

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
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EX.CL/DEC.415 – 453 (XIII)

DECISIONS

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DECISION ON THE AFRICAN UNION SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
DOC.EX.CL/407 (XIII)-a

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Review of the African Union (AU) Social Security System;
2. **RECOGNIZES** the urgent need to improve the social security system of the AU and **REAFFIRMS** its earlier decisions to achieve this goal;
3. **WELCOMES** the recommendations made by the Commission on the structure, mandate and financial implications of the proposed African Union (AU) Pension Fund as requested by the Executive Council during its Eleventh Ordinary Session in Accra, Ghana in July 2007;
4. **DECIDES** as follows:
 - a) Work out, as soon as possible the modalities for the establishment of the AU Pension Fund;
 - b) Terminate the current contract with ALICO as of 1 January 2009;
 - c) Withdraw the accumulated assets with ALICO over a period of five (5) years with effect from 1 January 2009.
5. **DECIDES** to retain the retirement age of AU staff at sixty (60) years.

DECISION ON THE REVISED AFRICAN UNION QUOTA SYSTEM
DOC. EX.CL/407 (XIII)-a

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) relating to the scenarios on the Revised Quota System;
2. **RECOGNIZES** the need for the Executive Council to adopt a system with regard to the eighty-two (82) additional professional positions to the July 2003 Maputo Structure;
3. **APPROVES** the Quota System elaborated under Scenario-2 as follows:
 - 3.1 The principles of unity and solidarity that guided the adoption of the quota system formula with regard to the Maputo Structure be used as a basis for the distribution of the eighty-two (82) additional positions;
 - 3.2 The Maputo quota system formulae shall be used;
 - 3.3 The Base Membership of each Member State be increased from four (4) to five (5) nationals;
 - 3.4 The remaining twenty-nine (29) posts be divided up between Member States on the basis of statutory contributions.
1. **AUTHORISES** the Commission to use this quota system in the on-going recruitment exercise;
2. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to update Member States, on a regular basis, on their quota and when new posts are created.

DECISION ON THE BUDGET SURPLUS AND TRANSFER
BETWEEN BUDGET LINES
DOC. EX.CL/407 (XIII)-a

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the request by the Commission to review the working capital amount;
2. **AUTHORIZES** as follows:
 - a) The amount of the working capital shall be increased from United States Dollars Two Million (US\$2,000,000) to United States Dollars Five Million (US\$5,000,000) with effect from the current 2008 financial year;
 - b) Part of the arrears received in 2008 shall be used to increase the working capital.
3. **REQUESTS** the Permanent Representatives Committee through its Advisory Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters, to consider the proposal to carry forward budget surplus to the next budget when information for 2007 accounts is available;
4. **REJECTS** the request of the Chairperson of the Commission to effect transfers from one budget head of the approved budget to another.

DECISION ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER STATES
DOC.PRC/Rpt. (XVI)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on contributions to the regular budget;
2. **COMMENDS** Member States that are up-to-date with the payment of their contributions;
3. **URGES** all Member States to honour their financial obligations in order to facilitate the realization of the objectives of the Union;
4. **URGES** Member States who are in default of payment of their contributions to pay up their arrears;
5. **DECIDES** that the following Member States shall remain under sanctions:
 - i) Cape Verde
 - ii) Democratic Republic of Congo
 - iii) Eritrea
 - iv) Sao Tome and Principe
 - v) Seychelles.
6. **REITERATES ITS REQUEST** to the Commission to work out a standard formula that could be applied to Member States emerging from conflict situation for consideration by the next ordinary session of the Executive Council in January 2009.

DECISION ON THE AU CALENDAR OF MEETINGS
FOR THE PERIOD MAY - DECEMBER 2008
DOC.PRC/Rpt (XVI)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on the African Union (AU) Calendar of Meetings for the period of May to December 2008;
2. **ENDORSES** the Calendar of Meetings for the period of May to December 2008;
3. **TAKES NOTE** of the postponement of the Meeting of the PRC and Experts on the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) to October/November 2008;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to refrain from scheduling meetings during the month preceding meetings of the Assembly in order to dedicate all necessary resources for the preparation and finalization of these meetings;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that religious events and holidays are taken into account when preparing the Calendar of Meetings;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to reduce the number of meetings, taking into account its capacity and resources to convene them, and to avoid the overlapping of meetings;
7. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure timely preparation and submission of proposals for inclusion in the Calendar of Meetings for the following year, which shall be presented to the PRC by November of each year, and adopted during the January session;
8. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to transmit outcome documents of AU meetings to Member States expeditiously;
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission, to include the meetings of the PRC and its sub-committees, as well as those of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) in the Calendar of Meetings;
10. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Commission to explore the modalities for using the conference facilities available at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), within the context of the cooperation between the two organizations.

**DECISION ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES REFERRED TO THE
COMMISSION BY THE 11TH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE AUDIT OF THE AFRICAN UNION**
Doc. EX.CL/408(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations made by the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on the issues referred to the Commission by the 11th Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council on the Audit of the African Union held in Arusha, Tanzania, from 6 to 7 May 2008;
2. **REQUESTS** the Commission, with regard to the matters referred to it by Council, to implement those that are purely administrative in nature, linked to the internal processes of the Commission, and do not have any financial implication;
3. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, with regard to the recommendations with structural, financial and long term implications to work out, in consultation with the PRC the modalities of implementation and to report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council scheduled for January 2009.

