

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 517 700

Fax: 5130 36

website: www.iau.int

ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
Twenty-Fifth Ordinary Session
14 – 15 June 2015
Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA

Assembly/AU/Dec.569-587(XXV)
Assembly/AU/Decl.1-6(XXV)
Assembly/AU/Res.1(XXV)



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**DECISION ON THE LAUNCH OF CONTINENTAL
FREE TRADE AREA NEGOTIATIONS
Doc. Assembly/AU/11(XXV)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcomes of the Conference and **ADOPTS** the following:
 - i) The objectives and principles of Negotiating the CFTA;
 - ii) The indicative Roadmap for the Negotiation and establishment of the CFTA;
 - iii) The Terms of Reference for the CFTA Negotiating Forum (CFTA-NF);
 - iv) The institutional arrangements for the CFTA negotiation;
 - v) The Draft Declaration on the Launch of negotiation for the establishment of the CFTA.
2. **EXPRESSES** satisfaction with the preparatory work done towards the launch of the negotiations for the Continental Free Trade Area and **COMMITTS** to negotiate a CFTA with significant benefits by building on the progress already achieved by the RECs;
3. **LAUNCHES** negotiations for the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area aimed at integrating Africa's markets in line with the objectives and principles enunciated in the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;
4. **REQUESTS** the Continental Free Trade Area-Negotiating Forum (CFTA-NF) to organise its inaugural Meeting in 2015 and to work towards concluding the negotiations by 2017;
5. **CALLS UPON** the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and Development Partners to provide the necessary support to the Member States, the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities to ensure a timely conclusion of the Negotiations.
6. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the status of preparations for the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference 2015, and **CONGRATULATES** the Republic of Kenya for hosting this important Conference, and **URGES** Member States to participate actively;
7. **WELCOMES:**
 - i) the briefing on progress made on AGOA as well as the initiative to hold in Gabon a Ministerial Meeting in preparation for the AGOA Forum;

ii) the briefing on UNCTAD XIV due to be held in Lima, Peru in March 2016. In this regard, **CONGRATULATES** H.E. Ms. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Kenya over her appointment by the UNCTAD General Council as Chair of the 10th Ministerial Conference.

8. **CONGRATULATES** the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) for the launching of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in June 2015 which is a great achievement towards continental integration to be emulated by other regions.



DECISION ON EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) OUTBREAK
Doc. Assembly/AU/6(XXV)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Commission Progress Report on the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak and **NOTES** that the EVD outbreak emergency is over and ASEOWA is preparing for the final exit by the end of its current mandate on **18 August 2015**;
2. **CONGRATULATES** the People and Government of Liberia on being declared Ebola free by the WHO on 9 May 2015;
3. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION:**
 - i) to all Member States that contributed volunteer health workers to ASEOWA and **COMMENDS** the Commission for putting in place adequate safety measures that ensured the safe return of all the volunteer health workers;
 - ii) to Member States and Partners that supported ASEOWA and the affected countries with financial and material resources.
4. **INVITES** all Member States to participate at the highest level, in the International Conference on Africa's Fight against Ebola being organized under the theme: "***Africa Helping Africa in the Ebola Recovery and Reconstruction***", that will take place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea from 20 to 21 July 2015;
5. **COMMENDS** the African Private Sector for their financial and material support and **REQUESTS** Member States to facilitate the continuation of the SMS initiative by granting required approval through their national regulatory authorities to the Mobile Network Operators;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission:
 - i) to undertake a comprehensive review of the Humanitarian Policy Framework in order to capture an expanded disaster management protocol that addresses the current gaps in the coordination of response to disasters and emergencies by the Commission and to submit to the January 2016 Summit;
 - ii) In collaboration with Member States and Development Partners to establish an African Volunteer Health Corps to be deployed during disease outbreaks and other health emergencies and to report regularly to the Assembly on progress made.
7. **DECIDES** to remain seized of the matter and **REQUESTS** the Commission to report on progress and the implementation of this decision to the Executive Council in January 2016.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE AIDS WATCH AFRICA (AWA)
Doc. Assembly/AU/14(XXV)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Reports of the AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) and the recommendations contained therein; and the end of the term progress on AU Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria;
2. **COMMENDS** concrete efforts provided by Member States, RECs, Civil Society, the Private Sector and International Development Partners in implementing the AU Roadmap from 2012 to 2015 and **DECIDES** to extend the AU Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, TB and Malaria Response in Africa from 2016 to 2020 to achieve full implementation;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission:
 - i) working with NEPAD Agency in consultation with Member States, Development Partners to develop a “Catalytic Framework” detailing milestones towards ending the epidemics of AIDS, TB and malaria in line with the Abuja +12, 2030 target; and **URGES** all actors to mobilise resources needed, leverage on treatment and embark on a fast track comprehensive strategy to end AIDS, TB and Malaria;
 - ii) in consultation with Member States and partners to develop accountability mechanisms with clear targets and indicators to monitor and measure priorities in the response to the three diseases.
4. **APPRECIATES** progress recorded on access to medicine catalysed by African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) framework in line with AU Roadmap Pillar II and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) and **URGES** the NEPAD Agency, RECs, Member States and other stakeholders to redouble their implementation efforts;
5. **REAFFIRMS** commitment to strengthen health systems and to increase domestic funding in line with the Abuja 15% target and **REITERATES** the importance of continued accountability and judicious use of domestic and international resources;
6. **CALLS UPON** countries and Development Partners to contribute towards the 5th Replenishment target of the Global Fund in order to control these three diseases and save lives;
7. **URGES** Member States to improve the integration of HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and Gender equality responses in the execution of large capital projects (to leverage Public and Private Sector Partnerships to increase domestic financing as part of innovative approaches for sustainable funding for health;

8. **ENDORSES** the report on eMTCT Best Practices in line with the Global Plan and the African Plan Towards Elimination of New HIV Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping their Mothers Alive; and **URGES** Member States to take measures to accelerate the Prevention and Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV by 2030.



DECISION ON ITEMS PROPOSED BY MEMBER STATES
Doc. Assembly/AU/17(XXV)Add.1-4

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Items proposed by Member States and **STRESSES** the need to strictly observe the rules of procedure regarding submission of items to AU Policy Organs;
 - A. **On the naming of African Union Garden under the name of Professor Wangari Maathai - Doc. Assembly/AU/17(XXV)Add.1**
2. **RECOGNIZES** the importance of environmental conservation and protection, and the need to promote democracy and human rights, and **APPRECIATES** the contribution made by the late Professor Wangari Maathai to the African Continent and the whole world in supporting these endeavours;
3. **ENDORSES** the proposal by the Republic of Congo to name the AU Garden after Professor Wangari Maathai in appreciation by the African Union for her contribution to the African Continent and the whole world;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to work with the Republic of Congo to ensure the formal naming of the African Union Garden under the name of Professor Wangari Maathai by 2015;
 - B. **On the outcomes of the Dakar Summit on Higher Education - Doc. Assembly/AU/17(XXV)Add.2**
5. **EXPRESSES** its high appreciation for the outcomes of the Dakar Summit on Higher Education, including the Declaration on revitalization of Higher Education for Africa's future;
6. **STRESSES** the importance of the revitalization of the Higher Education and its role the realization of AU Agenda 2063;
7. **REQUESTS**
 - i) the Commission to take lead in building the African common space for higher education and research according to AU Strategy for Harmonization of Higher Education, with a view to promote intra-African academic networking and mobility of teachers and students;
 - ii) Member States:
 - a) to strengthen their support and investment in higher education in order to develop a critical mass of high level intellectual capital, and promote youth employability through entrepreneurship skills and innovation;

- b) to work towards the elimination of inequalities and the promotion of gender parity in higher education;
 - c) to make use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in higher education to increase access to and promote quality in higher education;
 - d) to align national education strategies with the African Union post 2015 Strategy for Education in Africa.
8. **COMMITTS** to the establishment of a team of ten Heads of State and Government (two from each geographic region) as African champions of education, science and technology, to meet and report on the status of education, science and technology in Africa, to the AU Summit once a year;
9. **ENDORSES** H.E. President Macky Sall of Senegal as the first coordinator of the group champions.
- C. On the state of progress and accelerated implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.465(XX) on the Establishment of the South-South and Triangular Coalition in support of Africa Post-2015 Development Agenda- Doc. Assembly/AU/17(XXV)Add.3**
10. **EXPRESSES** its high appreciation for the follow-up actions undertaken by Guinea in the implementation of the Assembly/AU/Dec.465(XX) decision on the establishment of the South-South and Triangular Coalition; and **ADOPTS** the Concept Note and the new Road Map on its establishment;
11. **REQUESTS** the Commission to organize, in collaboration with ECA, UNDP, AfDB, World Bank and the European Union, the Conference of Partners of the Coalition before the end of December 2015;
- D. On the Polio Eradication in Africa: “Our Historic Legacy to Future Generations” - Doc. Assembly/AU/17(XXV) Add.4**
12. **EXPRESSES** its high appreciation to Nigeria for this worthy initiative and its great achievement in eradicating Polio on its territory in 2014 in line with relevant AU Health policies;
13. **ENCOURAGES** all Member States to emulate the best experiences and practices in the eradication of Polio on the continent as an important legacy to leave to Africa’s future generations. In this regard, **CALLS ON** Member States to allocate adequate resources in the fight against Polio.

**DECISION ON THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE (HLC) ON THE
POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
Doc. Assembly/AU/15(XXV)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made by the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) in New York;
2. **EMPHASIZES** that the post-2015 development agenda must be ambitious with adequate, predictable and timely means of implementation to respond to the level of ambition in achieving all the SDGs;
3. **CALLS UPON** the HLC to remain engaged in the intergovernmental negotiation processes, through the AGN, until their completion in September 2015;
4. **REITERATES** its call to member states to participate, at the level of Heads of State and Government, in the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD), which will convene in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 13-16 July 2015;
5. **ENCOURAGES** member states to attend, at the highest political level, the September 2015 UN Summit on the adoption of the Post 2015 Development Agenda, given the importance of the Summit to the continent;
6. **CALLS UPON** member states to engage, at the technical level, in the process of developing global indicators for assessing progress on implementation of the SDGs, as a means of building capacity and ensuring coherence among indicators at the global, regional, and national levels;
7. **REQUESTS** the HLC to present a final report to the Assembly in January 2016;
8. **EXPRESSES** gratitude to the HLC and the AGN for their work.

**DECISION ON THE SIXTEENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF
TEN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON THE REFORM OF
THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
Doc. Assembly/AU/12(XXV)**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.564(XXIV), Assembly/AU/Dec.573 (XXIII), Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (IV), Assembly/AU/Dec.430 (XIX) and Assembly/AU/Dec.485 (XXI);
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the Sixteenth Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the reform of the United Nations Security Council;
3. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Committee Heads of State Consultative Summit Held in Livingstone, Republic of Zambia on 9th May 2015 and the high level outreach consultations with the Five Permanent Members of the Security Council;
4. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the progress made at both the intergovernmental negotiations and outreach with Member States of the United Nations in garnering support for the Common African Position;
5. **WELCOMES** the support that the Common African Position continues to garner on United Nations Security Council reform;
6. **REAFFIRMS** that the Common African Position, as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration, shall continue to serve as the only viable option that reflects Africa's legitimate right and aspiration to rectify, inter alia, the historical injustice endured by the Continent;
7. **ALSO REAFFIRMS** its unanimous and unequivocal adhesion to the Common African Position contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration consisting of the claim of two additional seats in the category of the non-permanent members and two seats in the category of permanent members with same rights, privileges and obligations accorded to the current permanent members, including the right to veto;
8. **RESERVES** the right to determine the criteria for the selection of the two Member States to represent Africa in the Security Council as Permanent Members;
9. **UNDERTAKES** to defend the African Union Common Position during the negotiations on the reform of the Security Council;
10. **CALLS ON** all African Union Member States to continue to speak with one voice on the need to not adhere to other negotiating groups or special interests, as it is not in keeping with the spirit of the Common African Position;

11. **REQUESTS** the Coordinator to present this decision to the next session of the United Nations General Assembly, in order to garner the support of friendly countries in favour of the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;
12. **REITERATES** its call on all African Union Member States to include the issue of the Security Council reform among their foreign policy priorities in their engagements with non-African partners; in particular, to include in their statements during the debates of the United Nations General Assembly, the need to correct the historical injustice that the African continent continues to suffer;
13. **DECIDES** to include an allocation in the Commission's Budget for the purpose of funding the activities of the Committee of Ten;
14. **REITERATES** that the Committee of Ten remains seized of its mandate until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the UN Security Council, and requests the Committee to present a report to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2016.



