domestic Product of Africa through the proper valuation of its abundant natural capital and ecosystem services including but not limited to its vast forests that sequester carbon to unlock new sources of wealth for Africa. This will entail the use of natural resource accounting and development of national accounting standards;
60. *Note* that the first Global Stocktake which will conclude at COP28 offers a pivotal opportunity to correct course by including a comprehensive outcome, both backward and forward looking;
61. *Resolve* to establish the Africa Climate Summit as a biennial event convened by the African Union and hosted by AU Member States, to set the continent’s new vision, taking into consideration emerging global climate and development issues;
62. *Resolve also* that this Declaration will serve as a strong contribution from the African continent to the global climate change process including COP28 and beyond;
63. *Welcome* the pledges and commitments made at the Summit to a tune of US\$ 26 billion from development partners including the European Union, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as COP28 President-Designate, the United States, MDBs, philanthropic foundations, and the private sector, to support Africa especially in the areas of renewable energy and adaptation;
64. *Appreciate* the efforts of the United Arab Emirates as the COP28 President-Designate in the preparation of COP28 and affirm Africa’s full support for a successful and ambitious outcome of COP28;
65. *Request* the African Union Commission to develop an implementation framework for this Declaration and to make Climate Change an AU theme for the Year 2025 or 2026;
66. *Thank* the Government and people of the Kenya for successfully hosting the inaugural Africa Climate Summit, and the warm hospitality accorded to all delegations to the Summit.