DECISION ON THE STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION
OF OAU/AU TREATIES
DOC. EX.CL/410(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Status of OAU/AU Treaties;
2. **COMMENDS** Member States and the Commission for the ongoing efforts aimed at encouraging other Member States to become States Parties to the OAU/AU Treaties;
3. **REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to Member States to give priority to OAU/AU Treaties and speed up the process for their signature and ratification/accession, and report periodically, as may be appropriate, on the progress made in the implementation of the Treaties;
4. **FURTHER REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to the Pan-African Parliament to carry out advocacy and sensitize Member States to expedite the process of ratification/accession to OAU/AU Treaties;
5. **AUTHORIZES** the Commission to accelerate the recruitment of a Jurist in the Arabic language within the next twelve (12) months, to align the Arabic legal instruments with the texts in the other languages in order to ensure consistency of the treaties in all working languages of the African Union;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to finalize the study on harmonization of ratification procedures and implement the relevant decisions relating to the review of OAU/AU Treaties;
7. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to convene the meeting of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General on outstanding legal matters, and to report to the Executive Council in due course.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COUNCIL (ECOSOCC)
DOC. EX.CL/412 (XIII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC);
2. **COMMENDS** the efforts of the Standing and Credentials Committees of the interim ECOSOCC and the Commission in implementing the previous Decision of the Executive Council on elections into ECOSOCC;
3. **RECOGNIZES** that these efforts have established an appropriate foundation for launching the Permanent Assembly of ECOSOCC;
4. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission in consultation with the Chairperson of the Union to set an early date for launching the Permanent Assembly of ECOSOCC and to take all necessary measures to facilitate the process;
5. **ALSO REQUESTS** all Member States to provide adequate support for this process and to the Permanent Assembly of ECOSOCC as soon as it is established;
6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Permanent Assembly of ECOSOCC, when established, to take urgent and necessary steps to ensure that elections are organized in the remaining Member States where elections have not yet taken place.

**DECISION ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA**
Doc. EX.CL/413 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;
2. **FURTHER NOTES** with concern the magnitude of the effects of global climate change and the current food crisis, and their devastating impact on already vulnerable populations;
3. **ALSO NOTES** that refugee influxes have continued to occur in various parts of the Continent, and **REITERATES ITS GRATITUDE** to the host countries for the generosity they are making in providing asylum to refugees despite their meagre resources;
4. **REQUESTS** the countries of origin to promote peace, security, stability and national reconciliation in order to create conducive conditions for the return of victims of forced displacement in safety and dignity, and continue to address the root causes of forced displacement to facilitate total elimination of the problem;
5. **CALLS UPON** the humanitarian organizations as well as donors, in view of the urgency, magnitude and complexity of the situation of forced displacement in the Continent to enhance their capacities and harmonize their activities so that the positive impact is brought to bear on the humanitarian situation;
6. **INVITES** the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in recognition of its protection expertise, to continue and reinforce its role in the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons within the United Nations coordination mechanism;
7. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the progress made by Member States' legal experts in the finalization of the draft African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa with a view to its adoption by the Heads of State and Government during the forthcoming Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons scheduled for November 2008; and **APPEALS** to Member States to consider hosting it;

8. **URGES** Member States to participate actively in the meetings of Experts and Ministers in charge of the Matter of Forced Displacement as well as the historical Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in consultation with Member States to update statistics and present to the Executive Council the latest figures on forced population displacement in the Report on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;
10. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to follow-up on the situation of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and to report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Assembly scheduled for January 2009.

DECISION ON PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT
DOC. EX.CL/414(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the African Private Sector Forum held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 23 January 2008;
2. **WELCOMES** the commitment of the private sector in working with the African Union (AU) in pursuit of its objectives as well as with the United Nations (UN) Global Compact;
3. **RECOGNISES** the critical role of the private sector in the furtherance of Africa's regional and continental integration agenda which enhances the promotion of inter and intra-African trade, investment, promotion of sustainable development, the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the integration of Africa into the global economy;
4. **ENCOURAGES** the public and private sectors to pursue good corporate governance, socially responsible business practices, transparency, and the respect of laws, rules and regulations;
5. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** the public and private sectors to work closely together in utilizing their respective core competencies to attain synergy and achieve results collectively;
6. **CALLS UPON** Member States to create an enabling environment for effective private sector development;
7. **URGES** all stakeholders to fully participate in the implementation of the recommendations;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the UN Global Compact and other relevant stakeholders to put in place an effective mechanism to follow up on the implementation of the agreed recommendations;
9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission in consultation with the Permanent Missions to the AU in Addis Ababa, to identify participants for the Private Sector Forum.