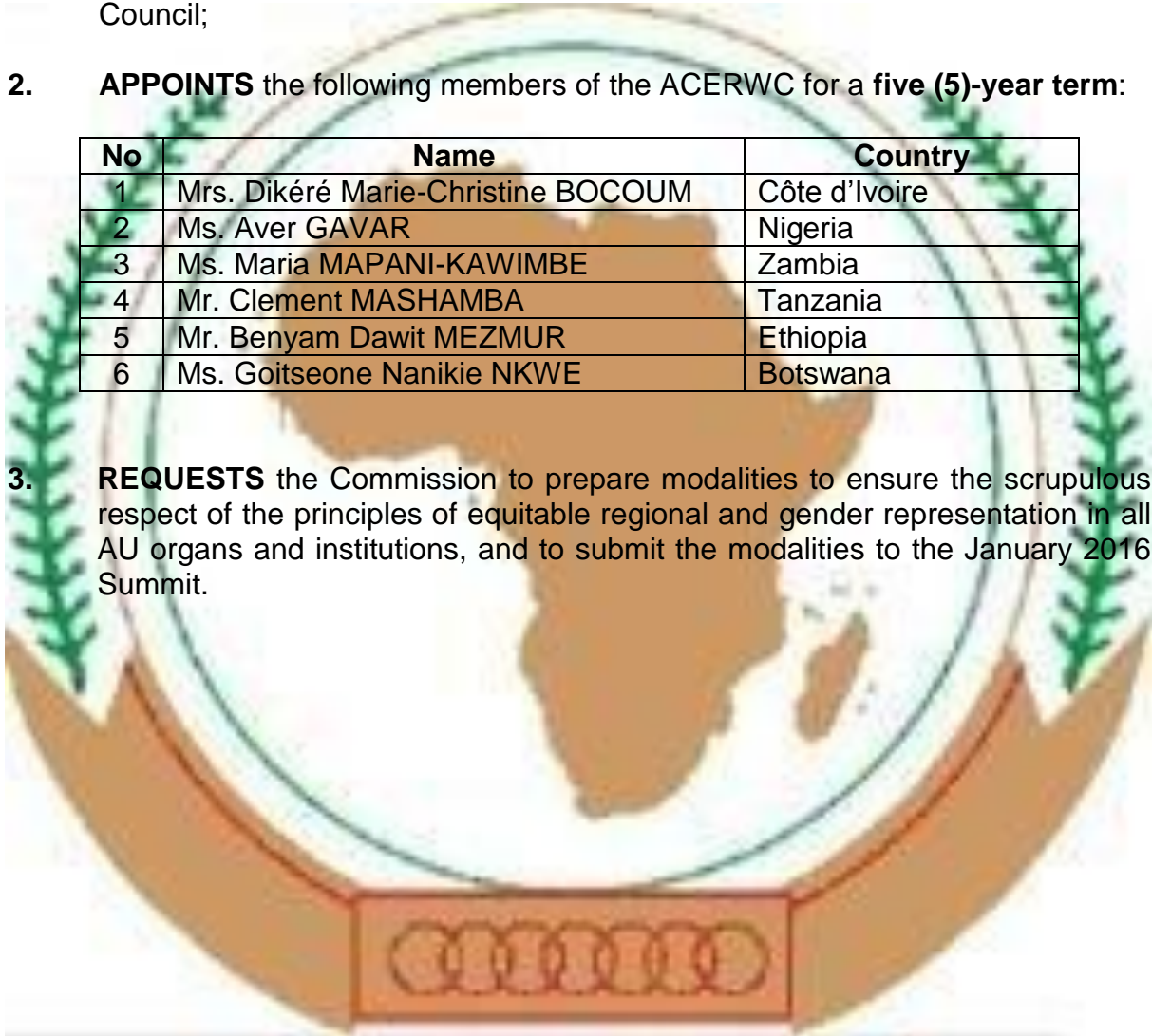
**DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF SIX (6) MEMBERS OF
THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS
AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACEWRC)
Doc. EX.CL/918 (XXVII)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election of six (6) members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) by the Executive Council;
2. **APPOINTS** the following members of the ACERWC for a **five (5)-year term**:

No	Name	Country
1	Mrs. Dikéré Marie-Christine BOCOUM	Côte d'Ivoire
2	Ms. Aver GAVAR	Nigeria
3	Ms. Maria MAPANI-KAWIMBE	Zambia
4	Mr. Clement MASHAMBA	Tanzania
5	Mr. Benyam Dawit MEZMUR	Ethiopia
6	Ms. Goitseone Nanikie NKWE	Botswana

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to prepare modalities to ensure the scrupulous respect of the principles of equitable regional and gender representation in all AU organs and institutions, and to submit the modalities to the January 2016 Summit.



**DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF THREE (3) MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN
COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (ACHPR)
Doc. EX.CL/919(XXVII)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election of three (3) members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) by the Executive Council;
2. **APPOINTS** the following members of the ACHPR **for a six (6)-year term:**

No	Name	Country
1	Mr. Solomon Ayele DERSSO	Ethiopia
2	Mrs. L. King JAMESINA ESSIE	Sierra Leone
3	Mrs. Sylvie KAYITESI ZAINABO	Rwanda

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to prepare modalities to ensure the scrupulous respect of the principles of equitable regional and gender representation in all AU organs and institutions, and to submit the modalities to the January 2016 Summit.



**DECISION ON THE BUDGET OF THE AFRICAN UNION
FOR THE 2016 FINANCIAL YEAR
Doc. Assembly/AU/3(XXV)**

The Assembly,

1. ADOPTS a total budget of **US\$416,867,326** for the African Union for year 2016, broken down into **US\$150,503,875** Operating Budget and **US\$266,363,451** Programs to be financed as follows:

- i) A total amount of **US\$169,833,340** is assessed on Member States; and
- ii) A total amount of **US\$247,033,986** is secured from International Partners.

2. ALSO ADOPTS the budget breakdown among the AU Organs as follows:

Organs	Member States			Partners			Total Budget for 2016		
	Operating Budget	Programs	Total Assessment	Operating	Programs	Total	Operating	Programs	Total 2016
AUC	107,213,380	19,174,284	126,387,664		192,461,978	192,461,978	107,213,380	211,636,262	318,849,642
PAP	12,016,230		12,016,230		20,444,763	20,444,763	12,016,230	20,444,763	32,460,993
AfCHR (The Court)	7,934,915		7,934,915		2,351,486	2,351,486	7,934,915	2,351,486	10,286,401
ACHPR (The Commission)	4,279,846		4,279,846		1,301,399	1,301,399	4,279,846	1,301,399	5,581,245
ECOSSOC	1,043,396		1,043,396		991,223	991,223	1,043,396	991,223	2,034,619
NEPAD	8,871,755		8,871,755		25,013,737	25,013,737	8,871,755	25,013,737	33,885,492
AUCIL	389,575		389,575		295,200	295,200	389,575	295,200	684,775
Advisory Board on Corruption	1,376,408		1,376,408			-	1,376,408	-	1,376,408
Peace & Security Council		797,216	797,216			-	-	797,216	797,216
ACERWC	253,810	39,565	293,375		445,802	445,802	253,810	485,367	739,178
SPECIALIZED OFFICES OF THE AU									
AFREC	945,268		945,268			-	945,268	-	945,268
IPED	735,512		735,512			-	735,512	-	735,512
CIEFFA	735,512		735,512			-	735,512	-	735,512
PAU	2,526,668		2,526,668			-	2,526,668	-	2,526,668
AIR	-		-	681,600	1,453,676	2,135,276	681,600	1,453,676	2,135,276
ACDC	1,500,000		1,500,000		1,593,121	1,593,121	1,500,000	1,593,121	3,093,121
TOTAL	149,822,275	20,011,065	169,833,340	681,600	246,352,386	247,033,986	150,503,875	266,363,451	416,867,326

3. AUTHORIZES the Commission to continue to solicit additional funds from Partners for Programs of the Union amounting to **US\$70,552,314** till the end of 2015 and to report back on the status to the PRC before the January 2016 Summit;

4. **EMPHASIZES** the need for ownership of AU Programs by Member States through an effective demonstration of political will and by honouring their financial commitments to the organization, in particular the Flagship Projects featuring in the 10 Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 and to minimize dependency on External Funding;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission:
 - i) to take the necessary measures to improve on the Execution rate of the budget against available funds;
 - ii) strengthen the internal control processes with a view to ensuring a judicious utilization of the resources put at the disposal of the organization;
 - iii) in collaboration with the PRC to undertake a study of the sanction regime on contribution, to make it effective and to make appropriate recommendations to the policy organs.
6. **EMPHASIZES** the need to pay special attention to the allocation of funds for issues of Peace and Security taking into consideration the decision for Member States to provide 25% of the Budget for Peace and Security;
7. **APPROVES** 2% of AMISOM budget for 2016 be supported by voluntary contributions from Member States;
8. **DECIDES** to implement the decision of the Assembly (**Assembly/AU/Dec.561(XXIV)**) on Alternative Sources of Funding where Member States enhance ownership of the budget of the Union by financing 100% of the Operating budget, 75% of Programs and 25% of Peace and Security Budget effective January 2016 to be phased incrementally over a five-year period;
9. **DECIDES** to increase by 2% to reach the target of 1% and 12% for Women Fund and Peace Fund respectively.

**DECISION ON THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENT AND ALTERNATIVE SOURCES
OF FINANCING THE AFRICAN UNION
Doc. Assembly/AU/5(XXV)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee on the review of the scale of assessment;
2. **DECIDES** to endorse the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee as follows;
 - i) The new scale of assessment will be based on the principles of solidarity, equitable payment and capacity to pay and in a way that ensures no single country bears a disproportionate share of the budget;
 - ii) The new scale of assessment shall be based on achieving the following targets
 - a) 100% of the Union's Operational budget;
 - b) 75% of Union's Program budget;
 - c) 25% of Union's Peace support operations budget.
 - iii) That the new scale of assessment shall be based on a tier system as follows;
 - a) All countries with GDP above 4% - tier 1;
 - b) All countries above 1% but below 4% - tier 2;
 - c) All countries from 1% and below – tier 3.
 - iv) The achievement of the Targets above in (ii) should be phased over 5 years starting from January 2016.
3. **FURTHER DECIDES** that:
 - i) The new scale will be based on the principle that the five Member States in the Tier 1 shall take 60 percent of the budget shared equally; whereas Member States in Tier 2 and Tier 3 pay based on capacity to pay as contained in Option 3 of the proposal;
 - ii) The new scale will be based on a ceiling of 12 percent without the imposition of floor rate;
 - iii) The new scale will be implemented for the financial years 2016, 2017 and 2018.
4. **ADOPTS** the new AU scale of assessment which constitutes a hybrid of pure capacity to pay for some Member States and equal payment scales for others in accordance with the percentage of the budget under each tier;

5. **URGES** Member States to choose from a non-exhaustive, non-binding basket of options of alternative sources of funding in line with national imperatives, laws, regulations and constitutional provisions;
6. **URGES** the Commission in consultation with the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee to institute a robust annual review mechanism during the first five years of implementation that will assess possible impacts and recommend adjustments when and where necessary;
7. **ENCOURAGES** the Commission and the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee to continue working on and incorporating modalities that will build synergy between review of scale of assessment and budgeting, financial governance and management processes;
8. **URGES** Member States working in the spirit of solidarity and self-reliance to strive to achieve the stated contribution targets contained in relevant Assembly Decisions;
9. **REQUESTS** the Ad-Hoc Ministerial Committee meeting in an open-ended manner to pursue and conclude its work in instituting a sound and credible accountability and oversight mechanism that will ensure effective scrutiny of the budgetary processes including its presentation and implementation; In this regard, **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee on the Scale of Assessment to meet in October 2015 to consider all outstanding issues, including the consultation with the Republic of Angola on its scale of assessment and submit its report on the matter at the next Summit in January 2016;
10. **URGES** the Commission to provide all the necessary support to ensure timely conclusion of the exercise by providing a comprehensive list of existing and proposed accountability mechanisms;
11. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to promptly pay their assessed contributions once the new scale comes into force.

