

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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UNIÃO AFRICANA**

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**ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
Thirty-Four Ordinary Session
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Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XXXIV)
Assembly/AU/Res.1(XXXIV)
Assembly/AU/Motion1(XXXIV)
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DECISIONS, DECLARATION, RESOLUTION AND MOTION



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DECISION ON THE LAUNCH OF THE THEME OF THE YEAR FOR 2021

The Assembly,

1. **WELCOMES WITH APPRECIATION** the launch of the theme of the year for 2021 as follows: *'Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want'*.
2. **TAKES NOTE** that the theme for 2021 aims at promoting the arts, culture and heritage sector and building a resilient Africa which provides primary health care and social services to all in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic using the creative economy as a tool.
3. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the need to make use of the golden opportunity presented by the year of arts, culture and heritage to move the sector to another level by paying more and concerted attention and efforts to this critical sector which has a great potential to contribute enormously to the continent's economy.
4. **URGES** AU Member States that have not done so to fast track the process of ratification of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance and the Statute of the African Audio-Visual and Cinema Commission to ensure their entry into force and implementation. **REQUESTS** the Government of Kenya to work closely with the AU Commission in operationalizing the Temporary Secretariat of the African Audio-Visual and Cinema Commission (AACC) and report on progress to the 40th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.
5. **CALLS UPON** all AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AU Organs, Pan-African Cultural Institutions and development partners to work in collaboration with the African Union Commission in implementing the roadmap of the Concept Note on the theme of the year.
6. **REQUESTS** all AU Member States, UNESCO and Pan-African Cultural Institutions to support the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the AUC in the full realization of the Great Museum of Africa (GMA), a Flagship Project of the AU Agenda 2063 and **INVITES** them to participate in the continental launch of the Great Museum of Africa to be held in 2021 as part of the year of arts, culture and heritage.
7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** all Member States and the AU Commission to support and participate in the launching of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), the Giza Museum of Cairo.
8. **CALLS UPON** all AU Member States to support and participate in the 2nd Luanda Biennale on a Culture for Peace to be held in Luanda, Angola in 2021, an initiative which is inscribed in the roadmap of the concept note of the AU theme

of the year for 2021, to be organized by the Republic of Angola in collaboration with UNESCO and the AUC.

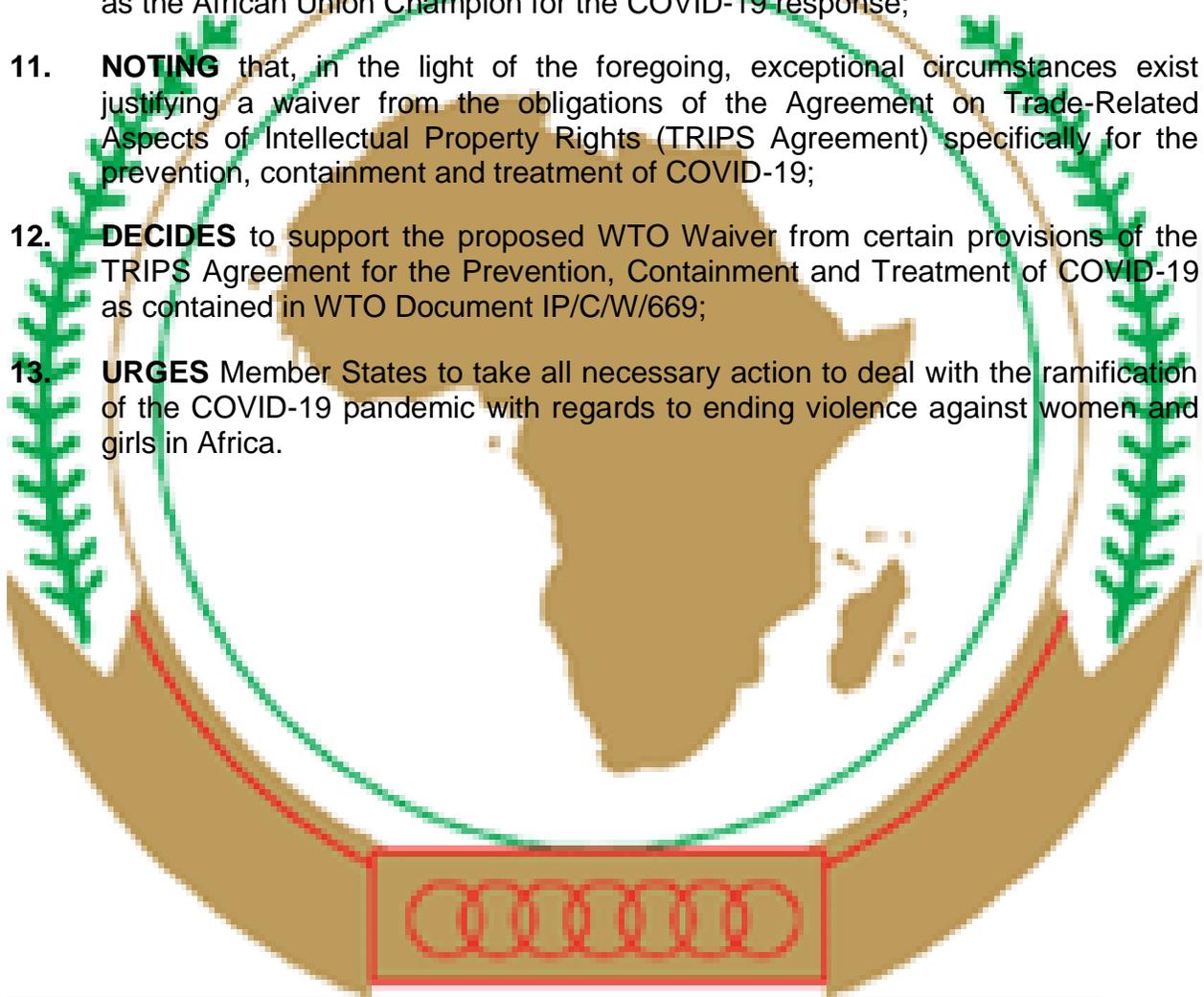
9. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to work with Member States to take strong action towards protecting, preserving and promoting heritage sites in Africa and **FURTHER REQUESTS** Member States to provide support to the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) to carry out its programmes in the conservation and protection of the African rich natural and cultural heritage.
10. **REQUESTS** the African Union Commission to include the project on the liberation routes of Southern Africa in the roadmap of the concept note on the theme of the year for 2021 and work with the United Republic of Tanzania for its implementation.
11. **URGES** all Member States to ratify the Statute of the Pan African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO) and ratify the Protocol on Intellectual Property Rights in Africa when it is duly completed.
12. **URGES** the African Union Commission to implement the Assembly Decision on making Kiswahili a working language of the Union and to promote Kiswahili as a language of wider communication in Africa.
13. **CALLS UPON** all Member States, UNESCO and Pan African Cultural institutions to support Africa and governments in the organizations of festivals, establishments of galleries and other initiatives aimed at profiling and promoting arts, culture and heritage on the continent and **INVITES** all Member States and RECs to support, and participate in the international arts and culture festival which the Republic of Chad organizes annually.
14. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** all Member States to implement Assembly Decision related to the provision of 1% of the budget to arts, culture and heritage and the development of the creative economy.
15. **REQUESTS** the African Union Commission to link the theme of the year with deliverables on social economic development and income generation. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the AUC to include the ***African Women Decade on Economic and Financial Inclusion*** as a theme in the road map of the concept note on the theme of the year such that vulnerable groups women in particular are given urgent attention. **RECOGNIZES** the date of 23 April to be observed annually as the Day of the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale;
16. **CALLS** the African Union Commission, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to inventory the African cultural properties in the museums of foreign states outside of the continent, in order to return in to African Countries of origin.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE AFRICAN UNION
RESPONSE ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN AFRICA**
Doc. Assembly/AU/5(XXXIV)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Executive Council on the Report on COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa and the recommendations therein;
2. **EXPRESSES** deep appreciation to H.E. Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, Chairperson of the African Union, and the members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union: H.E. Félix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, H.E. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, and H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of the Republic of Mali, for providing exemplary, timely, focused and effective leadership to Africa's response to COVID-19;
3. **COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Members of the AU Commission and Staff of the African Union for the support they have provided to the Bureau of the Assembly and for implementing the decisions of the AU Policy Organs on Africa's coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
4. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the notable achievements of the African Union in response to the pandemic, including the implementation of the Africa Joint Continental Strategy for Covid-19, the establishment of the African Union Covid-19 Response Fund, the formation of an African Medicines Supplies Platform; the Partnership to Accelerate Covid-19 Testing, the appointment of African Union Special Envoys for Covid-19 Response, and the invaluable work of the newly established African Vaccines Acquisition Task Team;
5. **COMMENDS** the efforts of African Heads of State and Government whose timely actions led to a major boost in the prevention and control of the Covid-19 pandemic in Africa;
6. **WELCOMES** the contributions by AU Member States, Partners and other Organisations which contributed to the AU response to the Covid-19 pandemic and **CALLS UPON** other Member States and Partners to provide support;
7. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the efforts of the Ministers responsible for Health, Finance and Transport, and all other stakeholders in their roles to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic;
8. **EXPRESSES SUPPORT** on the need for equitable and timely, access to the COVID-19 vaccine to all AU Member States which will require the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT) to ensure at least 60% of the Continent's population is vaccinated;