DECISION ON THE AFRICA-EUROPEAN UNION (EU) DIALOGUE
DOC. EX.CL/416 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Consolidated Report of Consultations on the Implementation of the first Action Plan of the Africa-European Union (EU) Joint Strategy;
2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations made by Member States and civil society on the way forward regarding the implementation of the Action Plan;
3. **UNDERScores** the critical coordinating role of the *chefs de file* and the need to comply with the format of the Troika meetings in accordance with the Joint Strategy and Plan of Action regarding the participation of members of the Troika at the Ministerial level and members of the enlarged Troika at Experts and Senior Officials level;
4. **CALLS UPON** Member States to express interest in the eight partnerships of the first Action Plan, allocate the necessary human, material and financial resources and propose projects for the implementation, based on criteria to be agreed upon with the Commission and within the framework of the eight partnerships, of the first Action Plan;
5. **URGES** Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other relevant stakeholders to take active part in the implementation of the first Action Plan under the coordination of the Commission;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure the effective involvement of the (RECs) in the implementation and monitoring of the processes;
7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to negotiate implementation modalities with the European Union on the basis of the outcome of the consultations.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT ON ASSESSING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE
ATTAINMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
AND THE STATUS OF THE MDGs AFRICA INITIATIVE
DOC. EX.CL/417(XIII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on Progress Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Status of Implementation of the MDGs Africa Steering and Working Group Recommendations;
2. **RECALLS** the Assembly Decision of the January 2008 Summit mandating the Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to prepare an annual report on Africa's progress towards the MDGs as well as report on the activities of the United Nations (UN) Secretary General's special initiative on the MDGs, and the MDGs Africa Steering Group;
3. **COMMENDS** progress made so far by some countries towards achieving the MDGs; and **NOTES WITH CONCERN** that the majority of countries are still not on track to meeting all the MDGs by the target date;
4. **WELCOMES and ENDORSES** the recommendations contained in the Report including those of the MDGs Africa Steering Groups, and **CALLS UPON** Member States and Partners to support their implementation;
5. **CALLS UPON** Member States and Development Partners to devote sufficient resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) in line with Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.92 (VI) on the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015);
6. **ECOURAGES** Member States to align development strategies to MDGs and support those who heed this call;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to organize an African High Level Preparatory Meeting for the forthcoming UN High Level Event on Africa's Development Needs as well as a High Level Event on the Millennium Development Goals in September 2008, to come up with an African common position on accelerating progress to attain the MDGs in Africa.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE TWELFTH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND
DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)
DOC. EX.CL/420 (XIII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Twelfth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XII);
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Accra Declaration and the Accra Accord adopted by UNCTAD XII, in May 2008;
3. **WELCOMES** the re-affirmation and strengthening of the mandate of UNCTAD as the focal point of the United Nations (UN) for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development and **URGES** that UNCTAD be endowed with adequate resources to effectively carry out its mandate;
4. **TAKES NOTE** of the directive of UNCTAD XII to the UNCTAD Secretariat to enhance, across all areas of its mandate, its work on the special problems of the African continent and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the AU Commission and UNCTAD signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April 2008 and to organize, as soon as possible, a meeting with the UNCTAD Secretariat with a view to developing and prioritizing a programme of activities that will enhance the capacity of African countries;
6. **URGES** the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to address the development opportunities and challenges of globalization in accordance with the Accra Declaration and the Accra Accord.

**DECISION ON PROGRESS REPORT ON THE VARIOUS STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIPS OF THE AFRICAN UNION WITH JAPAN (TICAD IV), CHINA,
SOUTH AMERICA, INDIA, TURKEY AND IRAN**
DOC.EX.CL.421 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Progress Report by the Commission on the Various Strategic Partnerships of the African Union (AU) with Japan (TICAD IV), China, South America, India, Turkey and Iran;
2. **REAFFIRMS** that these partnerships are important to the process of development of the Continent and that Africa needs to prepare adequately in order to benefit fully from the opportunities that these partnerships provide;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take all necessary measures to facilitate the successful conduct of the Africa-Turkey Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in August 2008, and the Second Africa-South America Summit scheduled for Venezuela, in November 2008;
4. **CALLS ON** Member States to participate effectively in both Summits in line with the 2006 Banjul Decision;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue working closely with the relevant AU organs with a view to strengthening existing partnerships and developing a strategy for the AU to ensure that Africa engages in win-win partnerships that will benefit the Continent as a whole;
6. **DECIDES** that the Commission and partners shall jointly organize all future meetings within the framework of the partnerships;
7. **CALLS ON** Member States to take necessary steps to take advantage of the outcomes of both the Africa-India Forum Summit and TICAD IV, and **REQUESTS** the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) and the Commission to elaborate with India an appropriate plan of action for the implementation of the Delhi Declaration and Framework of Cooperation as agreed in the Delhi Declaration;
8. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to take urgent steps to conclude the global review of all existing partnerships, including the criteria for such partnerships, rationalization of and participation of Member States at summits, as mandated by the July 2006 Banjul Decision, and make appropriate recommendations thereon to the Executive Council in January 2009.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE ON-GOING DOHA ROUND
NEGOTIATIONS IN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
DOC. EX.CL/423 (XIII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the on-going Doha Round Negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO);
2. **ENDORSES** the Declaration on the WTO Doha Development Agenda (DDA) Negotiations, adopted by the Joint Conference of AU Ministers of Trade and Finance in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April 2008;
3. **REAFFIRMS** its commitment to the attainment of a fair, balanced and rules-based multilateral trading system with specific commitments for special and differential treatment for developing countries;
4. **CALLS FOR** an early conclusion of the current Doha Round of Negotiations, without compromising the development dimension that should be at the centre of the outcome;
5. **URGES** the WTO Members, especially the major players in the negotiations, to show more political commitment and greater flexibility in negotiating positions that will ensure successful conclusion of the Doha Round;
6. **COMMENDS** African Negotiators for their articulation and defence of Africa's common interests in the negotiations and **REQUESTS** them to remain vigilant and united in the final phase of the Doha Round.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE
DOC. EX.CL/427 (XIII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF);
2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained in the Declaration adopted by the Second Ordinary Session of Ministers of Defence and Security regarding the operationalization of the ASF by 2010;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission, working closely with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs), as well as Member States, to implement the recommendations expeditiously with the view to operationalizing the ASF by 2010;
4. **CALLS ON** Member States and the partners to provide the necessary support with respect to technical and financial resources for the effective establishment of the ASF by 2010.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE FIRST JOINT ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE
AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE
AND THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA'S
CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DOC.EX.CL/428(XIII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the First Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
2. **WELCOMES** the organization of the First Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;
3. **ENDORSES** the conclusions of the Conference;
4. **CONGRATULATES** the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) on its 50th Anniversary, and **ACKNOWLEDGES** the important role the latter continues to play in helping to address Africa's socio-economic challenges;
5. **CALLS ON** Member States and their representatives at the United Nations Headquarters to actively participate in preparatory meetings and workshops on the implementation and review of the Monterrey Consensus;
6. **WELCOMES** the establishment of the African Climate Policy Center at UNECA with the objective of providing policy guidance to Member States;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with UNECA and other relevant partners to establish an African Cluster on Science and Technology to foster the implementation of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action;
8. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with members of the African statistical systems and in line with the established procedure, to finalize and submit the African Charter on Statistics at the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for January 2009;

9. **REITERATES ITS APPEAL AND CALLS ON** Member States to meet their own commitments to increase budget allocation to Millennium Development Goals (MDG)-sensitive sectors, in particular meeting the ten percent (10%) allocation to agriculture as agreed under the AU-New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the fifteen percent (15%) of budget allocation to health as agreed in the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDs, Tuberculosis (TB) and other related infectious diseases;
10. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with UNECA to create an observatory for regional integration in Africa, as a platform for sharing knowledge and best practices in regional integration;
11. **REQUESTS** the Commission to pursue and further strengthen its collaboration with UNECA.