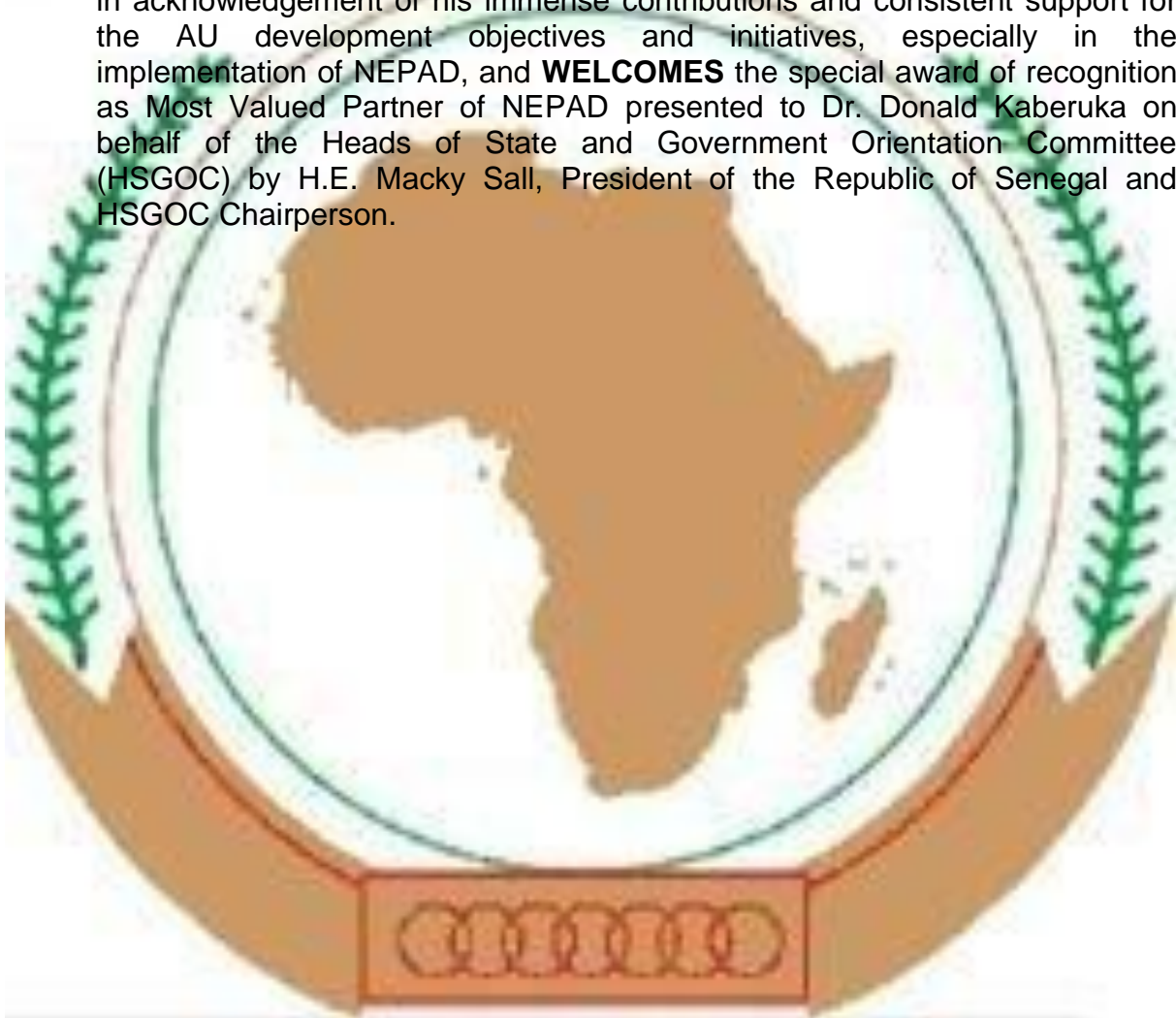
**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
ORIENTATION COMMITTEE (HSGOC) ON NEPAD
Doc. Assembly/AU/10(XXV)**

The Assembly,

1. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the report by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal;
2. **ENDORSES** the conclusions of the Thirty Third Session of the HSGOC;
3. **REAFFIRMS** NEPAD as the strategic vehicle to accelerate the implementation of the Africa Union's regional integration agenda and **RE-COMMITS** to exercising strong political will and determination to fast-track NEPAD delivery at all levels within the context of Agenda 2063;
4. **UNDERScores** the role of NEPAD in advancing the economic empowerment of African women and catalyzing the institutional transformation of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), **ADDING** that the NPCA continues to function as the economic development and technical body of the Union. **IN THIS REGARD WELCOMES** the progress report presented by the NPCA Chief Executive Officer and the SADC Executive Secretary;
5. In the spirit of the 2015 AU theme: 'Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063', **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the successful implementation of 77 projects in 35 African countries with more than half a million women beneficiaries under the NEPAD-Spanish Fund since its establishment in 2007, as an exemplary mechanism for the fulfilment of the NPCA mandate;
6. **APPRECIATES** the significant support of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and **CALLS UPON** Member States, stakeholders and partners to build on the achievements of the NEPAD-Spanish Fund to sustain its key results and impact geared towards strengthening women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming in contribution to the implementation of Agenda 2063;
7. **RECALLING** the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.563(XXIV), **SPECIALLY NOTES** the scaling up of technical support by the NPCA to strengthen the institutional capacity of the RECs through the roll-out of the 2015-2025 RECs Capacity Development Implementation Plan;
8. **DIRECTS** NPCA to collaborate with the ECOWAS Commission to support the Short and Medium Term Capacity Plan in the second phase in response to the invitation by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and the Chairperson of NEPAD HSGOC and ECOWAS. **REQUESTS** NPCA to extend technical support to promote cross-REC cooperation on capacity enhancement involving the tripartite - COMESA, SADC and EAC as well as other RECs;

9. **FURTHER RECALLS** the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.563 (XXIV) and **NOTES** the measures taken by the NPCA to obtain accreditation as a regional implementing entity under the Green Climate Fund to mobilize new and additional resources for the funding of regional projects through the existing NEPAD Climate Change Fund and the setup of the NEPAD Development Partners Working Group to drive the Gender Climate Change Agriculture Support Programme;
10. **WELCOMES** the launch of the African Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance and Forum as a platform for coordinated support in responding to the impact of climate change and variability. **URGES** the NPCA through the Alliance, to increase collaboration with the RECs, NGOs and Partners in attaining the target of reaching 25 million farm households by 2025;
11. **RECOGNIZING** the NEPAD Natural Resource Governance Programme, **CALLS ON** the NPCA to support the technical and financial capacity of Member States to design, negotiate and implement tax policies and complex contracts on natural resources to maximize the benefits to African countries and local communities;
12. **IN ADDITION REQUESTS** NPCA to develop the NEPAD Policy Framework on Youth Employment in Africa in partnership with the AUC, UNECA and UNDP, and submit to the HSGOC in due course for consideration;
13. In furtherance of the Programme of Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and NEPAD Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI), **WELCOMES** the formal launch of the Continental Business Network (CBN) in Cape Town on 1 June 2015 as a private sector platform to mobilize investments and financing of prioritized infrastructure projects based on the Dakar Agenda for Action (DAA);
14. **ACKNOWLEDGING** the fact that energy remains a key priority for Africa's structural transformation and **RECALLING** measures to implement PIDA and Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 563 (XXIV) on the Africa Power Vision (APV), **HEREBY PROPOSES** the setting up of an African instrument steered by Africa to coordinate all global initiatives and financial support dedicated to the power sector for the Continent's maximum benefit;
15. **NOTES** the outcomes of the G7 Summit's Outreach Dialogue with Africa held in Schloss Elmau, Germany based on the engagement between the G7 and participating African Leaders on 8 June, 2015. **RE-EMPHASIZES** the enduring need for Africa's development priorities to constantly inform global partnerships and **WELCOMES** the G7 Summit's reiterated commitment to support Africa's peace, security and stability agenda, the strengthening of democratic institutions and the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease. **REQUESTS** the NPCA to follow up on G7 commitments on the initiative on strengthening assistance for Complex Contract Negotiations (CONNEX) focusing initially on extractive industries;

16. **COMMENDS** the NEPAD Steering Committee and the NPCA for the preparatory consultation held with Africa's international partners towards the launch of the Africa Global Partnership Platform (AGPP) hosted by the Government of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa in May 2015. **WARMLY WELCOMES** the offer by the HSGOC Chairperson to inaugurate the first Plenary Session of the new Platform in Dakar, Senegal in October 2015 and **STRESSES** the importance of the full functioning of the AGPP as an effective African-owned and led partnership mechanism;
17. **EXPRESSES DEEP APPRECIATION AND PAYS TRIBUTE** to Dr. Donald Kaberuka, outgoing President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group in acknowledgement of his immense contributions and consistent support for the AU development objectives and initiatives, especially in the implementation of NEPAD, and **WELCOMES** the special award of recognition as Most Valued Partner of NEPAD presented to Dr. Donald Kaberuka on behalf of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and HSGOC Chairperson.



**DECISION ON AFRICA'S ENGAGEMENTS IN THE
GLOBAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS
Doc. Assembly/AU/16(XXV)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. Abdel Fattah El Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt on climate change action in Africa and preparation for Global Climate events in 2015; and **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained therein;
2. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) for representing the interests of Africa in the climate change negotiations and the constructive manner in which they have advanced the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process; and **URGE** the African group of negotiators to maintain the unity of the group and to continue to represent African interests in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process;
3. **REAFFIRMS** that any agreement adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-first session, to be held in Paris in December 2015, should be in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention, in particular the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and equity;
4. **ALSO REAFFIRMS** that any agreement adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-first session should enhance the implementation of the principles and provisions of the Convention, and its annexes, be consistent with science and equity, and further enhance a multilateral rules-based system in a balanced and ambitious manner;
5. **AGREES** to achieve an agreement that provides parity between mitigation, adaptation and provisions for enhancing means of implementation, noting the increased burden for adaptation in developing countries from inadequate aggregate mitigation efforts and, further, that such an agreement should ensure that mitigation ambition keeps the world on track for a global average temperature increase by the end of the twenty-first century that is well below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels;
6. **URGES** developed country parties and other parties included in Annex II to the Convention to fulfil the commitment to provide climate finance and technology as a means of enhancing action towards achieving the objectives of the Convention; and **ALSO URGES** that the provisions of the proposed 2015 agreement in relation to finance take into account the commitment of \$100 billion dollars annually by 2020 as the basis for climate finance, ensuring additionally, predictability and sustainability of resources, and include a clear

burden-sharing process for calculating the contributions to be made by developed country parties;

7. **FURTHER URGES** Member States to continue putting in place systems and structures for Africa to take full advantage of the global mechanisms in terms of finance and technology, in support of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures;
8. **TAKES NOTE**, of the initiatives on renewable energy in Africa, and of the progress made since the 15th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), regarding the African Renewable Energy Initiative, suggested by the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), as a contribution to global efforts, led by developed countries, to address climate change and sustainable development; and **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the work undertaken in this regard, and of the two technical meetings which have been organized by UNEP in Addis Ababa on 17th March, and in Cairo on 23 May 2015 to further elaborate on the African renewable energy initiative;
9. **RECALLS** the Summit's decision on AMCEN's flagship program on Renewable energy, and urges the importance of its implementation, and to liaise in this regard with AUC, NEPAD, AGN, AFDB, UNEP and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) , and make sure that all other initiatives and proposals are aligned with the flagship programme, and funding is accessed from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) , with AMCEN President leading the work in this regard;
10. **AGREES** to this effect that a technical group chaired by AMCEN President, comprised of AUC, NEPAD Agency, AGN, AFDB, UNEP and IRENA formulate concrete proposals and projects, in order to avoid duplication and ensure unity of purpose for Africa, in line with Agenda 2063;
11. **TAKES NOTE** of the call by the Leaders of the G7, during the Summit held from 7 to 8 June 2015 in Schloss Elmau, Germany, for accelerated access to renewable energy in Africa, and welcomes the expression of support towards Africa. In this regard the G7 is urged to consult and work closely with the technical group under the leadership and guidance of AMCEN to ensure Africa's ownership and leadership of these initiatives.
12. **ENCOURAGES** AMCEN to develop with the AGN a proposal for enhanced support to Africa on adaptation and on loss and damage, in the context of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Green Climate Fund;
13. **REQUESTS** AGN to improve and upgrade the AGN-Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) guidelines and template, based on the deliberations and outcome of the Regional Capacity Building Workshop on INDCs for Africa, which took place in Cairo from 17 to 19 May 2015, so as to reflect the linkage between mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation;