9. **EMPHASISES** the need for universal, equitable and timely access to affordable medical products amongst others, diagnostic kits, vaccines, personal protective equipment and ventilators for a rapid and effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
10. Acknowledging the urgent need for continued AU's engagement with partners to mobilise support for Africa's efforts in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic, **FURTHER DECIDES**, as proposed by the Chairperson of the Union, H.E. President Felix Tshisekedi, to appoint H.E. President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa as the African Union Champion for the COVID-19 response;
11. **NOTING** that, in the light of the foregoing, exceptional circumstances exist justifying a waiver from the obligations of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) specifically for the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19;
12. **DECIDES** to support the proposed WTO Waiver from certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for the Prevention, Containment and Treatment of COVID-19 as contained in WTO Document IP/C/W/669;
13. **URGES** Member States to take all necessary action to deal with the ramification of the COVID-19 pandemic with regards to ending violence against women and girls in Africa.



DECISION ON THE INSTITUTIONAL REFORM OF THE AU
Doc. Assembly/AU/2(XXXIV)

The Assembly,

1. **WELCOMES** the Progress Report on AU Institutional Reform by President Paul Kagame, and **COMMENDS** him on his excellent leadership;
2. **WELCOMES** the progress achieved in the implementation of the AU Institutional Reform Process;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to finalise the remaining reform priorities for consideration by Policy Organs in January/February 2022;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, to ensure thorough consultation with all relevant stakeholders and the use of independent African experts in the preparation of all reform proposals in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC);
5. **REITERATES** the need for urgent and immediate steps to be taken to enforce compliance and accountability, and for immediate implementation of the recommendations of the independent forensic audit including disciplinary measures against relevant staff;



**DECISION ON ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF
THE CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE AU COMMISSION**

Doc. Assembly/AU/3(XXXIV) & Doc. Assembly/AU/4(XXXIV)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Reports of the Commission on the Election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission respectively;
2. **ELECTS** the following persons for a term of four (4) years as follows:

No.	NAME	GENDER	COUNTRY	REGION	PORTFOLIO
1	Moussa Faki Mahamat	M	Chad	Central Africa	Chairperson
2	Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa	F	Rwanda	Eastern Africa	Deputy Chairperson

3. **CONGRATULATES** the newly elected Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, wishes them the very best in carrying out their mandate, and **ASSURES** them of the unwavering support of the Assembly;
4. **DECIDES** to delegate its powers to appoint Commissioners to the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY – NEW
PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT (AUDA-NEPAD) HEADS OF
STATE AND GOVERNMENT ORIENTATION COMMITTEE (HSGOC)**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Assembly/AU/Dec.763(XXXIII), which endorsed the extension of the term of Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AUDA-NEPAD) until the completion of the process of the appointment of the CEO for AUDA-NEPAD;
2. **NOTES** that the process for the recruitment is on-going **AND DECIDES** to extend the term of Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki until the appointment of the new CEO; further congratulates Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, the current Chief Executive Officer (CEO). For his recognized achievement in particular the transformation of NEPAD to AUDA/NEPAD;
3. **REQUESTS** the AUDA-NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) to submit its recommendations on the said recruitment **AND EXCEPTIONALLY DELEGATES** the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, to endorse provisionally the CEO of AUDA-NEPAD at its 3rd Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in July 2021 and to submit the same for final decision by the Assembly in February 2022 in accordance with Article 10 of AUDA / NEPAD Statute.