**DECISION ON THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS IN
CHARGE OF ENERGY ON THE OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE
AFRICAN ENERGY COMMISSION (AFREC)
DOC. EX.CL/430 (XIII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Meeting of African Ministers in charge of Energy on the Official launching of the African Energy Commission (AFREC) held in Algiers, Algeria from 15 to 17 February 2008 and the recommendations contained therein;
2. **ENDORSES** the Algiers Declaration on the official launching of AFREC;
3. **URGES** Member States, that have not yet done so, to speed up the signing and ratification of the Convention of the African Energy Commission;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the African Development Bank and other relevant partners to mobilize the necessary resources and political support for the activities of AFREC;
5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to submit periodic reports on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
AFRICAN MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT (CAMT)
DOC. EX.CL/432 (XIII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the First Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport (CAMT) held in Algiers, Algeria from 21 to 25 April 2008;
2. **ENDORSES** the operationalization of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport (CAMT) including its Rules of Procedure;
3. **ALSO ENDORSES** the Guidelines on Negotiation of Air Service Agreements between the African Union (AU) Member States and the European Commission (EC) and/or European Union (EU) Member States;
4. **FURTHER ENDORSES** the Declaration and updated Plans of Action adopted by the Ministers in Algiers for the development and strengthening of transport infrastructure and services in Africa;
5. **URGES** Member States to ensure effective application of the Continental Guidelines in their negotiations of air service agreements with the EC and/or EU Member States as well as consult the AU Commission whenever necessary in order to protect Africa's collective interests in the aviation industry;
6. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to disseminate the Guidelines on Negotiation of Air Service Agreements to all Member States and other key stakeholders including the European Commission as well as facilitate their application;
7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the AU Commission, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), specialised institutions, Member States and other stakeholders to take all necessary measures to speed up the implementation of the Plans of Action with a view to developing a strong, integrated and viable transport sector in the Continent;
8. **APPEALS** to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union, the World Bank and other relevant development partners to support the implementation of the Plans of Action of the African Union on transport development;
9. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to submit periodic reports on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE LABOUR
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION (LSAC)
DOC. EX.CL/433(XIII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Sixth Ordinary Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission (LSAC), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 21 to 25 April 2008;
2. **CALLS ON** Member States to submit their reports on the implementation of the recommendations of LSAC to the AU Commission before the end of November 2008;
3. **ALSO CALLS ON** Member States to implement the Policy Framework on Migration in Africa and the Africa-European Union (EU) Declaration on Migration and Development, and ensure that the rights and dignity of migrant workers are respected by receiving Countries;
4. **URGES** Member States to participate in the Experts Workshop on the Informal Economy in Africa and to assist in the development of related Continental strategies and programmes;
5. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission in collaboration with Member States and other partners to prepare a comprehensive analytical report, in 2009, on the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation;
6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** that reflection should continue on the rethinking of the working methods of LSAC and that this issue should be raised during the first session of the AU Ministers in charge of Social Development Conference to be held in October 2008;
7. **ENDORSES** all the proposed candidatures by LSAC for the International Labour Organization Governing Body (ILO-GB) as listed in the Report including the following:
 - i) The candidature of Algeria for the Government Vice-Chair for the 97th Session of the International Labour Commission (ILC) and;
 - ii) The candidature of Mr. Juan Somavia, for a third term, as Director General of ILO;
8. **ALSO ENDORSES** the LSAC Resolution on Palestinian Workers and Declaration on the Food Crisis in Africa.