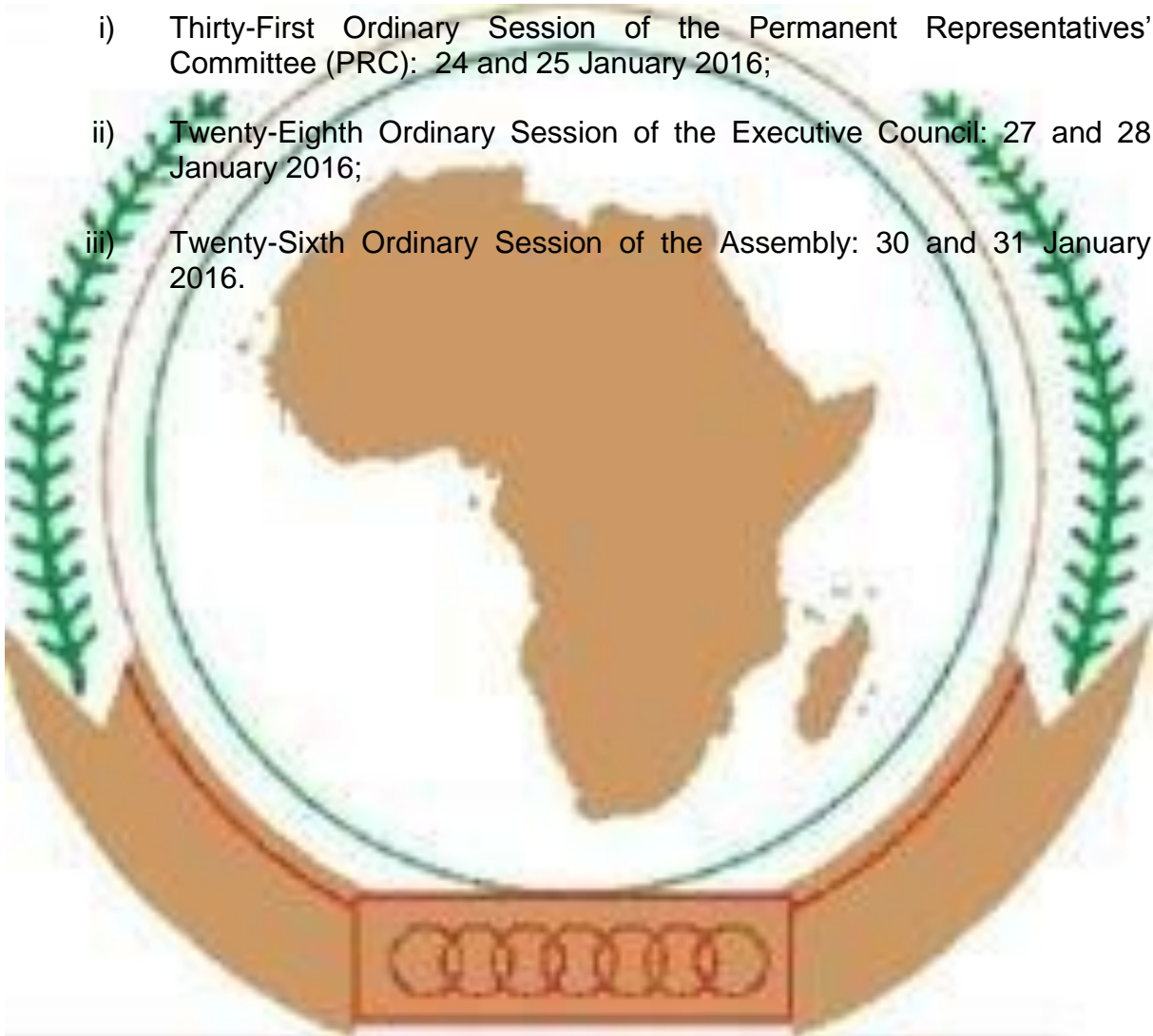
14. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to make use of the AGN-INDCs guidelines and template when preparing and developing their INDCs.



**DECISION ON THE DATE AND VENUE OF THE 26TH ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN JANUARY 2016**

The Assembly,

1. **DECIDES** that the date of the Twenty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will hold in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme ***“2016, African Year of Human Rights, in particular, with focus on the Rights of Women”*** shall be the following:
 - i) Thirty-First Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC): 24 and 25 January 2016;
 - ii) Twenty-Eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 27 and 28 January 2016;
 - iii) Twenty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 30 and 31 January 2016.



**DECISION ON STREAMLINING OF THE AU SUMMITS AND
THE WORKING METHODS OF THE AFRICAN UNION
Doc. Assembly/AU/4(XXV)**

The Assembly,

1. **DECIDES** to approve the following recommendations of the Executive Council:
 - i) decision-making by the Executive Council and the Assembly to be clearly delineated, and the Assembly to delegate their decision-making powers and mandate to the Executive Council to take decisions, except on key strategic issues;
 - ii) empower the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) of Ministers to take decisions on issues falling under their competence, except where there are attendant financial and structural implications. However, the Executive Council may, if necessary, consider decisions of the STCs at the request of any Member State;
 - iii) the Assembly to focus on strategic policy issues such as Continental Integration, Peace and Security, Governance and Financial matters; and those decisions taken at the Executive Council are not repeated at the Assembly;
 - iv) hold “closed sessions” meetings to discuss some strategic issues accompanied by one or more members of our delegations, as the issue to be discussed may require; In this regard, the Assembly to convene in a Retreat format to afford sufficient time to deliberate on strategic issues and to interact;
 - v) allow the full participation of the Regional Economic Communities in the deliberations of the Summits to share experiences, successes and constraints, in the advancement of the continental integration agenda;
 - vi) continue with the two Summits, which should be streamlined with one Summit, focusing on Policy Issues with participation of partners in accordance with the Rules of Procedure; and the other Summit focusing on the implementation of decisions;
 - vii) the Sub-Committees of the Assembly report to only one session of the Assembly in a year; and the membership of these Sub-Committees to rotate within 2 – 3 years cycle to allow for burden sharing;
 - viii) the Opening Sessions of the Assembly be conducted in a business-like manner and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, with only the Secretary General of the United Nations and the President of the State of Palestine based on historical African solidarity with their struggle, being allowed to address the Assembly in person; within that context, other Invited Guests should be provided with alternative platforms, other

than the Opening Sessions, to address the Heads of State and Government;

- ix) allocate additional resources for interpretation and translation in order to increase the number of personnel in the Directorate of Conference Management and Publications and ensure documents are properly translated and are ready on time.

2. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2016.



**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY
COUNCIL ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND THE STATE OF
PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA
Doc. Assembly/AU/7(XXV)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Council for Peace and Security on its activities and the peace and security situation in Africa;
2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH** the efforts deployed at the continental and regional level to address the scourge of conflicts and promote lasting peace and security. The Assembly notes with concern that, despite its efforts, Africa continues to face serious conflicts and crises with devastating humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences;
3. **URGENTLY APPEALS FOR** stronger action in the area of conflict prevention, management and resolution, as well as in the area of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. To this end, the Assembly stresses the critical importance of promoting good governance and respect for the rule of law, in keeping with the commitments made by Member States within the framework of relevant AU instruments;
4. **UNDERLINES** the critical role of women in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa, and welcomes all the steps taken by the PSC and the Commission in this respect;
5. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the significant progress Côte d'Ivoire continues to make in the area of post-conflict reconstruction, and **ENCOURAGES** all stakeholders to work to ensure the success of the presidential elections scheduled for October 2015. Council **COMMENDS** the Government of Guinea-Bissau for the reforms already embarked upon to promote stability and ensure economic recovery. The Assembly **CALLS UPON** all the countries and organizations that made pledges at the donor round-table held in Brussels, Belgium on 25 March 2015, to honour their commitments as soon as possible. The Assembly welcomes the strides that Tunisia continues to make after the completion of the transition period. The Assembly **REAFFIRMS** its support for the efforts aimed at ensuring stabilization and socio-economic recovery in Madagascar, **TAKES NOTE** of the decision of the High Constitutional Court of 12 June 2015, rejecting the resolution impeaching the President of the Republic and **CALLS UPON** all the parties to comply with the said decision and work towards the creation of a stable environment to enable Madagascar to continue to enjoy international support;
6. **ALSO NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the end of the Ebola epidemic in Liberia and the significant progress made by Guinea and Sierra Leone in combatting the epidemic. The Assembly **UNDERSCORES** the need for sustained mobilization in order to completely eradicate the scourge, and to

provide more economic and financial support to ensure sustainable economic recovery in the affected countries;

7. **WELCOMES** the signing of the Malian Peace and Reconciliation Agreement resulting from the Algiers Process in Bamako on 15 May 2015 by the Malian Government, the Algiers Platform Movement and some groups of the Coordination Movement of the Azawad (CMA). The Assembly **TAKES NOTE** of the commitment of the CMA to sign the Agreement in Bamako on 20 June 2015 following the conclusion in Algiers on 5 June 2015, the record of conclusions of the preparatory consultations on the implementation of the peace and reconciliation agreement in Mali, as well as the security arrangements for the cessation of hostilities. The Assembly **EXPRESSES** the full support of the AU for the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, **CALLS FOR** the strict implementation of the Agreement, and the mobilization of the needed resources. The Assembly expresses its deep appreciation to the Mediation team led by Algeria for their efforts; The Assembly **AFFIRMS** that only the Malian Defence and Security Forces have the right and legitimacy to occupy the entire national territory within the framework of their sovereign mission to protect borders, persons and their property, and any occupation by non State irregular forces is illegal and therefore **DEMANDS** that such occupation should cease;
8. **COMMENDS** the authorities and the other stakeholders in Burkina Faso for their commitment to a peaceful and successful transition. The Assembly **URGES** them to persevere in their efforts in a spirit of consensus and harmony. The Assembly **MAKES AN URGENT APPEAL** to Member States and the entire international community to mobilize the required financial resources and logistical support for the holding of presidential, legislative and local elections scheduled to take place between October 2015 and January 2016. The Assembly **ALSO WELCOMES** the successful holding of the Bangui Forum for Reconciliation in Central African Republic and **URGES** the Central African stakeholders to effectively implement the recommendations of the Forum. The Assembly stresses the need for the holding of elections in order to complete the transition in CAR by the end of 2015, in accordance with the communiqué of the 16th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), held in N'Djamena, on 25 May 2015;
9. **STRESSES** the need to revive the implementation process of the framework agreement for peace, security and cooperation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the region and to strengthen its governance structures, and **PROVIDE ITS FULL SUPPORT** for the initiatives agreed upon by the guarantors of the framework agreement at their second meeting in Johannesburg on 13 June 2015. The Assembly **REITERATES** the need for urgent and effective neutralization of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and all the other negative forces and armed groups operating in the East of the DRC and, in this regard, **ENCOURAGES** the Government of the DRC to continue the military offensives initiated for that purpose, **INVITES** the Government of the DRC and the United Nations to establish, through the on-going strategic dialogue between them, conditions conducive to the

resumption of military cooperation between the Government of the DRC and MONUSCO, and **ENCOURAGES** the rapid repatriation of elements of the FDLR who have already been disarmed and are in transit camps, as well as their dependants. The Assembly **STRESSES** the need for speedy implementation of the December 2013 Nairobi Declaration on the Kampala Dialogue between the Congolese Government and the M23;

10. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the political process in Somalia towards the realization of Vision 2016, and **URGES** the Somali stakeholders to stay on course in order to fulfil the aspirations of their people to peace, security and stability. The Assembly **PAYS TRIBUTE** to AMISOM and the Troop and Police Contributing Countries for the achievements made on the ground and for their sacrifices and **CALLS ON** the UN and the other international partners to extend to the Mission the support that is commensurate with the challenges at hand, bearing in mind that, in deploying AMISOM, the AU is active on behalf of the UN Security Council, which has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security;
11. **REITERATES ITS CONCERN** at the continued impasse in the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and **REQUESTS** the Commission to take the required initiatives to overcome the challenges at hand. The Assembly **ALSO CALLS FOR** continued efforts to facilitate the normalization of the relations between Djibouti and Eritrea;
12. **REITERATES** AU's support to the National Dialogue Initiative in Sudan and calls on all stakeholders to work towards its successful implementation, with the support of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), in order to address comprehensively the challenges facing the country. The Assembly **CALLS ON** the parties in Darfur and South Kordofan and Blue Nile to demonstrate renewed commitment towards achieving a cessation of hostilities in these regions, in order to facilitate the political process;
13. **ENCOURAGES** Sudan and South Sudan, with the continued support of the AUHIP, to expedite their efforts towards the full implementation of the September 2012 Cooperation Agreement, and to take the necessary steps to address the issue of the Abyei Area;
14. **REITERATES** its support to the ongoing efforts to promote a regional and holistic approach to the challenges of peace, security, stability and development in the Horn of Africa, in support of IGAD, and **ENCOURAGES** the Commission, through the AUHIP, to expedite its efforts in this respect;
15. **EXPRESSES** its concern in the face of the grave crisis in Burundi and the risk that the current political impasse poses to the gains made by the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi and to the Comprehensive Cease-fire Agreement of 2003. Council condemns all acts of violence in Burundi, calls for respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and urges all the Burundian stakeholders to uphold the spirit of dialogue and consensus and to find a lasting political solution to the current

crisis in accordance with the Arusha Agreement and the Constitution of Burundi. The Assembly expresses its full support to the efforts of the East African Community (EAC) and those being deployed by the Chairperson of the Commission. It welcomes the work of the PSC in finding a solution and calls for the implementation of the relevant decisions;

16. **REITERATES THE AU'S DEEP CONCERN** at the prevailing dire security and humanitarian situation on the ground in South Sudan. The Assembly **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** all the ceasefire violations committed by the parties, as well as the attacks and other egregious acts of violence and abuses of human rights against civilians and humanitarian agencies. The Assembly **NOTES WITH DISAPPOINTMENT** the continued impasse in the peace process, and **calls on** the parties to demonstrate the required political will and commitment to end the current tragedy in their country. The Assembly **REITERATES** the AU's support for the IGAD-led efforts and, in this respect, **WELCOMES** the operationalization of the AU High-Level *ad hoc* Committee for South Sudan, as well as the appointment of former President Alpha Oumar Konaré of Mali as the AU High Representative for South Sudan, and **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the PSC for remaining actively seized of the matter. The Assembly **ALSO WELCOMES** the initiative taken by the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and the African National Congress (ANC) to facilitate dialogue within the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). The Assembly **CALLS FOR** enhanced humanitarian support for the needy populations;
17. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the continuation of hostilities in Libya and the attacks against civilians and **REITERATES ITS GRAVE CONCERN** over the worsening humanitarian crisis. The Assembly also **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** about the worsening scourge of terrorism in Libya and **REAFFIRMS** the need for continued and renewed efforts to fight against this scourge. The Assembly **SUPPORTS** the legitimate Government in its efforts to fight terrorism in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No. 2214. The Assembly **URGES** all Libyan stakeholders to engage more seriously on the path of dialogue and reconciliation, bearing in mind that there can be no military solution to the conflict, and **EXPRESSES FULL SUPPORT** to the UN-led political dialogue. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the neighbouring countries for their role in the search for a solution, **WELCOMES** the final communiqué of the 6th meeting of the Ministerial Committee of Libya's Neighbours, held in N'Djamena, Chad, on 5 June 2015, and **REITERATES** the key role of the International Contact Group for Libya (ICG-L) and **ENCOURAGES** the Commission, working with the UN, to enhance the effectiveness of the Group.
18. **NOTES WITH DEEP CONCERN** the continued impasse in the search for a solution to the conflict in Western Sahara and **UNDERLINES** the urgent need for renewed international efforts to facilitate an early resolution of the conflict. In this respect, the Assembly, recalling the advisory opinion given by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 16 October 1975, **CALLS ON** the UN General Assembly to determine a date for the holding of the self-determination referendum for the people of Western Sahara and protect the integrity of the Western Sahara as a non-self-governing territory from any act

which may undermine it. The Assembly **RECALLS** the PSC communiqué of 27 March 2015 and, in this context, **RENEWS** its full support to the AU Special Envoy for Western Sahara, former President Joaquim Chissano. The Assembly **URGES** the Security Council to fully assume its responsibilities, as well as effectively address the issues of the respect of human rights and the illegal exploitation of the Territory's natural resources. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the Chairperson of the Commission to pursue her efforts, based on international legality, and **CALLS ON** Member States to avail the necessary capacity-building support to the people of Western Sahara;¹

19. **REITERATES ITS DEEP CONCERN** about the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism on the continent and **CONDEMNS IN THE STRONGEST TERMS** the various terrorist acts committed on the continent, including in Somalia and Kenya, by al-Shabaab, in north eastern Nigeria and the neighbouring countries by Boko Haram, in Mali and the larger Sahel, as well as in North Africa, by various terrorist groups. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the efforts and initiatives aimed at neutralizing the various terrorist groups active on the continent. The Assembly **EMPHASIZES** the relevance of the steps agreed upon in the communiqué adopted by the PSC, at its 455th meeting, held at the level of Heads of State and Government in Nairobi, Kenya, on 2 September 2014, and **CALLS ON** Member States to deploy additional efforts towards the implementation of the relevant provisions of the communiqué. The Assembly **REQUESTS** the PSC to convene, before the year 2015, a meeting, at ministerial level, to review the implementation status of the Nairobi communiqué;
20. **COMMENDS** the member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Benin for their sustained efforts to fully operationalize the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) established to combat the Boko Haram terrorist group, and **CALLS FOR** enhanced international support for the MNJTF, and **WELCOMES** the steps taken by the Commission in support of the efforts of the LCBC countries and Benin. The Assembly **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the progress made by the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA), and **urges** for continued efforts to fully neutralize the LRA;
21. **WELCOMES** the adoption by the PSC of the Common African Position on the Review of the UN Peace Operations being undertaken by the High-Level Panel appointed by the UN Secretary-General, and **CALLS ON** all Member States to defend this Position during the deliberations of the relevant UN organs on the report of the Panel;
22. **RECALLS** the decision adopted at its 23rd Ordinary Session held in Malabo, in June 2014, in which it welcomed the proposal by Togo to host a conference on maritime security and safety, and **DECIDES**, in view of the importance of the issue and based on the recommendations of the meeting of the Ministers of Defence and Security, held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in May 2015, to

¹ Reservation entered by the Republic of Senegal on paragraph 18.

transform this Conference scheduled to take place from 2 to 7 November 2015, into an extraordinary AU Summit on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa, and **ENCOURAGES** the Commission and the Togolese Government to expedite the preparation process of this event;

23. **COMMENDS** the PSC for the successful organization of its Retreat on issues **and** challenges in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa, held in Swakopmund, Namibia, from 21 to 23 May 2015. The Assembly **DECIDES** to endorse the Conclusions and the concrete measures contained therein and **REQUESTS** the PSC to take steps towards their effective implementation.



**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION
ON TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN AFRICA
Doc. Assembly/AU/7(XXV)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the threat of terrorism and violent extremism in Africa and on the implementation of the communiqué PSC/AHG/ COMM. (CDLV) adopted by the 455th meeting of the Peace and Security Council held in Nairobi on 2 September 2014;
2. **REITERATES** its deep concern at the worsening scourge of terrorism and violent extremism in Africa, as evidenced by the growing presence of the Islamic state in Africa to which some groups have pledged allegiance, as well as the continuing ignoble attacks by different terrorist groups, including al-Shabaab in Somalia and Kenya, The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Central Africa, Boko Haram in Nigeria and in other countries of the Lake Chad Basin; al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), al-Murabitoun in northern Mali and the Sahel in general, the Ansar Al-Sharia and other terrorist groups in North Africa;
3. **STRESSES** once again that terrorism cannot be justified in any circumstance and that it cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or particular group. The Assembly strongly condemns all terrorist acts perpetrated on the continent, irrespective of the perpetrators, place and motivations. The Assembly expresses AU's full solidarity with the affected countries and victims of terrorism;
4. **NOTES WITH CONCERN** the growing links between terrorism and violent extremism on the one hand, and transnational organized crime, on the other;
5. **REITERATES** the relevance of the instruments adopted by the OAU/AU in recent years to fight against the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, particularly the 1999 Convention on the Prevention and Combating of terrorism and its 2004 additional Protocol;
6. **WELCOMES** the efforts of Member States, through the strengthening of their legislative frameworks and operational capabilities and hails the establishment of security cooperation mechanisms at the regional level, including the Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL) of the Sahel, the Nouakchott Process on enhanced security cooperation and operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahel-Saharan region and the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (ICR-LRA);
7. **ALSO COMMENDS** the efforts undertaken by the Commission, including through the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and those of the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission in charge of counter terrorism cooperation in support of the measures taken by Member States to combat terrorism;

8. **RECALLS** that, despite the significant progress made by the continent in developing a normative and operational framework against terrorism, further sustained efforts are required to ensure the monitoring and effective implementation of the commitments made by Member States. Accordingly, the Assembly endorses the call made by the PSC in favour of an action-oriented approach;
9. **WELCOMES** the measures taken within the framework of the implementation of the Nairobi communiqué, including: (i) the continued implementation of the Nouakchott Process on enhanced security cooperation and operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahel-Saharan region, (ii) the implementation by the countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Benin of the Joint Multinational Force (FMM) responsible for combating Boko Haram terrorist group, and (iii) the launching of the Djibouti process on strengthening security cooperation in East Africa;
10. **ALSO WELCOMES** the progress made in the operationalization of the African Police Cooperation Mechanism (AFRIPOL), as well as the establishment, by the Commission, of an advisory team responsible for supporting the AU in monitoring and implementation of the relevant provisions of communiqué PSC /AHG/COMM. (CDLV), and notes with satisfaction the emphasis placed by the Team in combating radicalization. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) for initiatives taken to strengthen national capacities of Member States;
11. **REQUESTS** Member States and the Commission to redouble their efforts to implement expeditiously the outstanding provisions of the communiqué PSC/ AHG/COMM (CDLV), including:
 - i) the signing and ratification of the relevant African and international instruments by those Member States that have not yet done so and the effective implementation of the provisions contained therein;
 - ii) the submission by the Member States parties to the 2004 Protocol of annual reports to the PSC on measures taken to combat and prevent terrorism;
 - iii) the designation by the Member States which have not yet done so of National Focal Points to liaise and coordinate with the ACSRT;
 - iv) the financial contributions and the provision of technical expertise for the ACSRT;
 - v) the formulation of an African arrest warrant against individuals accused or convicted of terrorist acts;
 - vi) the assessing of the state of implementation of the 2002 Action Plan for the prevention and combating of terrorism;

vii) the organization of an annual consultative forum with international partners on the issue of terrorism and violent extremism.

12. **REITERATES** the need to respect, in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, the highest standards of human rights and international humanitarian law. The Assembly also reiterates the need to tackle all the conditions that provide fertile ground for terrorism and violent extremism;
13. **REQUESTS** the PSC to hold a ministerial meeting before the end of 2015 to assess the status of implementation of the communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM. (CDLV) and agree on the measures to tackle the challenges faced.



**DECISION ON REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON GOVERNANCE
IN AFRICA (WITH FOCUS ON THE AFRICAN GOVERNANCE
ARCHITECTURE AND ELECTIONS)
Doc. Assembly/AU/8(XXV)**

The Assembly

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on Governance in Africa (with focus on the African Governance Architecture and Elections) and the recommendations contained therein;
2. **RECALLS** the previous Decision of the Assembly (*Assembly/AU/Dec.304 (XV)*) at its 16^h Ordinary Session dedicated to the theme “Towards Greater Unity and Integration Through Shared Values” held in Addis Ababa in January 2011, which called for the establishment of a “Pan-African Architecture on Governance”;
3. **COMMENDS and ENCOURAGES** the Commission to continue its efforts towards ensuring synergies and complementarity between the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and for establishing the AU Commission Interdepartmental Conflict Prevention Task Force;
4. **CALLS UPON** Member States to ratify, domesticate and implement all AU Shared Values Instruments, including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
5. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to continuously ensure the conduct of democratic, credible and peaceful elections that guarantee peace, security and stability of the continent;
6. **URGES** Member States to intensify measures to strengthen the effectiveness of state institutions in their delivery of public services, ensuring decentralization of governance machinery, improving planned urbanization, combatting corruption and reversing illicit financial outflows from Africa;
7. **CALLS UPON** Member States to redouble their efforts in entrenching a culture of constitutionalism, human rights and the rule of law;
8. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** Member States to put in place institutional mechanisms, where they do not exist, for the constructive management of diversity including the establishment and strengthening of national infrastructures for peace;
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report to the Assembly regularly on the implementation of this Decision.