**DECISION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SECOND MID-YEAR COORDINATION
MEETING BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION, THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC
COMMUNITIES AND REGIONAL MECHANISMS**

Doc. Assembly/AU/6(XXXIV)

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on the objectives of the Abuja Treaty and the Constitutive Act of the African Union to accelerate the political and economic integration of Africa stipulated in Article 4 of the said Treaty;
2. **FURTHER RECALLS** that the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting is the principal forum for the African Union and RECs to align their work and co-ordinate the implementation of the Continental Integration Agenda;
3. **EXPRESSES** appreciation for the commendable efforts of the AU Chairperson H.E Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa and the Bureau of the Assembly as well as the African Union Commission through H. E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Chairpersons of the RECs and the Member States on their rapid response to combat the COVID-19 pandemic;
4. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Second Mid-Year Coordination Meeting that was held virtually on 22 October 2020, as well as its Declaration and the recommendations contained therein;
5. **ADOPTS** the Declaration of the 2nd Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, successfully chaired by the AU Chairperson President Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, held on 22 October 2020 and the recommendations contained therein, including:
 - a) Commending the progress made in development of the detailed proposal on the Division of labour by the AUC, the AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA Secretariat, the APRM, the RECs, the RMs and the Member States on the sectors of Trade, Political Affairs and Peace and Security;
 - b) Requesting Member States, the AU Commission, the AUDA-NEPAD, and the RECs/RMs and the Member States to finalise the remaining sectors concerning the division of labour with the view of their submission during the 35th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in February 2022 after due consideration by the 3rd Mid-Year Coordination Meeting to be held in July 2021 as well as the other relevant Policy Organs.
6. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana and Champion of the Financial Institutions, on the progress made in the establishment of the Financial Institutions, and reiterates the call by the AU

Champion for all Member States to conclude the ratification of the Instruments for the establishment of these Financial Institutions, particularly the Pan-African Payments and Settlements Systems;

7. **CONGRATULATES** Member States that have ratified the Legal Instruments related to the establishment of the relevant AU Financial Institutions and **URGES** them to domesticate them, and **ALSO URGES** Member States that have not done so to consider the signing and ratification of the instruments relating to the AU Financial Institutions;
8. **EXPRESSES** appreciation to H.E. Marshal Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, for hosting the upcoming 3rd Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, in N'Djamena, Chad.



DECISION ON THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Executive Council Decision;
2. **COMMENDS** Member States for contributing 90% of the funds assessed to them (US\$222,967,420) in 2020 towards the Union regular budget;
3. **ALSO COMMENDS** 55 Member States for contributing US\$204,876,199 to the AU Peace Fund since 2017 which demonstrates the high level of commitment by the Union to fully operationalise the Fund;
4. **FURTHER COMMENDS** Member States that are up-to-date in the payment of their contributions, including those that have made advance payments towards the 2021/2022 budget, and **URGES** Member States that have not yet done so to pay their assessed contributions in fulfilment of their financial obligations to the Union;
5. **COMMENDS** the Republic of Somalia, Republic of Seychelles and Republic of Burundi for agreeing with the Commission in fulfilment of their Payment Plans to clear the arrears as soon as possible, within four (4) years from the adoption of the Decision EX.CL/Dec.1071(XXXV) and **ENDORSES** the said Payment Plans;
6. **DECIDES** to further delegate with immediate effect its powers to apply the AU Sanction Regime, pursuant to the provisions of Article 23 (1) of the Constitutive Act and Rule 36 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, to the Executive Council;
7. **FURTHER DECIDES** to grant authority to the Chairperson of the Commission to provisionally lift sanctions imposed on a Member State, and report to the PRC to take a decision in conformity with Rule 36 (3) of the revised Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

DECISION ON DATE AND VENUE OF THE 35TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION

The Assembly,

1. **DECIDES** that the dates of the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly, which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, shall be the following:
 - i) Forty-Third (43rd) Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC), from 20 to 21 January 2022;
 - ii) Fortieth (40th) Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, from 02 to 03 February 2022; and
 - iii) Thirty-Fifth (35th) Ordinary Session of the Assembly, from 05 and 06 February 2022.
2. **REQUESTS** the Commission to make all the necessary arrangements for the successful hosting of the Thirty-Fifth (35th) Ordinary Session of the Assembly and the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC, according to the aforementioned dates.



DECISION ON THE DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRD (3RD) MID-YEAR COORDINATION MEETING

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.687 (XXX), adopted in January 2017 and January 2018, respectively, regarding the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting;
2. **DECIDES** that the dates of the 3rd Mid-Year Coordination Meeting and preceding Executive Council and PRC Sessions, which will be held at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, shall be as follows:
 - i) Forty-Second (42nd) Ordinary Session of the PRC, from 15 to 16 June 2021 at AU Headquarters;
 - ii) Thirty-Ninth (39th) Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, from 01 to 02 July 2021, in N'Djamena, Republic of Chad;
 - iii) Third (3rd) Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union and the RECs, on 04 July 2021, in N'Djamena, Republic of Chad.
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to put in place all the necessary measures in order to organise the Third (3rd) Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, as well the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC, according to the aforementioned dates.



DECISION ON THE NEW AU-WIDE QUOTA SYSTEM

The Assembly,

1. **WELCOMES** Decision EX.CL/Dec.1107(XXXVIII);
2. **APPROVES** the new AU-Wide Quota System, which is an equation based on the two fundamental principles of solidarity (membership) and equity (scale of assessment) at 50% each, which shall apply to the recruitment of each category of the professional positions of regular, fixed-term, regular, fixed term, short term and special service staff members in all Union structures, and should take into account gender and youth parity.