**DECISION ON THE SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
AFRICAN MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF COMMUNICATION AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)
DOC. EX.CL/434 (XIII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Second Session of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies (ICT) held in Cairo, Egypt from 11 to 14 May 2008;
2. **ENDORSES** the Reference Framework for the Harmonization of Telecommunications/ICT Policies and Regulations in Africa;
3. **ALSO ENDORSES** the Strategic Orientation and Action Plan for the Development of Postal Services in Africa;
4. **FURTHER ENDORSES** the eleven (11) flagship projects of the African Regional Action Plan on Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE);
5. **URGES** Member States to ensure effective use of the Reference Framework for the Harmonization of Telecommunications/ICT Policies and Regulations and, the implementation of the Strategic Orientation and Action Plan for the Development of Postal Services in Africa;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to disseminate the Reference Framework for the Harmonization of Telecommunications/ICT Policies and Regulations, and the Strategic Orientation and Action Plan for the Development of Postal Services in Africa to all Member States and other key stakeholders as well as facilitate their application;
7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), specialised institutions, Member States and other stakeholders to take the necessary measures to speed up the implementation of the Reference Framework for Telecommunication and ICT, the Strategies and Action Plans for the development of a Postal Sector in Africa, and the ARAPKE with a view to developing a strong, integrated and viable Communications sector in the Continent;
8. **APPEALS** to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Bank, the European Union (EU), and relevant development partners to support the implementation of the Reference Framework for Telecommunication and ICT Policies and Regulations in Africa, the Strategies and Action Plans for the Development of the Postal sector in Africa and the African Regional Action plan on Knowledge Economy and its flagship projects;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit an official proposal to the African Development Bank seeking support to establish a Communication and Information Technologies Fund before 2010 to foster the implementation of ARAPKE;
10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to submit periodic reports on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE AFRICAN
UNION CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF HEALTH
DOC. EX.CL/435(XIII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Special Session of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Health held in Geneva, Switzerland on 17 May 2008;
2. **EMPHASISES** that the attainment of the Health MDGs will require renewed commitment to health and development with particular focus on Primary Health Care; strengthening of health systems, significant increases in domestic and external investment, national ownership and improved effectiveness of international cooperation;
3. **ENDORSES** the adoption of an Africa Healthy Lifestyles Day, proposed to be *“the Last Friday of February each Year”*;
4. **URGES** Member States to actively pursue the implementation of the Africa Health Strategy, in line with their respective national and regional health plans and strategies;
5. **ALSO URGES** Member States to submit updated information in order to accelerate the implementation of the Plan of Action of the AU Decade of African Traditional Medicine (2001-2010);
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit the report on the mid-term review on the occasion of Africa Traditional Medicine Day, 31st August 2008;
7. **FURTHER URGES** Member States to implement the outcomes of the April 2008 AU Continental Workshop to Harmonise, Develop and Institutionalise the Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality Reviews, and accelerate the implementation of MDG 4 and 5 in the framework of previous strategies to promote maternal, newborn and child health;
8. **ENDORSES** the nomination of Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, Minister of Health of South Africa, to act as AU Goodwill Ambassador and Champion for *“Africa’s Movement to Improve Maternal Health and Promote Child Survival and Development beyond 2015”* in collaboration with other Health Ministers”;

9. **URGES** Member States to double efforts at national, regional and continental levels to implement the May 2006 Abuja Commitments Towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Services, and submit national reports for the 5-Year Review due in 2010 in time;
10. **CALLS UPON** Member States to actively implement the recommendations of the Taskforce on Training and Education of the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA) and **ALSO CALLS UPON** Ministers of Health of AU Member States to participate actively in the Sixth International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza due to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 24 to 26 October 2008; and to take part in the deliberations of the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework convention on Tobacco control to be held in Durban, South Africa, in November 2008;
11. **ALSO CALLS UPON** Regional and International Development Partners to sustain efforts to support Member States in the implementation of the above commitments, including resource mobilization;
12. **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to coordinate and harmonise follow up actions of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan, including the preparation of a concrete plan for implementation, in close collaboration with countries, Regional Economic Communities, the World Health Organization (WHO), Intellectual Property Organizations and other relevant partners;
13. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this Decision and report to the next Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Health (April 2009).

**DECISION ON THE REPORT AND DECLARATION OF THE THIRD
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF INTEGRATION
DOC. EX.CL/436(XIII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and the Declaration of the Third Conference of African Ministers in charge of Integration held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 22 to 23 May 2008;
2. **ENDORSES** the Declaration and the recommendations;
3. **URGES** the Member States that have not done so, to establish structures dealing with integration issues;
4. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to consider allowing a gradual transfer of part of their sovereignty to the regional and continental institutions along the principle of subsidiarity for the realization of integration programmes;
5. **CALLS ON** Member States to exempt all government officials and all African citizens who are holders of diplomatic passports from visas;
6. **ALSO CALLS ON** Member States of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that have not yet done so, to fast-track the implementation of the legal instruments adopted on free movement on the one hand, and on the other, those that have already implemented their free movement programme, to take all necessary measures in order to remove any impediment to the success of this programme;
7. **FURTHER CALLS ON** Member States of the RECs to accelerate the establishment, where they do not exist, of free trade areas (FTA);
8. **CALLS ON** Member States to allocate more resources for regional infrastructure development, and **REQUESTS** the Commission to conduct the necessary studies to this effect;
9. **CALLS ON** Member States, the Commission as well as the development partners to take all necessary measures to initiate adequate programmes likely to provide lasting solutions to difficulties facing countries that have experienced war to reduce the development disparity among states;
10. **RECOMMENDS** that the Assembly devotes exclusively, when necessary, one of its sessions exclusively to issues pertaining to integration and development;

- 11. CALLS** for the holding of periodic meetings between the Chairpersons of the RECs and of the Chairperson of the Union, in consultation with the Commission in order to strengthen coordination and follow-up;
- 12. REQUESTS** the Commission to present on a regular basis a report to the Assembly, at its July sessions, on the status of integration in Africa.