**DECISION ON THE UPDATE OF THE COMMISSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Update of the Commission on the Implementation of Previous Decisions on the International Criminal Court;
2. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.547(XXIV) and in particular paragraphs;
 - i) 17. (d) that requested the ICC to terminate or suspend the proceedings against Deputy President William Samoei Ruto of Kenya until the African concerns and proposals for amendments of the Rome Statute of the ICC are considered; and
 - ii) 17 (e) that requested the suspension of proceedings against President Omar Al Bashir and to urge the UN Security Council to withdraw the referral case in the Sudan;
3. **COMMENDS** efforts of the African Union Commission in the implementation of the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.547(XXIV);
4. **RECOMMENDS** the formation of an open-ended Ministerial Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs;
5. **REQUESTS** the African Union Commission to continue implementing the Decision and in particular to write to the United Nations Security Council:
 - i) Informing of the African Union Heads of State and Government Decision of January 2015 and also requesting that decision be implemented;
 - ii) Informing that the Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs intends to meet the UNSC to discuss and follow up on the matter.
6. **REQUESTS** that the African Union Commission join in the Application under Rule 68 by the Prosecutor of ICC against the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya as an interested party for purposes of placing before the Court all the relevant material arising out of the negotiations;
7. **RECOMMENDS** that adequate financial resources be provided to the Commission and the open-ended Ministerial Committee to enable follow up activities for the implementation of this Decision.

**DECISION ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR A RENEWED UN/AU PARTNERSHIP ON
AFRICA`S INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA [PAIDA] 2017-2027
Doc. EX.CL/913(XXVII)**

The Assembly,

1. **EXPRESSES** its appreciation to the United Nations System for the invaluable support, through past and ongoing programmes, that it has provided its Member States in their efforts to promote development, integration and peace and security at the national level and through the various institutions at the regional and continental levels;
2. **WELCOMES** the initiative of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) to develop a new UN /AU Partnership, , as the successor programme to the Framework for the Ten Year Capacity Building [TYCBP-AU] which expires in 2016; namely the **Framework for a Renewed UN/AU Partnership on Africa`s Integration and Development Agenda, [PAIDA] 2017 to 2027;**
3. **NOTES**
 - i) that the proposed Framework, PAIDA, [including its Executive Summary] is based on important principles, including ownership and leadership by the African Union; respect for Africa`s policy space; consultation and coordination; faithfulness to commitments made; pro-active engagement; strategic partnership and accountability; and that in accordance with these principles, PAIDA is anchored on the over-arching blueprint of the AU, namely Agenda 2063, and takes into account other major blue prints such as the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Agenda;
 - ii) that there is concern that funding constraints have hampered the smooth implementation of TYCBP-AU, as indicated in the reports which have emanated from the various reviews conducted by the RCM;
4. **CALLS UPON**
 - i) the United Nations to take the necessary measures to further enhance its cooperation with the African Union, especially in the context of the implementation of AU Agenda 2063, as well as that of PAIDA as the overall platform for UN/AU cooperation;
 - ii) the United Nations General Assembly to make adequate, regular and dedicated budgetary allocations for the effective implementation of PAIDA; and
 - iii) all UN Departments, Agencies, Offices and funds participating in the RCM, to make regular provisions to this end and to continue to coordinate their efforts and deliver as one.

5. REQUESTS

- i) the Chairperson of the Commission and the United Nations Secretary General to submit annual and triennial review reports to the Assembly and the United Nations General Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of PAIDA;
- ii) the United Nations General Assembly to adopt a Resolution at its 70th Session in support of PAIDA and maintain existing institutional arrangements for collaboration with Africa at the continental level, including preserving the status of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa as the sole Economic Commission for the continent, with a view to ensuring continental integrity.



**DECLARATION ON 2015 YEAR OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS AFRICA'S AGENDA 2063
Doc. Assembly/AU/2(XXV)**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our Twenty Fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 14 to 15 June 2015, on the 2015 Theme "Year of Women's Empowerment towards Africa's Agenda 2063";

Recalling our previous Decisions and Declarations on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in particular the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa in 2003 (Assembly AU/Dec.19(II)), the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa in 2004 (Assembly AU/Dec.12 (III)), the African Women's Decade (2010-2020) (Assembly AU/Dec. 229 (XII)), the Fund for African Women (Assembly AU/Dec. 277(XIV)), Malabo Decision on Theme for 2015 Year (Assembly AU/Dec. 539 (XXIII)) and all global policies, namely the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discriminations against Women (CEDAW), and the UN Security Council Resolution Number 1325, among others;

Acknowledging the persistent efforts made in implementation of the AU Gender Architecture above-mentioned at national, regional and continental levels, and the positive and visible results of implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment made by our continent since Beijing 1995;

Also acknowledging the challenges faced in the implementation of many of those Decisions and Declarations, in particular on progress made in attaining the minimum targets of gender equality and women's empowerment in women's socio-economic and political life that should demonstrate Africa's willingness, leadership and commitment to the achievement of goals as enshrined in the 2003 Maputo Protocol on Women's Rights in Africa;

Noting with Concern that despite positive achievements registered recently in decision-making, women, the largest proportion of our population, still remain at-risk and impoverished due to the challenges caused by social, economic and political marginalization, gender-based violence and discrimination against women; and **reiterating** our resolve to ending violence against women and girls, and improving access to, and control of, finances, land, education, health, sciences and technology and decision-making in political governance and business enterprises, consistent with our Declaration on Agenda 2063 and our continental Gender Architecture and our commitments on global initiatives;

Reaffirming our resolve towards ensuring that all categories of our populations, in particular women and young girls, must participate and benefit directly from the growth and transformation opportunities to improve their lives and livelihoods, with continued positive impact on the lives of our citizenry in rural and urban areas, through deliberate and targeted public support;

Reiterating our commitment to the Addis Ababa Declaration on *Accelerating the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action - Towards a Transformational Change for Women and Girls in Africa*, adopted during the Ninth African Regional Conference on Women in November 2014;

Reflecting that hunger and malnutrition are major causes of risk, impoverishment, and persistent underdevelopment in Africa and causes of poor health, low levels of energy, and mental impairment, all leading to low productivity and low educational attainment, all of which can in turn lead to even greater hunger and malnutrition, and increased economic costs, thereby creating a vicious cycle;

Noting the progress made towards alignment, harmonization and coordination of initiatives and activities of stakeholders and partners with our priorities as defined in the Beijing and Dakar Platforms of Action and **stressing** on the significance of accelerating this momentum;

Recognizing the importance of multi-sectoral engagement and co-ownership of this societal and economic transformation agenda within our public sectors, including agriculture, science and technology, health, peace and security, infrastructure, energy, finance, trade, industry, hence the importance of putting in place a coherent inter-sectoral coordination of the efforts and initiatives in cabinet and other national and regional governance frameworks, for optimizing resource access and control, synergy and maximizing positive outcomes and greater impact;

Further recognizing the complementary roles and responsibilities that should be enhanced among relevant stakeholders, including public sectors, private enterprises – especially with African headquarters, civil society with African leadership, academia, African think-tanks, grassroots and business women, in all formal and informal sectors in driving our shared continental development Agenda 2063;

Reiterating its support to the mandate of the AUC Chairperson's Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security to promote the rights of women during conflict, their participation in the prevention and resolution of conflict, and their protection from sexual and gender-based violence;

Welcoming the Recommendations of the Stakeholder's Consultation with AU Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs, GIMAC (Gender is my Agenda Campaign) network of civil society organizations, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and UN System, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 20th to 23rd January 2015 at the AUC Headquarters, and in particular their recommendations calling for our Assembly to consider adopting commitments along specific and concrete priorities.

We hereby adopt the following Declaration:

I. COMMITMENT TO ENHANCING WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION, AND BENEFIT FROM FORMAL AGRICULTURE/AGRIBUSINESS VALUE-CHAINS

We commit to enhance women's access and full inclusion in agriculture and agribusiness, as contributors and beneficiaries; and to this end, we resolve

- 
- a) AU Member States to continuously orient policy and decision makers to understand the important role that women play in development, and specifically in agribusiness, agricultural value chain, food security, nutrition, and care, by putting in place mechanisms for the empowerment of women;
- b) AU Member States to implement women's right to access, control, ownership and benefit from financial resources, including access to public procurement processes in agribusiness, productive assets, including land, enabling basic infrastructure, education, information and skills development, innovative technologies and practices, to capacitate and develop women's economic empowerment in agribusiness;
- c) AU Member States to intensify initiatives to create a conducive environment for women to conduct agribusiness and the agricultural value chain through prevention and responding to conflict on the Continent, addressing, adapting and mitigating climate change impacts, and addressing the impact of epidemics and natural disasters;
- d) AU Member States to facilitate the development of agribusiness and agricultural value chains through mechanisation, technological innovation and skills development for women;
- e) AU Member States to reintroduce agriculture as a field of study, including agribusiness and agricultural value chain, of the education curriculum;
- f) AU Member States and the Commission to ensure that the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) promotes the empowerment of women in agribusiness/agricultural value chains;
- g) AU Member States to integrate gender responsive indicators in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Results Framework of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods;

technologies in agribusiness and agricultural value chains, and support the *Campaign* to progressively banish the hand held hoe to the museum.

II. COMMITMENT TO ENHANCING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO HEALTH

We commit to enhance women's access to health; and to this end, we resolve:

- a) To take into account women sensitive issues to emerging threats such as Ebola and other impediments to Africa's development, which disproportionately have a negative impact on women and girls;
- b) To establish mechanisms to identify survivors of sexual and gender-based abuses and provide psycho-social and economic care during conflict and post-conflict situations;
- c) To ensure that Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights of African women are implemented and mutually accounted for in the existing commitments to women's reproductive health and rights, as adopted by African Heads of State in the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women (Maputo Protocol) in 2003, and the Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in 2006; and
- d) To ensure ending of the AIDS Epidemic by 2030, as part of the Agenda 2063, has an inclusive, human rights approach that leaves no-one behind; including children, adolescents, women of child bearing age, female key populations, such as women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings.

III. COMMITMENT TO PUSHING FORWARD WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

We commit to empower women at all economic levels, including women at-risk and impoverished located in rural and urban areas, with access to, and control of, finances; and to this end, we resolve:

- a) AU Heads of State and Government to place the Gender Agenda at the centre of their Development Agenda, which should match allocation of adequate resources, based on a fixed percentage of the budget, with the elevated location of the Ministry responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs in order to enable Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs to drive the programmes of gender equality and women's empowerment; and
- b) AU Member States, as we move towards the adoption of the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, to create and mainstream mechanisms to ensure women's access to finances, financial and entrepreneurial skills development, to move away from limited ring fenced women's funds, and to challenge the financial institutions to have minimum quota of 50% to finance women for them to grow from micro to macro business.

IV. COMMITMENT TO ENHANCING THE AGENDA ON WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY

We commit to push forward the women's full and effective participation in conflict prevention, management, peace-building, reconstruction and negotiation; and to this end, we resolve:

- a) To develop, implement and report on National and Regional Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 to accelerate the Women, Peace and Security Agenda;
- b) To develop and implement a Plan of Action towards Silencing the Guns by 2020 for promoting women's participation in conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict rebuilding;
- c) To establish mechanisms to identify survivors of sexual and gender-based abuses and provide psycho-social and economic care during conflict and post-conflict situations;
- d) To eliminate impunity on all forms of violence against women and girls;
- e) To facilitate access to justice, rehabilitation and recovery, especially for child soldiers, and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence; and,
- f) To install a monument at the Africa Union Headquarters honouring women who have contributed to the African anti-colonial and anti-apartheid liberation movements, and the resolution of conflicts on the continent.

V. COMMITMENT TO ENHANCING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE

We commit to implement all AU policies on gender parity and participation of women in judicial processes and institutions, especially in governance and at decision-making levels, such as the Supreme Court, Constitutional Courts, and Regional Courts; and to this end, we resolve:

- a) To ensure that women are part of the electoral machinery, including Institutions that address violence before, during, and after elections.

VI. COMMITMENT TO ENHANCING WOMEN AND GIRLS' ACCESS TO EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

We commit to enhance women's and girls' access to education, science and technology and to this end we resolve;

- a) To increase education and training investment in institutions/enterprises, accredited for quality, in science and technology (S&T), information and communications technology (ICT), engineering, mathematics, agriculture

and agribusiness, nutrition , and law with focus on women and innovation; and

- b) To end child marriage, also referred to as defilement, in Africa through adoption of the Common African Position on Ending Child Marriage, develop and implement comprehensive action plans as an indicator for monitoring Agenda 2063 for girls' empowerment and well-being.