DECISION ON THE DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURES OF THE ASSEMBLY, AND STATUTE OF THE COMMISSION

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.3(XI), which requested the Commission to align the relevant legal instruments of the Union, in line with the Institutional Reform of November 2018;
2. **ALSO RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.759(XXXIII) of February 2020, which took note of the recommendations on the alignment of the Rules of Procedures of the Assembly, Executive Council, Permanent Representatives' Committee and the Statute of the Commission;
3. **TAKES NOTE** of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1099(XXXVII) of October 2020, which adopted the aligned Rules of Procedures of the Executive Council and Permanent Representatives' Committee, provisionally adopted the Assembly Rules of Procedures and the Statutes of the Commission, and recommended to the Assembly for final adoption;
4. **HEREBY ADOPTS** the:
 - i. Aligned Rules of Procedures of the Assembly; and
 - ii. Aligned Statute of the Commission.
5. **DECIDES** to amend the Article 13 of the Aligned Rules of Procedure of the Assembly in accordance with AU/Assembly Dec 635, to read as follows:
Article 13: the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the Union, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Regional Mechanisms (RMs).

The Bureau of the AU Assembly shall hold a Mid-Year Coordination meeting with the Chairpersons of the RECs, the RMs and the AU Commission"

DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL TO DECREE 2021-2031 AS “DECADE OF AFRICAN ROOTS AND DIASPORAS”

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal, presented by the Togolese Republic, to declare the period 2021-2031 as the “Decade of African Roots and Diasporas”, and the interest of this issue of the Diaspora for the African Continent;
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Declaration of the World Diaspora Summit in 2012, which recognised the need to build sustainable partnerships between the African continent and the African Diaspora, through sustainable constructive dialogue and effective collaboration;
3. **FINALLY TAKES NOTE** of the various reports and other publications of the Commission of the African Union on the contributions of members of Diasporas and communities of African Roots in favour of the development of the Continent;
4. **RECOMMENDS** that the Commission, in coordination with all Member States, establish a formal framework for communication and exchange of information between Africa, the Diaspora and Afro-descendants;
5. **RECALLS Decisions:**
 - Ext/EX/CL/Dec.6(III) of the Third Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council, held in 2003 in South Africa, on the Implementation of the Diaspora Initiative within the framework of the African Union;
 - EX.CL/Dec.221(VII) of the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held in June/July 2005, in Sirte, on the definition of the Diaspora;
 - EX.CL/406(XII) Add.1, by which the Executive Council requests the Commission to conduct a detailed feasibility study on the idea of considering the Diaspora as the sixth region of Africa, and to define the modalities of participation of the Diaspora in the organs and activities of the Union;
 - Assembly/AU/Dec.393 (XVIII), adopted at the Eighteenth (18th) Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in 2012, on the Global African Diaspora Summit, by which the Assembly decided to make the question of the Diaspora a permanent item on the agenda of the sessions of the Assembly;
 - Assembly/AU/Dec.630(XXVIII), adopted at the Twenty-Eighth (28th) Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held in January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, relating to the implementation of African Union Agenda 2063,

and the role of the Diasporas, and Article 3 (q) of the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union (2003), which already expressly invited the latter to participate as an important party in the construction of the Union;

- EX.CL/1032(XXXIV), which adopted the recommendations of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Youth, Culture and Sports, on the institution of the International Day of African and Afro Descendant Culture.

6. **FURTHER RECALLS** that the Diaspora constitutes an important economic, social, political and cultural power, which cannot leave indifferent the African countries in the implementation of Agenda 2063 of the African Union;
7. **TAKES NOTE** that the "Lomé Framework", called "2021-2031: Decade of African Roots and Diasporas", is an initiative aimed at bringing together, federating and supporting projects, events and other initiatives to strengthen the role and contributions of people from African Roots and Diasporas to the economic, social and cultural development of the African continent;
8. **EMPHASISES** that the Decade of African Roots and Diasporas offers the Commission, in collaboration with States and representative organisations of African Diasporas, the opportunity to implement a solid plan of global actions to make it possible to materialise the return and greater involvement of the Diaspora of African descent from the West Indies, the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Americas in the development process of the Continent;
9. **AGREES** that the objectives of the Decade of African Roots and Diasporas in the artistic, cultural and heritage fields as catalysts in the development of the Continent, are in perfect coherence with the Theme of the African Union for the Year 2021: "Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building an Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa in the Context of Multisectoral Challenges, **“and in that regard, urges all Member States of the African Union to sign and ratify the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance, with a view to its entry into force”**;
10. **DECLARES** the period 2021-2031 as "Decade of African Roots and Diasporas";
11. **REQUESTS** Togo, in collaboration with the Commission, to:
 - Set up a High Committee in charge of the 2021-2031 Agenda, Decade of African Roots and Diasporas, and submit the draft composition and mandate of the Committee for endorsement by the Policy Organs, through the PRC;

- Take the necessary measures and steps for effective implementation and completion of this "Decade of African Roots and Diasporas" project, and to support the holding of all events, such as organising the Afro-descendants Forum in August 2021 or in March 2022 in Equatorial Guinea, an annual Congress of African Diasporas, and other initiatives involving members of Diasporas and communities of African Roots, wherever they are in the world;
- Collaborate with all African Union Member States and other stakeholders (Regional Economic Communities, international institutions such as the United Nations system, IMF, World Bank, and other international partners, organisations of communities of African Descent, development NGOs and the African Diaspora, etc), in order to achieve the expected results of "2021-2031, Decade African Roots and Diasporas".