DECISION ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION
DOC. EX.CL/ 438(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Afro-Arab Cooperation;
2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the important role to be played by the Private Sectors and the Civil Societies of the two regions in revitalizing and further consolidating Afro-Arab Cooperation;
3. **COMMENDS** the Commission of the African Union (AU) and the Secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS) for the timely initiative taken in developing a mechanism to ensure full involvement of non-governmental actors in planning, implementation and monitoring of Afro-Arab programs and projects;
4. **RECALLS** the decision of the 20th Arab Summit held in Damascus, Syria from 29 to 30 March 2008, welcoming the establishment of the Afro-Arab Development Forum;
5. **DECIDES** on the establishment of the Afro-Arab Development Forum where African and Arab Professional Associations, Researchers, Civil Societies, Private Sectors, Prominent individuals, will meet and discuss issues of common concern to the two regions and **ENDORSES** the Framework and Modalities for the establishment of the Forum adopted by the 3rd AU/LAS Inter-secretariat Consultative Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in December 2007;
6. **CALLS UPON** the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to commence preparation for the inaugural session of the Forum to be held during the 4th quarter of 2008;
7. **WELCOMES** the reaffirmation by the Great Jamahiriya of its offer to host the 13th Meeting of the Standing Committee of Afro-Arab Cooperation and **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to consult with the Secretary General of the League of Arab States on the necessary arrangements for the holding of the said Session;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the LAS Secretariat and the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC), through its Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation, to prepare the necessary documentation pertaining to Afro-Arab Cooperation, including a draft joint strategy and action plan addressing areas of mutual interest including Peace and Security, Economic Cooperation and Investment;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to convene a meeting of the twelve (12) African countries with a view to elaborating a common position before the meeting of the Standing Committee;
10. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission and the LAS Secretariat to make the necessary preparations for the convening of the Afro-Arab Summit;
11. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to report to the PRC on proposed institutional cooperation mechanisms between the AU and LAS, as well as the activities of joint Afro-Arab institutions including proposals to further improve their work;
12. **UNDERSCORES** the need for regular consultations between African and Arab Ambassadors in selected Capitals and Cities, in particular in Addis Ababa, Cairo, Brussels, Geneva, New York and Washington with a view to coordinating actions and, where possible, harmonizing positions on global and regional issues of common concern;
13. **ENDORSES** the establishment of Afro-Arab Committees of Ambassadors in identified and other capitals and cities where the African Union and the League of Arab States have representations;
14. **CALLS UPON** Heads of all Permanent Delegations and Diplomatic Missions of the African Union and the League of Arab States to work hand in hand for the establishment and proper functioning of the Committees.

**DECISION ON THE SINGLE LEGAL INSTRUMENT ON THE MERGER
OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND THE
COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE AFRICAN UNION**
DOC. EX.CL/431(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Conference of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14 to 18 April 2008;
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Draft Single Legal Instrument on the Merger of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Court of Justice of the African Union;
3. **RECOMMENDS** the Draft Single Legal Instrument on the Merger of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Court of justice of the African Union to the Assembly for consideration and adoption.

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
DOC. EX.CL/442 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East;
2. **REITERATES** its full support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli Occupation under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), their sole and legitimate representative, to achieve their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, return to their homeland and to their property, and to live in peace and stability in an Independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital, in accordance with the principles of international law, all pertinent United Nations (UN) Resolutions, particularly Resolution 194, which calls for the return of refugees to their homeland and properties, and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the OAU/AU;
3. **REAFFIRMS** its support for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the principles of international law and all relevant resolutions; and **REQUESTS** the UN Security Council to shoulder its major responsibilities under its Charter in maintaining International peace and security in order to achieve a comprehensive just, and lasting peace;
4. **ALSO REAFFIRMS** its support for the Arab Peace Initiative that was adopted during the Arab League Summit - Beirut 2002; and **CALLS UPON** Israel to accept and to take advantage of this historical opportunity, which aims at ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and establish peace in the region;
5. **COMMENDS** the relentless efforts of the Palestinian leadership particularly those of H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and President of the Palestinian National Authority, for his commitment to achieving peace;
6. **REAFFIRMS** its support for the Road Map of the Quartet and the resolution of the OAU/AU aimed at ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories that began on 4th June 1967, **COMMENDS** the Yemeni Initiative for reconciliation between the different Palestinian factions, all the efforts exerted by all other friendly and brotherly countries, especially the relentless and sincere efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as well as the efforts of H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas, Chairman of the Executive Committee of PLO and President of

PNA, to resolve their differences and close ranks to confront the challenges facing the Palestinian people to achieve their national legitimate goals, which were approved by the UN resolutions related to the right of self-determination that will enable the Palestinian people to establish their own independent and sovereign Palestinian State with Al-quds Al-sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital;

7. **EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT** for the resumption of the negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli side in order to reach a peaceful, comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East;
8. **FURTHER EXPRESSES** its appreciation for the relentless efforts exerted by the Arab Republic of Egypt which resulted in the achievement of a period calm in the Gaza Strip; and **CALLS UPON** Israel to cooperate in good faith in its implementation and lift the blockade imposed on the Strip;
9. **CONDEMNS** the Israeli government's decision to build 820 new settlement units in Jabal Abu Ghneim, Shuafat and Beit Hanina of the 1967 territories, which is considered as a serious threat to the entire peace process;
10. **URGES** the Israeli government to stop all unilateral measures aimed at and designed to create a new reality in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, particularly the continuous building of illegal settlements as a new geopolitical reality; and further **URGES** the Israeli government to immediately cease all settlement activities in the Palestinian Occupied Territories and to remove the road blocks and demolish the Apartheid Separation Wall that is built in the occupied territories, as well as to comply with the decision of the International Court of Justice and U.N. General Assembly Resolution in this regard;
11. **CONDEMNS** Israel for its continuing work on excavations around and under the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the deliberate destruction of places of archaeological and heritage in the city of Al-quds (Jerusalem), in addition to doing great damage to the religious places and for its religious, historical and civilization values;
12. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** over the worsening humanitarian situation and increasing sanitary and economic deterioration in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, particularly in the Gaza strip, due to the constant siege, ongoing daily Israeli aggressions, restrictions on the movement of persons and constant closures and blockades of the Palestinian commercial crossing points with neighboring countries, which has led to dramatic increase in the unemployment rate and poverty levels to Palestinian Society, and therefore negatively affecting security and stability in the region;