VII. COMMITMENT TO MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY TO ACTIONS AND RESULTS

We commit to systematic data gathering, regular review, and progress monitoring of implementation of Agenda 2063 and its 10-Year Action Plan using the Solemn Declaration Index (SDI), developed by the GIMAC and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); and to this end, we resolve

- a) To conduct the five year progress review of the Africa Women's Decade that involves tracking, monitoring and reporting on progress;
- b) To foster alignment, harmonization and coordination among multi-sectorial efforts and multi-institutional platforms for peer review, mutual learning and mutual accountability;
- c) To strengthen national and regional institutional capacities, including technology software, equipment and uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for data collection, analysis, generation, and management and knowledge generation and dissemination, that supports evidence based planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and,
- d) To share high-impact best practices and solutions with a focus on scalability/technology divisibility and replicability to improve the lives of women in the diverse settings of Africa.

VIII. STRENGTHENING THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION TO SUPPORT DELIVERY ON THESE COMMITMENTS

We will strengthen the capacity of the African Union Commission to help it fulfil the growing roles and mandates that we have ascribed through this Declaration, as well as other relevant previous Declarations and Decisions; and to this end we invite the Chairperson of the Commission to submit a proposal with a view to enhancing the institutional capacity of the lead Department as well as other relevant units, for consideration and approval by the July 2015 Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

IX. A CALL FOR ACTION

We commit to an expedient process of translation of these economic, transformational commitments into results; and to this end, we call upon:

- a) The AUC to work closely with Member States and RECs to enhance the implementation of the call to action, and to develop an implementation strategy and roadmap to facilitate translation of the seven (7) aspirations of Agenda 2063's vision and goals of the African Women's Decade (2010-2020) and the *Addis Ababa Declaration on Accelerating the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action - Towards a Transformational Change for Women and Girls in Africa* (Beijing+20), and the Communiqué of the Stakeholders' Consultation on AU 2015 Theme

as well as the Johannesburg Declaration and Call for Action on Financial Inclusion of Women in Agribusiness adopted by the Ministers responsible for Gender and Women Affairs on 12 June 2015;

- b) AU Member States to review and evaluate the implementation of the call to action every 2 years and to link it to other reporting mechanisms



**DECLARATION ON POLIO ERADICATION IN AFRICA:
“OUR HISTORIC LEGACY TO FUTURE GENERATIONS”
Doc. Assembly/AU/17(XXV)Add.4**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Assembly of the African Union, meeting at our 25th Ordinary Session in Johannesburg, South Africa;

Bearing in mind the Yaoundé Declaration on Polio Eradication in Africa adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting from 8 to 10 July 1996 in Yaoundé, Cameroon;

Recalling the Decision on Polio Eradication in Africa adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Health (Tripoli, 2003), the Executive Council Decision on Polio Eradication in Africa (Maputo, 2003); and the Declaration adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Health (Addis Ababa, 2009);

Acknowledging the unprecedented success of the "Kick Polio Out of Africa" campaign launched at the Yaoundé meeting and the historical opportunity that now exists to attain our objective of a polio-free Africa this year;

Noting with pride that the entire African continent had not reported a single wild poliovirus case for over ten months; that Nigeria recorded a greater than 90% decline in polio cases in 2014 and is very close to stopping endemic poliovirus transmission with no new cases reported for more than ten months; and all polio outbreaks in the continent appear to have stopped;

Recognizing that saving all future generations from the crippling effects of polio will help reduce poverty and fully complies with our Union's vision of an "integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force on the global arena";

Recalling the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration for Agenda 2063, adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa on 26th May 2013, that places disease eradication and infant and child health at the centre of our efforts to eradicate poverty;

Recognizing that polio eradication efforts help build national and local health systems to reach every child with critical health interventions and services even in the remotest areas, and within most vulnerable populations;

1. REAFFIRM:

- i) Our firm commitment to the goal of global polio eradication, and help deliver a polio-free Africa as a historic legacy to children of all future generations;
- ii) Our strong determination to sustain the current momentum in polio eradication efforts in Africa, and fully support and monitor the effective

implementation of all polio vaccination campaigns in 2015 to reach and vaccinate every last child against polio;

2. **CONGRATULATE** all the Member States of the African Union, the Heads of State, the Ministers of Health, State and local Government leaders, community leaders, traditional and religious leaders, all health workers, the media, and civil society organizations for their consistent support for polio eradication activities; recognizing their invaluable role in achieving this historic success;

3. **RECOGNIZE:**

- i) The critical need to sustain intensive efforts in polio eradication to preserve our hard-won gains;
- ii) The importance of maintaining a strong disease surveillance system, to be able to detect and respond to any polio outbreaks following poliovirus importations, and to strengthen routine immunization coverage to protect all children;
- iii) The much wider legacy of the polio infrastructure and resources, and the critical role it can play in strengthening routine immunization, supporting broader disease surveillance and emergency health response efforts; the use of Polio infrastructure to tackle the Ebola virus in Nigeria is a living example of this legacy.

4. **ACKNOWLEDGE** the steadfast support and assistance of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners, international development partners and the civil society organizations for polio eradication in Africa, urging them to continue with the same level of support until Africa is officially certified as polio-free, and to help strengthen routine immunization efforts in the continent;

5. **ENCOURAGE:**

- i) the national and sub-national leadership of all polio-affected countries to provide direct and consistent oversight to their polio eradication efforts, and ensure that every child is reached and vaccinated;
- ii) All the Member States of the African Union to allocate additional domestic resources to strengthen routine immunization and disease surveillance initiatives, and closely monitor the full implementation of the 2013-2018 Polio Endgame Strategic Plan.

**DECLARATION ON THE LAUNCH OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (CFTA)
Doc. Assembly/AU/11(XXV)**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 26th Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 14 to 15 June 2015;

Recalling our Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.394 (XVIII)) adopted in January 2012 Summit on the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area to be operationalized by an indicative date of 2017;

Also Recalling our Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/11(XXIV)) of January 2015 reaffirming our commitment to launch the CFTA Negotiations in June 2015.

Reaffirming our commitment to increase intra-African trade through the establishment of a CFTA that will foster economic growth, equitable development, and support integration through trade liberalization, industrialization and infrastructure development towards the full implementation of the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;

Emphasizing the importance of building the CFTA on existing regional free trade areas in order to broaden and deepen continental integration;

Reiterating that the establishment of a functional CFTA that integrates African economies is a fundamental milestone in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda will play a major role in fostering the structural transformation of the Continent;

Reiterating the importance of implementing the Action Plan on Boosting Intra African Trade (BIAT) prioritising work on industrialisation, infrastructure development and free movement of people to ensure maximisation of benefits of establishing the CFTA;

Noting the importance of relevant flanking policies and reforms at the continental, regional and national levels to maximise the benefits of establishing the continental free trade area;

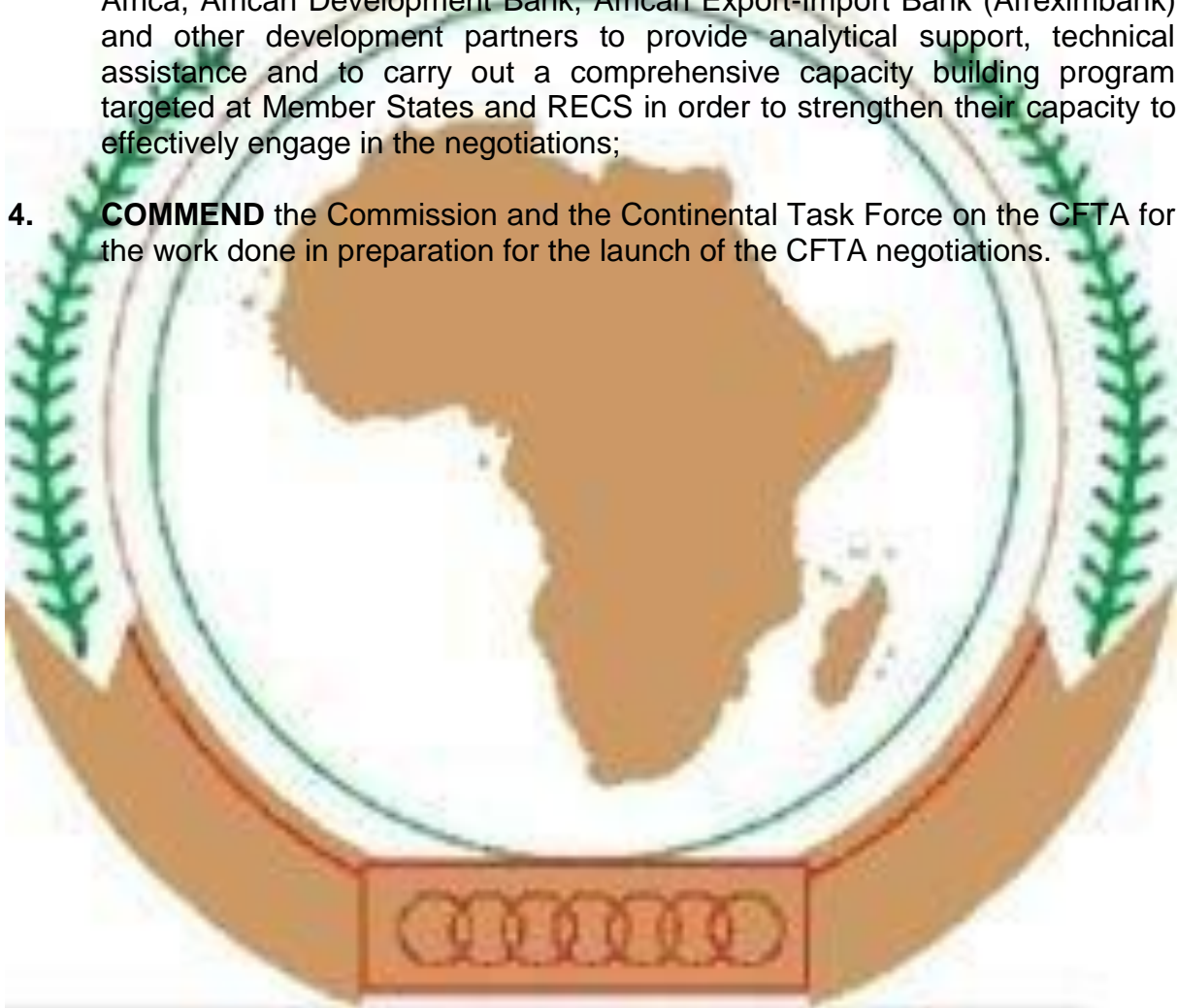
Recognizing the need for technical assistance in order to facilitate the effective participation of all Member States in the entire process leading to the establishment of the CFTA;

Aware of the importance of constructive participation of the private sector, parliamentarians and other relevant stakeholders in the CFTA Negotiations through appropriate mechanisms;

Taking Note of the Report the AU Ministers of Trade Meeting that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 14-15 May 2015;

Now therefore,

1. **LAUNCH** negotiations for the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area aimed at integrating Africa's markets in line with the objectives and principles enunciated in the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;
2. **URGE** all Regional Economic Communities and Member States to participate effectively in the CFTA negotiations;
3. **CALL UPON** the Commission, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, African Development Bank, African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and other development partners to provide analytical support, technical assistance and to carry out a comprehensive capacity building program targeted at Member States and RECS in order to strengthen their capacity to effectively engage in the negotiations;
4. **COMMEND** the Commission and the Continental Task Force on the CFTA for the work done in preparation for the launch of the CFTA negotiations.