DECISION ON THE STRUCTURES OF AU SPECIALISED OFFICE

The Assembly,

1. RECALLS the following Decisions:

- a) Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) of February 2020 requesting the Chairperson of the Commission to finalize the review of the other organs and institutions, and to submit its proposals to the 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February 2021;
- b) AHG/Dec.167(XXXVII) of the 37th Summit of the OAU African Heads of States and Governments held in Lusaka, Zambia, on 11 July 2001 for the establishment of the African Energy Commission (AFREC);

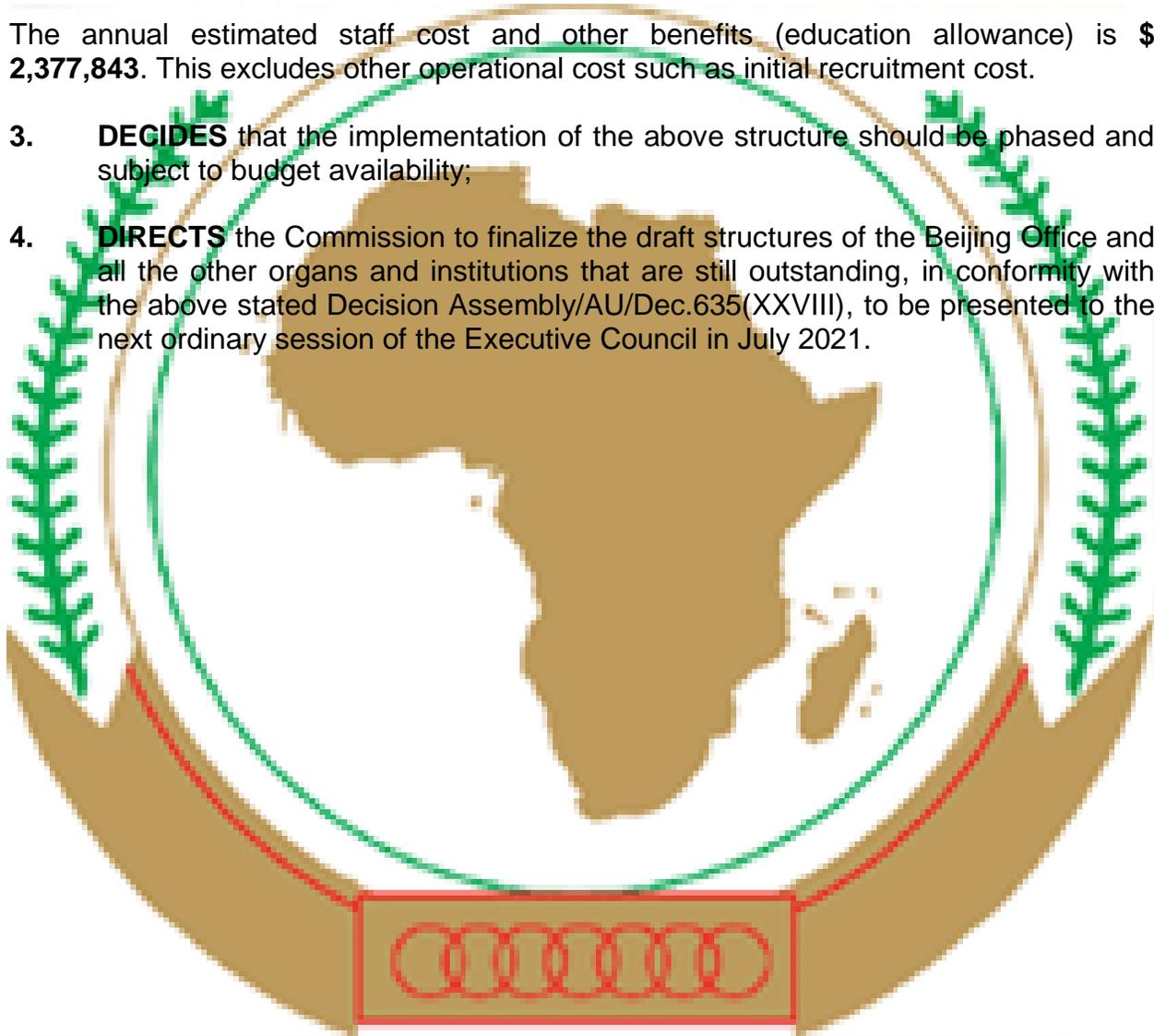
2. ADOPTS the following proposed structure of AFREC as recommended by the 37th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:

Post	Grade	Number of Staff	Status
Office of the Executive Director			
Executive Director	P6	1	Existing
Admin. Assistant	GSA5	1	Existing
Communication Officer	P2	1	Existing
Division of Policies, Strategies and Support			
Head of Division	P5	1	Existing
Country Support & Capacity Building Officer	P4	1	Renamed
Renewable Energy Officer	P3	1	New
Energy Efficiency Officer	P3	1	New
Research, Oil & Gas Officer	P3	1	New
Energy Product Technologies Officer	P3	1	New
Energy Economy & Modelling Officer	P3	1	New
Division of Energy Information System & Statistics			
Head of Division	P5	1	New
Energy Statisticians Officers	P3	3	1 Existing 2 New
IT & Data Management Expert	P3	1	New
Graphic Designer	P1	1	New
Unit of Administration, Finance & support			
Finance officer	P2	1	Existing

Assistant Accountant	GSA5	1	New
Administrative Assistant	GSA5	1	New
Secretary Receptionist	GSA4	1	Existing
Driver	GSB7	1	Existing
Driver (Mail Runner)	GSB7	1	New
Total Number of Staff		22	

The annual estimated staff cost and other benefits (education allowance) is \$ **2,377,843**. This excludes other operational cost such as initial recruitment cost.

3. **DECIDES** that the implementation of the above structure should be phased and subject to budget availability;
4. **DIRECTS** the Commission to finalize the draft structures of the Beijing Office and all the other organs and institutions that are still outstanding, in conformity with the above stated Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII), to be presented to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council in July 2021.



**DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INCOMING CHAIRPERSON
OF THE AFRICAN UNION FOR 2022**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) that in order to ensure continuity and effective implementation of Assembly decisions, a troika arrangement between the outgoing, the current, and the incoming African Union Chairpersons shall be established, and that in this regard, the incoming Chairperson shall be selected one year in advance;
2. **ALSO RECALLS** the principle of rotation for Chairpersonship of the African Union, and taking into account that 2022 will be the turn of the West African Region;
3. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcome of the consultations by the West African Region as reported by the Republic of Mali, Dean of the latter;
4. **DECIDES** that the Incoming Chair of the African Union for 2022 will be the Republic of Senegal.