- 13. STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the Israeli occupying authority and denounces the repressive practices and policies, particularly the continuous invasions, daily assassinations, and brutal assaults committed against the defenseless Palestinian civilians in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) its capital, and **URGES** the Israeli government to immediately put an end to activities which constitute a flagrant violation of International law and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;
- 14. FURTHER STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the brutal Israeli practices and all kinds of violence against the defenceless innocent Palestinian civilians that claimed hundreds of lives during these past two (2) months, specifically the bloodbath massacre in the Gaza Strip;
- 15. EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** regarding the deterioration of the living health conditions of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails; **DENOUNCES AND CONDEMNS** all Israeli inhuman practices against prisoners and detainees; **DEMANDS** that the International Community, and in particular all international human rights bodies move effectively to uphold the cause of prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails and to work towards their release, and to compel Israel to abide by the laws and relevant international treaties; **AND STRESSES** that achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region will not be achieved without the release of all prisoners and detainees from the Israeli jails;
- 16. CALLS UPON** the Government of Israel to put an end to its occupation of all Arab lands occupied since 1967, including the Syrian and Lebanese territories, and to abide by the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, the Madrid Declaration, the Land for peace Principle, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Road Map, in order to reach a just, comprehensive, lasting and peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli Conflict;
- 17. TAKES NOTE** of the efforts deployed by the Committee of Ten (10) Member States on Palestine established by the July 2002 Decision AHG/Dec. 182 (XXXVIII), and **URGES** continued efforts by the African Union in the quest for a just, comprehensive, lasting and peaceful solution to the conflict in Palestine and the Middle East, and warmly **WELCOMES** the proposal by the current Chair of the African Union to visit Ramallah in order to experience the reality of the situation prevailing in the occupied territories;
- 18. COMMENDS** the recent developments in Lebanon which have led to the agreement on the election of the President of the Republic and the formation of a government, and **INVITES** all the Lebanese parties to work towards the consolidation of this major gain for the restoration of peace and national reconciliation.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD
DOC. EX.CL/447(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Tenth and Eleventh Sessions of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
2. **ADOPTS** the theme of the Day of the African Child for 2009: «*Africa Fit for Children: Call for Accelerated Action Towards their Survival*»;
3. **EXPRESSES GRATITUDE** to the Members of the Committee whose term of office comes to an end in July 2008 for their dedicated and loyal service to the Committee;
4. **COMMENDS** Members of the Committee for the adoption of guidelines related to each of the priority areas to be discussed in all State Party Reports, and for the organization of the pre-session for the consideration of State Party Reports;
5. **URGES** Member States that have not yet ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to speed up this process;
6. **ALSO URGES** Member States that have not yet submitted their reports to comply with the recommendations of the Committee for the submission of reports;
7. **REQUESTS** Members of the Committee to make the necessary preparations to organize the second Children's Champion Award;
8. **CALLS UPON** the Members of the Committee, in the execution of their programme, to prioritise the implementation of the Call for Accelerated Action on the Implementation of the Plan of Action Towards «Africa Fit for Children»;
9. **REQUESTS** the Committee to collaborate with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant institutions in carrying out its mandate;
10. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Committee to spare no effort in pursuing its mandate of promotion of the rights of the child and implementation of the provisions in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

11. FINALLY REQUESTS the Commission to clarify and review the status of the Committee and provide it with an autonomous budget to enable it to fulfill its mission of coordinating and implementation of the Charter on the Continent.

DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
ADVISORY BOARD ON CORRUPTION WITHIN THE
AFRICAN UNION
DOC. EX.CL/448 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the election of Members of the Advisory Board on Corruption within the African Union;
2. **DECIDES** to defer the elections of the Members of the Board to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council scheduled for January 2009;
3. **CALLS ON** Member States to submit their candidatures in a timely manner.

DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE
AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS
AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD
DOC. EX.CL/450 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the election for the vacant posts for the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
2. **ELECTS** the following members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child:
 - (i) Mrs. Agnès KABORE (Burkina Faso)
 - (ii) Mr. Andrianirainy RASAMOELY (Madagascar)
 - (iii) Mrs. Maryam UWAIS (Nigeria)
 - (iv) Mr. Cyprien Adébayo YANCLO (Benin)
3. **RECOMMENDS** the elected Members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to the Assembly for appointment.

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRUST FUND
FOR AFRICAN WOMEN
DOC. EX.CL/425(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Continental Conference on the Economic Empowerment of Women within the context of integration held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 17 to 19 March 2008;
2. **ENDORSES** the recommendation of the Report of the Continental Conference on the Economic Empowerment of Women on the establishment of the Trust Fund for African Women;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to undertake a feasibility study on a Trust Fund for African Women and **CALLS ON** AfDB to provide leadership in this regard;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report to the Assembly in January 2009, on progress achieved in the effective establishment of the Fund which should be launched by the end of July 2009.

**DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS OF THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION
DOC. EX.CL/409(XIII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Implementation of previous decisions of the Policy organs of the Union;
2. **REQUESTS** the Commission as follows:
 - i) Carry out an exhaustive inventory of the decisions so far adopted but have not been implemented;
 - ii) Establish an order of priority in the implementation of the decisions referred to in para. (i) above, and mobilize additional resources for their implementation;
 - iii) Calculate and provide the financial implications of the implementation of the decisions referred to in para. (i) above.
3. **REITERATES ITS REQUEST** to the Commission to provide cost implication for future decisions to be adopted by the policy organs of the Union;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to fast-track the study on the establishment of the Pan-African Radio and Television Station;
5. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to adopt decisions on the basis of the widest possible consensus.