**DECLARATION ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
Doc. Assembly/AU/9(XXV)**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our Twenty Fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Johannesburg, South Africa from 14 to 15 June 2015;

Taking Note of the Report on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine; and **Recalling** all resolutions and decisions adopted by the OAU/AU on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East;

Reaffirming our full support to the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle against Israeli occupation, under the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people;

Reiterating our support for the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations Resolutions, which have advanced the clarion call for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the borders of June 1967, and its capital, East Jerusalem; and the implementation of the UN Resolution 194 on the return of the Palestinian refugees;

Commending the efforts exerted by President Mahmoud Abbas to achieve comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and supports his efforts in achieving the Palestinian reconciliation;

Condemning the Israeli statements that are rejecting the two-state solution, which could undermine the peace process between both sides and represent a challenge to all international resolutions;

Also Condemning the continued Israeli occupation of the Palestinian land and all measures in the city of Jerusalem, through the policy of Judaization, the demolition of houses, the expulsion and destruction of historic monuments of the Islamic and Christian holy sites and the expansion of settlements in the city;

Further Condemning Israel for withholding Palestinian funds and tax revenues, which constitute a cornerstone of the Palestinian economy, and **calling upon** the international community to put pressure on Israel to release Palestinian tax funds that it has withheld;

WE hereby:

1. **CALL ON** the international community to exert pressure on Israel to stop all settlement activities, release Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and, **EQUALLY DEMAND** that Israel refrains from arbitrary arrests of

Palestinians including children and women which is an act of violation of international laws and human rights norms including the Geneva Convention on the Rights of Women and Children;

2. **FURTHER CALL UPON** the international community to exert pressure on Israel to lift the blockade on Gaza Strip and open the border-crossing for the movement of people and goods and respond immediately to the humanitarian situations due to this siege;
3. **REQUEST** the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security, and to take the necessary steps to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects, to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region based on the principle of two-state solution, according to the 1967 borders, and apply the provisions of relevant international law and previous decisions of the Council in this regard;
4. **REITERATE** that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, demands a full withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories to the line of June 1967, including the Syrian Golan Heights and territories still occupied in southern Lebanon;
5. **CALLS FOR** boycott of Israeli products from Palestinian occupied territories;
6. **CALLS ON** all Member States and other States that have not yet done so, to recognize the State of Palestine and support its admission into Regional and International Organizations.

DECLARATION ON SELF-RELIANCE

We, Heads of State and Government, meeting at our 25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 14-15 January 2015, adopt the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 and its Financing Mechanism, as a step towards our collective vision for the level and depth of integration and development that our continent must achieve in the next 50 years;

1. In doing so, we also recognise that in order to achieve the goals set out in Agenda 2063, Member States of need to take practical and concrete measures to achieve the self-reliance we set as our goal 35 years ago in the Lagos Plan of Action adopted in 1980;
2. We reaffirm that self-reliance is not self-isolation, but a commitment to base the development of our continent primarily on own resources, and to mobilise resources within our continent for development;
3. At this Summit, we have adopted the following package of measures for self-reliance:
 - a) The decision on alternate sources of funding, The revised assessed contribution and Scale of Assessments that will become effective from January 2016 whose objective is to ensure that in the medium term Member States of the Union fund 100 percent of the operating budget, 75 percent of the programme budget, and 25 percent of the peace and security operations;
 - b) In addition, through the African Union Foundation that we have established for resource mobilisation on the continent, we work with the African people, including our private sector, to explore other innovative sources for funding our Union. In particular, and for the first time at our Summits, the African private sector made significant pledges that will augment the budgetary resources of our Union.
4. We recognise that the long term solution to increasing the capacity of our Member States for self-reliance and taking full charge of the budgetary requirements of our Union, is in strengthening the capability of our economies both at country level and continent wide. In this regard, we reiterate our commitment to the implementation of the fast track programmes and initiatives of Agenda 2063;
5. Africa must also be self-reliant in finding African solutions to African problems in the peace and security domain both in terms of funding and enhancing our collective capability to respond to conflict situations. The African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) is the interim mechanism that we have created for this purpose while we are operationalizing our African Standby Force;


6. We believe that this package of self-reliance measures will not only place our continent on the path towards a vision contained in Agenda 2063. It will also reverse the dependency that hampers the development of the full potential of our continent.



DECLARATION ON MIGRATION
Doc. Assembly/AU/18(XXV)

We the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 25th Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Johannesburg in the Republic of South Africa from 14-15 June 2015, under theme “Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063”.

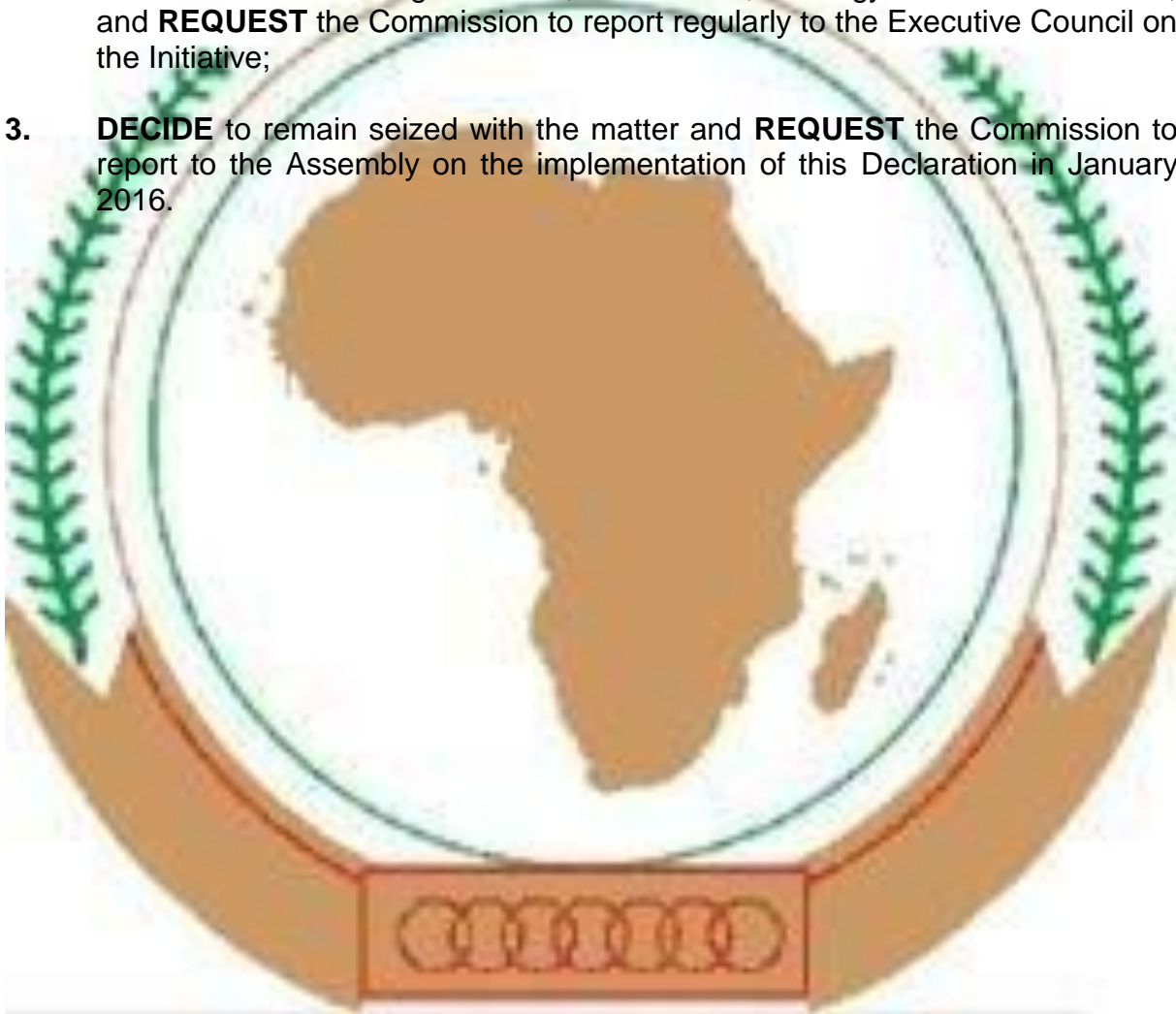
Following our discussion on the strategic issue of Migration, hereby individually and collectively reaffirm our previous commitments aimed at accelerating mobility and integration on the continent, migration in development while addressing regular and irregular migration; we commit to undertake the following actions:

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- i) Speed up the implementation of continent-wide visa free regimes including issuance of visas at ports of entry for Africans and based on the principle of reciprocity where those countries that offer free movement should receive same;
 - ii) Offer all Africans the same opportunities accorded to the citizens of countries within our respective Regional Economic Communities (RECs) by 2018;
 - iii) Expedite the operationalization of the African Passport that would, as a start facilitate free movement of persons that will be issued by Member States;
 - iv) Establish a harmonized mechanism to ensure that higher education in Africa is compatible, comparable, with acceptability and enable recognition of credentials that will facilitate transferability of knowledge, skills and expertise;
 - v) Establish a mechanism on practical modalities for the empowerment of African women and youth in education and, encourage their sustained growth in knowledge acquisition; and to include exchange programmes and self-employment in the education curriculum;
 - vi) Strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking and smuggling of migrants through the implementation of the provisions of the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing Protocols against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants by improving legislation, provision of victim support enhanced international cooperation and training;
 - vii) Assist in the stabilization of the elected government of Libya.

1. REQUEST the Commission to urgently organize a retreat of the Executive Council to consider:

- i) the issue of Mobility and Free Movement of people in Africa;

- ii) the development of a common position for Africa before the Malta conference on Migration with the European Union in November 2015;
 - iii) the development of a Protocol on Free Movement of Persons;
 - iv) in collaboration with Member States engage in the process of developing capacity to manage migration flows within the continent.
2. **ENDORSE** the Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling by the AU Commission and the outcomes of the Regional Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling held in Khartoum, Sudan from 13-16 October 2014 including the TOR, Declaration, Strategy and Plan of Action; and **REQUEST** the Commission to report regularly to the Executive Council on the Initiative;
3. **DECIDE** to remain seized with the matter and **REQUEST** the Commission to report to the Assembly on the implementation of this Declaration in January 2016.



RESOLUTION ON CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO
Doc. EX.CL/901(XXVII)

The Assembly,

Recalling the unlawful excision of the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, from the territory of Mauritius by the United Kingdom, the former colonial power, prior to the independence of Mauritius, in violation of international law and UN Resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965 which prohibit colonial powers from dismembering colonial territories prior to granting independence, as well as UN Resolutions 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966 and 2357(XXII) of 19 December 1967;

Reaffirming that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius;

Deploring the continued unlawful occupation by the United Kingdom of the Chagos Archipelago, thereby denying the Republic of Mauritius the exercise of its sovereignty over the Archipelago and making the decolonization of Africa incomplete;

Recalling in this regard, *inter alia*:

- i) Resolution Assembly/AU/Res. 1 (XVI) of January 2011 of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- ii) the Malabo Declaration adopted by the Third Africa-South America Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in February 2013;
- iii) Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XXI) of May 2013 of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- iv) the Solemn Declaration on the 50th Anniversary of the OAU/AU adopted by 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in May 2013.

Reiterating its grave concern that the United Kingdom purported to establish a 'marine protected area' ('MPA') around the Chagos Archipelago, in a manner that was inconsistent with its international legal obligations and which further impeded the exercise by the Republic of Mauritius of its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago;

Noting that the purported 'MPA' has been ruled to be illegal by the Arbitral Tribunal constituted under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in the case brought by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on 20 December 2010 against the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

Welcoming the confirmation by two members of the Arbitral Tribunal that the Republic of Mauritius is the "coastal State" in relation to the Chagos Archipelago;

Considering that the Government of the Republic of Mauritius is resolutely committed to taking all appropriate measures for the effective exercise by the Republic of Mauritius of its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, in keeping with the principles of international law:

1. **WELCOMES** the Award of the Arbitral Tribunal constituted under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which is binding on the United Kingdom, and the confirmation that the purported 'MPA' has been unlawfully established under international law;
2. **REAFFIRMS** that the United Kingdom is not to be treated as the "coastal State" in relation to the Chagos Archipelago and that any attempt by the United Kingdom to claim such a status in any international forum is to be treated as contrary to international law and opposed;
3. **REITERATES** its support to the Republic of Mauritius in its legitimate pursuit to effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia;
4. **RENEWS** its call on the United Kingdom to expeditiously end its unlawful occupation of the Chagos Archipelago with a view to enabling the Republic of Mauritius to effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Archipelago;
5. **URGES** the United Kingdom, pending the return of the Chagos Archipelago to the effective control of the Republic of Mauritius, not to take any measures or decisions that might affect the interests of the Republic of Mauritius without the latter's full prior involvement, in accordance with the Award of the Arbitral Tribunal and international law; and
6. **FULLY SUPPORTS** further efforts and actions in accordance with international law, including those of a diplomatic and legal nature at the level of the United Nations system, which may be taken by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius for the early and unconditional return of the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, to the effective control of the Republic of Mauritius.