DECISION ON DOMESTIC HEALTH FINANCING (ALM-INVESTING IN HEALTH)**The Assembly,**

1. **MINDFUL** of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and the critical importance of strengthening and investing in national health systems;
2. **RECOGNISING** that women and girls have been disproportionately affected by the inequalities in health care provision, and that this has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic;
3. **RECALLING** the Declaration on the Africa Leadership Meeting (ALM) on Investing in Health, adopted in February 2019;
4. **COMMENDS** H.E. President Paul Kagame, AU Leader for Domestic Health Financing, for the leadership and strong commitment he continues to provide in advancing the Domestic Health Financing mandate;
5. **ALSO COMMENDS** the Commission for the significant progress made in maintaining health financing high on the continental and global agenda;
6. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcomes of the virtual regional meetings of AU Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Health, held in 2020;
7. **REITERATES** the importance of regular discussions between African Ministries of Finance and Health to advance the health financing reforms;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to update the presentation of the data in the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health, by grouping countries into four quartiles according to their total per capita domestic spending on health (government budget and compulsory pre-paid pools), and ranking countries within each quartile according to the WHO/World Bank Service Coverage Index to be considered by the STC on Health, Population and Drug Control (STC-HPDC) for submission to the Policy Organs of the AU;
9. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to speed up implementation of Item 6(v) of the February 2019 ALM-Investing in Health Declaration, regarding working with partners to create regional platforms to support Member States to increase domestic health financing, by assigning responsibility for coordinating this mandate to AUDA-NEPAD.

**DECISION ON THE PAN-AFRICAN FORUM FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE-
BIENNALE OF LUANDA**
Doc. EX.CL/1265(XXXVIII)

The Assembly,

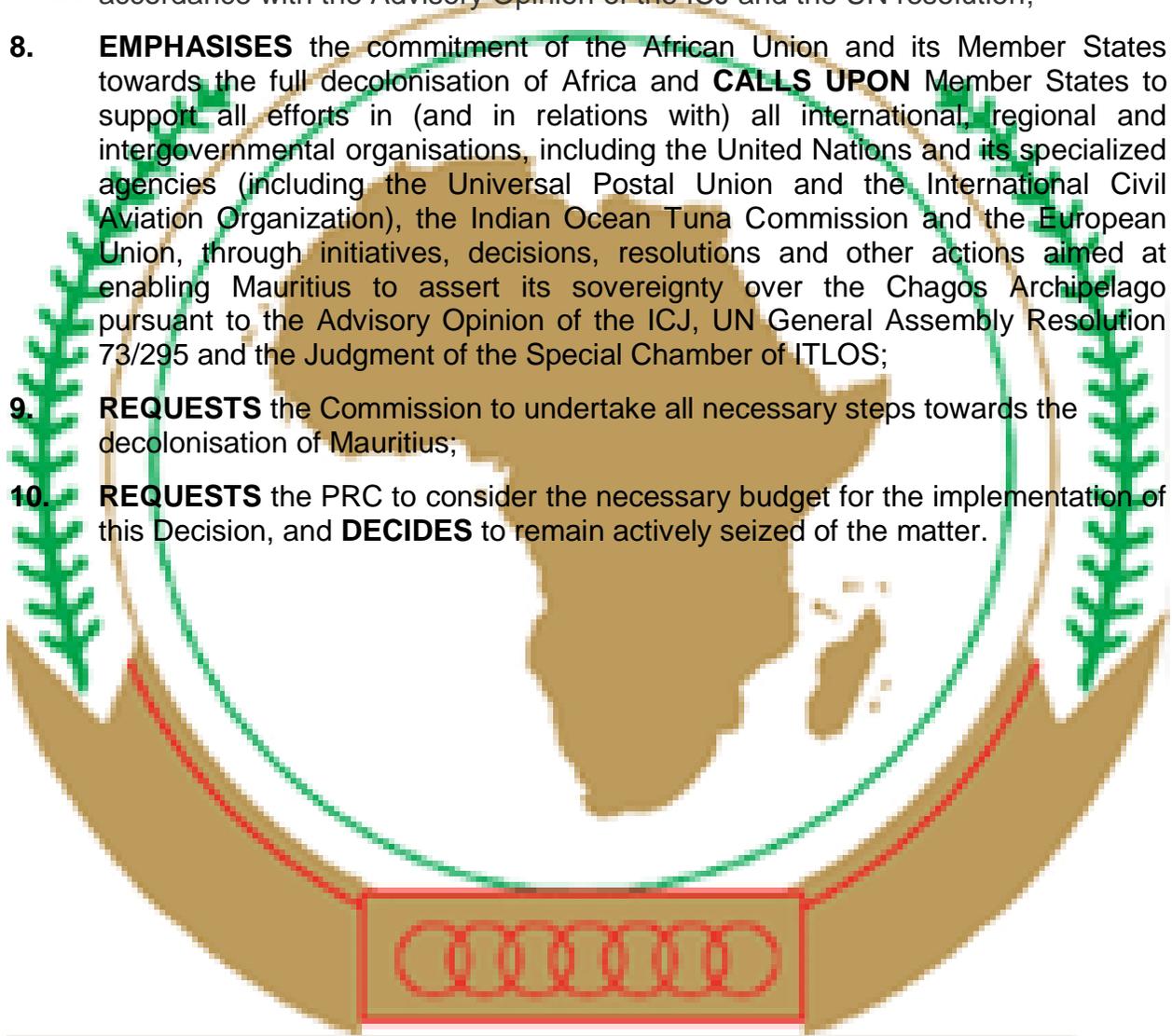
1. **TAKES NOTE** of the item proposed by Angola, adopted by the 38th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, on the First Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa-Biennale of Luanda, held in Luanda, Angola, from 18 to 22 September 2019;
2. **COMMENDS** the Angolan Government, the African Union and UNESCO for the joint organisation of the First Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa-Biennale of Luanda;
3. **RECOGNISES** the importance of promoting the culture of peace, of this set of values, attitudes and behaviours that reflect the respect for life, for the human beings and their dignity, which must be spread and practised by each and every Member State;
4. **UNDERLINES** that the Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa - Biennale of Luanda, as a privileged space for the promotion of cultural diversity and African unity, provides a unique platform for governments, civil society, the artistic and scientific community, the private sector and international organisations to discuss and define strategies for the prevention of violence and conflict with a view to building lasting peace in Africa;
5. **RECALLS** the Decision on the Theme of the Year 2021: "Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want" Doc.EX.CL/1231(XXXVII), and its roadmap of activities which includes the organization of the Second Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa-Biennale of Luanda;
6. **ENCOURAGES** the Government of Angola to organise the Second Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa-Biennale of Luanda; and **CALLS ON** Member States to support and be actively involved;
7. **DIRECTS** the Commission, working with the Angolan Government and UNESCO, to create the conditions for the Second Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa-Biennale of Luanda.