DECISION ON WOMEN'S PRE-SUMMIT

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the conclusions and recommendations of the Women's Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) and Member States which took place in Sharm El-Sheikh from 21 to 22 June 2008;
2. **FURTHER NOTES** the recommendations from the Pre-Summit meeting on Women's Economic Empowerment held on 23 June 2008, organized in collaboration with the Commission;
3. **ACKNOWLEDGES WITH SATISFACTION** the holding the 9th Congress of the Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO) in Johannesburg, South Africa from 17 to 18 February 2008 with the support of the Commission;
4. **RECOMMENDS** the holding of a second Heads of State and Government debate on gender equality within the context of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA);
5. **TAKES NOTE** of the International Colloquium on Women in Peace and Security, under the leadership of H. E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, to be held in March 2009;
6. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to participate in the International Colloquium;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to lend its support to the organization of this colloquium.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT
DOC. EX.CL/423(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and the recommendations contained therein;
2. **AUTHORIZES** PAP to establish and operationalize a trust fund to provide supplementary funds to support its activities;
3. **DECIDES** to establish a joint Forum comprising the Chairperson of the Commission and the Heads of all the other organs of the Union in order to ensure that they synergise their programmes and activities.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND
PEOPLES' RIGHTS FOR THE YEAR 2007**
DOC.EX.CL/445 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) for the year 2007;
2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** with the progress made by AfCHPR in the operationalization of its activities;
3. **AUTHORISES** AfCHPR to submit in 2009 a new structure of the Registry and new proposals concerning the status of the Judges;
4. **URGES** Member States which have not yet done so to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, and to **ADHERE** to the declaration recognizing the jurisdiction of the Court to receive petitions from individuals and non-governmental organizations;
5. **REQUESTS** the United Republic of Tanzania, hosting the Headquarters of the AfCHPR, in collaboration with the Commission, to take all the necessary steps to avail the AfCHPR, as soon as possible, with an operational structure, in conformity with the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement.

**DECISION ON THE HOSTING OF THE MID-YEAR SESSIONS OF
THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION
DOC. EX.CL/426 (XIII) Add.1**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal made by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to host the mid-year sessions of the Assembly of the African Union;
2. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly that the status quo be maintained.

**DECISION ON THE HOSTING OF THE ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY
OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN JULY 2010 IN KAMPALA, UGANDA**
DOC. EX.CL/426 (XII) Add. 2

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the offer made by the Republic of Uganda to host the ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) in July 2010 in Kampala, Uganda;
2. **DECIDES** to refer the proposal to the Assembly for consideration.

DECISION ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission, the briefing by the Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) on the political developments in Zimbabwe;
2. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** at the prevailing situation and the implications for political stability as well as its humanitarian consequences;
3. **DEPLORES** the violence and the loss of life that has occurred in Zimbabwe that preceded the presidential run off elections;
4. **WELCOMES** the visit undertaken by the Chairperson of the Commission, Mr Jean Ping, to Harare and **SUPPORTS** the efforts deployed by SADC through President Mbeki, Regional Mediator and other leaders of the Region in assisting the parties in Zimbabwe to find a peaceful and lasting solution;
5. **WELCOMES** the deployment of observers from SADC, the African Union (AU), and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP);
6. **CALLS ON** all parties to exercise restraint, refrain from any acts of violence and prevail on their supporters to put an immediate end to the use of violence and intimidation;
7. **URGES** the parties to commit themselves to a peaceful solution to the current situation through dialogue;
8. **STRESSES** that all parties work together towards finding a lasting solution.

DECISION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES FOR POSTS
WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM
DOC. EX.CL/449(XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures;
2. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained therein;
3. **DECIDES** to endorse the following candidatures:
 - (i) The Arab Republic of Egypt for one of the two (2) seats reserved for Africa in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for the 2008-2010 period;
 - (ii) The Republic of Burkina Faso for one of the two (2) seats reserved for Africa in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for the 2008-2010 period;
 - (iii) Republic of Uganda for a Non-Permanent Seat on the UN Security Council for 2009-2010;
 - (iv) Ambassador Abdul Samad Minty of South Africa, for the post of Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in the event that the incumbent Director General, Mr. Mohamed El Baradei of Egypt decides not to avail himself for the next term;
 - (v) Dr. Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf of Somalia, as Judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), at elections which will take place during the session of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council scheduled to be held in October 2008;
 - (vi) Egypt and Tunisia, for re-election to the Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council of the Universal Postal Union (UPU);
 - (vii) Burkina Faso and Libya, for seats on the Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council of the Universal Postal Union (UPU);
 - (viii) Mr. Gilbert Houngbo of Togo, for the post of President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);

- (ix) Mr. Fatih Bouayad-Agha of Algeria, for a new term at the International Public Service Commission for the 2009-2010 period, at elections to be held during the 63rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly;
- (x) Chief Michael Kaase Aondoakaa SAN, of Nigeria, for the Governing Council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), at the elections of UNIDROIT Governing Board to be held in Rome, Italy;
- (xi) Mr. Pollar Awich of Uganda, for a seat on the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, at elections to be held in New York in November 2008;
- (xii) Ambassador Ahmed Amin Fathalla of Egypt, to the United Nations Human Rights Committee, at elections to be held in September 2008.

4. DECIDES that the candidatures of Nigeria and Sierra Leone for non-permanent seats on the United Nations (UN) Security Council will be considered at subsequent sessions of the Ministerial Committee prior to the elections;

5. ALSO DECIDES to endorse the following candidatures:

- (i) Mr. Rajoomer Lallah of Mauritius, for re-election for membership of the United Nations Committee on Human Rights for the period 2009-2010, during elections due to be held in New York in September 2008;
- (ii) Mr. El Hadji Lamine Moctar Bousso of Senegal, for membership of the United Nations Committee on Human Rights for the period 2009-2010, during elections to be held in New York in September 2008;
- (iii) Mr. Bouzid Lashari of Algeria, for membership of the United Nations Committee on Human Rights for the period 2009-2010, during elections taking place in New York in September 2008;
- (iv) Prof. Amsatou Sow Sidibe of Senegal, for membership of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, during elections scheduled for New York on 30 July 2008;
- (v) Judge Sanji Monageng of the Republic of Botswana, to the position of Judge at the International Criminal Court (ICC) during elections scheduled for January 2009.