DECISION ON DECOLONISATION OF MAURITIUS

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.788(XXXIII), adopted at the 33rd Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2020, regarding the decolonisation of Mauritius;
2. **ALSO RECALLS** the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of 25 February 2019 on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965, which has authoritatively determined that:
 - (a) the Chagos Archipelago is, and has always formed, an integral part of the territory of Mauritius;
 - (b) the process of decolonisation of Mauritius was not lawfully completed upon its accession to independence in 1968, in view of the excision of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius;
 - (c) the United Kingdom's continued administration of the Chagos Archipelago constitutes a wrongful act entailing the international responsibility of that State, and is an unlawful act of a continuing character, which arose as a result of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius;
 - (d) the United Kingdom is under an obligation to bring to an end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible;
 - (e) all Member States are under an obligation to cooperate with the United Nations in order to complete the decolonisation of Mauritius.
3. **FURTHER RECALLS** UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295 of 22 May 2019, which, *inter alia*, affirmed, in accordance with the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ, that the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of Mauritius, and demanded the United Kingdom to withdraw its colonial administration from the Chagos Archipelago unconditionally within a period of no more than six months from the adoption of the resolution;
4. **WELCOMES** the Judgment of the Special Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) of 28 January 2021, which confirmed that Mauritius has sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and endorsed the ICJ determinations that the detachment of the Chagos Archipelago was unlawful and that the United Kingdom's administration of the Chagos Archipelago constitutes an unlawful act of a continuing character;
5. **CONDEMNS** the continued illegal occupation of the Chagos Archipelago by the United Kingdom in disregard of the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ, and UN General Assembly Resolutions 73/295 and 26/25 (XXV) on the UN Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

6. **REITERATES ITS CALLS TO** the United Kingdom to comply with international law by immediately withdrawing its colonial administration from the Chagos Archipelago;
7. **CALLS UPON** the Member States and all partners to respect UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295, which expressly urged Member States, UN bodies and regional and international organisations to refrain from any action that will impede or delay the completion of the process of decolonisation of Mauritius in accordance with the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ and the UN resolution;
8. **EMPHASISES** the commitment of the African Union and its Member States towards the full decolonisation of Africa and **CALLS UPON** Member States to support all efforts in (and in relations with) all international, regional and intergovernmental organisations, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies (including the Universal Postal Union and the International Civil Aviation Organization), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the European Union, through initiatives, decisions, resolutions and other actions aimed at enabling Mauritius to assert its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago pursuant to the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ, UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295 and the Judgment of the Special Chamber of ITLOS;
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to undertake all necessary steps towards the decolonisation of Mauritius;
10. **REQUESTS** the PRC to consider the necessary budget for the implementation of this Decision, and **DECIDES** to remain actively seized of the matter.



**DECLARATION ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE
AND THE MIDDLE EAST**
Doc. EX.CL/1254(XXXVIII)

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty Fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, held virtually on 06 and 07 February 2021;

TAKING NOTE of the report on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East and recalling all previous resolutions and decisions adopted by the Organization of African Unity and the African Union on the situation in Palestine aimed at achieving a lasting peace and security in the Middle East;

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

REITERATING our desire to find a just political solution to the question of Palestine in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions, leading to a complete end to the Israeli occupation that started in 1967, the independence of the State of Palestine on boundaries of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees in conformity with the UN Resolution 194 (III);

RENEWING our call for the resumption of credible negotiations between the two sides to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, including through an international multilateral mechanism in accordance with the international consensus on the basis of international law and United Nations resolutions aimed at justly resolving all permanent status issues;

FURTHER REAFFIRMING the steadfastness of our position in support of the just Palestinian cause that is premised on the values of freedom, justice, human rights and humanitarian principles and maintaining the historically established Pan-Africanist solidarity with the Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for independence, freedom and justice;

FURTHER RENEWING our call to all members of the international community to uphold the legal status of East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine, to respect international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions in this regard, and to refrain from any action or decision that would undermine the legitimate status of the city, in particular to refrain from transferring embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem;

FURTHER REITERATING that all Israeli settlements established in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan and other

activities implemented as part of the occupation's colonisation of the territory of the State of Palestine, including land confiscation, home demolitions, forced displacement of civilians, racist and discriminatory policies and permit regime, construction of the wall and imposition of measures of collective punishment are illegal and constitute grave violations of international humanitarian law, relevant United Nations resolutions, and are in defiance of the calls by the international community to cease all settlement activities;

HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. **EXPRESS** its unwavering support for the inalienable, permanent and unqualified right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to live in freedom, justice and dignity and the right to their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and calls on Israel, the occupying power, to fully comply with its obligations under international law and completely end its 53 years of military occupation and cease its obstruction of the realisation of Palestinian self-determination;
2. **REGRET** that Israel, the occupying Power, persists with the occupation in all of its illegal manifestations, including its relentless pursuit of colonisation and annexation measures, and continues to act in bad faith and in total contradiction of ending the occupation and continues to systematically violate UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions;
3. **STRESS** the duty upon all States to take all measures, necessary to ensure the respect by Israel, and all other relevant parties, of their obligations under international law to end the occupation, and that occupation of the territory of the State of Palestine will not come to end without decisive international intervention and tangible measures of accountability in accordance with international law;
4. **EMPHASISE** its determination that all colonial policies and measures, including legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, including any activities involving the confiscation of land, the disruption of the livelihood of protected persons, the forced transfer of civilians and the annexation of land, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan, are in grave violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, contrary to the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, illegal and have no validity and constitute an obstacle to peace and socio-economic development;
5. **STRESS** that any actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to colonize the Holy City of Jerusalem, including imposing its laws, jurisdiction and administration, are illegal and therefore null and void and have no validity whatsoever, and calls upon the occupying power, to immediately cease all such illegal and unilateral measures including, provocations and incitement against the Christian and Islamic holy sites, in particular the Haram al-Sharif, and to respect

the sanctity of the holy sites and protect the unique spiritual, religious and cultural dimensions of the city, as foreseen in relevant United Nations resolutions, which represent a legitimate interest to the international community, as a whole;

6. **DEMAND** that Israel abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, in particular article 49, and comply with all of its obligations under international law and cease immediately all actions aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan, and immediately terminate settlement activities, in accordance with all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution 2334 (2016) and the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, and as an indispensable condition for salvaging the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders;
7. **CALL UPON** all Member States to actively pursue policies that ensure respect for their obligations under international law and relevant United Nations and AU resolutions with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan, including, *inter alia*, by not recognising, and not rendering aid or assistance in maintaining, the situation created by measures that are aimed at advancing the colonisation and annexation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;
8. **IMPLORE** all African countries to end all forms of direct and indirect dealings with the illegal Israeli colonial settlement system in the territory of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, in conformity with the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 5 of UN Security Council Resolution 2334 and the previous AU decisions in this regard;
9. **CONDEMN** the use by Israel of unlawful lethal and other excessive force against Palestinian civilians, including against civilians with special protected status under international law, who pose no imminent threat to life, and **CALL FOR** accountability for these illegal actions as well as for actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and stresses that Israel, the occupying Power, is fully responsible for these acts of violence against Palestinian civilians and their properties and has the duty to implement measures, including the confiscation of arms, aimed at preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory;
10. **REAFFIRM** the necessity of achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in all its aspects, and of intensifying all efforts towards that end, in conformity with international law and other internationally agreed parameters, including all relevant United Nations

resolutions, and in this regard **STRESS** that all efforts to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict should be grounded in respect for international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and should ensure credible and comprehensive accountability for all violations in order to bring about sustainable peace;

11. **REITERATE** its support for the initiative of President Mahmoud Abbas for peace, presented to the United Nations Security Council on 20 February 2018, calling for the timely convening of an international conference that would launch a credible multilateral political process, based on the longstanding terms of reference and clear parameters enshrined in the relevant United Nations resolutions and within a defined time frame aimed at expediting the realisation of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;
12. **REITERATE** that the Palestine refugees forcibly displaced from the land of historic Palestine since the Nakba in 1948, or who left before this date and could not return, and their ancestors, have the right to return and are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of equity and justice;
13. **AFFIRM** the necessity for the continuation of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the importance of its unimpeded operation and its provision of services for the well-being, protection and human development of the Palestinian refugees and for the stability of the region, pending the just resolution of the question of the Palestine refugees, and **APPEAL** to States and organisations for the maintenance of their voluntary contributions to the Agency, as well as an increase in contributions where possible, in particular to the Agency's programme budget, which remains severely underfunded;
14. **EXPRESS** its grave concern about attempts to discredit the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East despite its proven record; and **DENOUNCE** all acts of intimidation and threats directed at the Agency and other human rights organisations, civil society actors and human rights defenders involved in documenting and countering violations of international law and impunity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calls upon all States to ensure their protection;
15. **DEMAND** that Israel respect the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and guarantee of the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including movement into and from East Jerusalem, into and from the Gaza Strip, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to and from the outside world, and reiterates the need for the occupying power to cease immediately imposition of its prolonged closures and economic and movement restrictions, including its illegal and inhumane blockade on the Gaza Strip;

16. **EXPRESS** deep concern about the continued steep deterioration of the economic and humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip as a result of the Israeli blockade and holds the Israeli occupation fully responsible for the situation in the Gaza Strip, stressing that the crisis in the Gaza Strip is not merely a humanitarian crisis requiring emergency relief, but one of the manifestations of the colonial occupation, which should be addressed by ending the colonial occupation and enabling the geographical and political unity of the Palestinian territories between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We call on the international community to work to end this unjust Israeli blockade;
17. **CONDEMN** the systematic and widespread policy of ethnic cleansing practiced by the Israeli occupation against Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem, through eviction orders, home demolitions, revocation of residency rights and discriminatory policies, whose aim is to isolate the Holy City, sever its geographical connection with the territories of the occupied West Bank in 1967, and achieve the demographic superiority of Israeli settlers over the owners of the land of Jerusalem, policies violating the Fourth Geneva Convention, constituting racial segregation, and breaching the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and the Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
18. **CONDEMN** the discriminatory Israeli legal system and its arbitrary measures and sentences on Palestinian detainees and prisoners, especially children, women, the elderly and the sick, which deprive them of the minimum rights guaranteed by international human rights law and norms, including the Geneva Convention on the Rights of Women and Children and call upon the Israeli occupation to release all Palestinian and Arab detainees and prisoners in Israeli jails immediately and unconditionally;
19. **REJECT** any unjust or partial solutions, including the so-called “deal of the century” and will work tirelessly with other international actors to ensure the independence of the State of Palestine on the borders of 4 June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital;
20. **CALL FOR** the cessation of all actions and measures that are contrary to the international law and United Nations Resolutions, and in this context, **URGE** the mobilisation of diplomatic action to revive the peace process and preserve the Two-State Solution on the pre-1967 borders and advance the realisation of a just and lasting peace;
21. **REITERATE** that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 line, including the Syrian Golan Heights and the territories still occupied in Southern Lebanon;

22. **REAFFIRM** that our solidarity with RC the Palestinian people is premised on the values of freedom, justice and humanitarian principles that Africa unwaveringly defends in the international fora in all circumstances and alongside all those striving to ensure that Palestine regains its right to exist in independence and sovereignty as a key State in the Middle East; and **REAFFIRM** the urgency for renewed efforts to find a just and lasting solution to the conflict, based on the existence of two States, living side-by-side in peace and harmony, within the framework of the relevant African Union and United Nations pronouncements.



**RESOLUTION ON THE LIFTING OF THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL
AND FINANCIAL BLOCKADE IMPOSED ON THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA
BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The Assembly,

1. **EXPRESSES** its serious concern about the continuous and illegal Economic, Commercial and Financial Blockade on the Cuban Government and People;
2. **REAFFIRMS** its full support to the Resolution of the UNGA on the “Necessity to end the Economic, Commercial and Financial Blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”;
3. **REGRETS** the regressions in the bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States and once again, urges the Government of the United States of America to lift long-standing and unjustifiable Economic, Commercial and Financial Blockade imposed on the Cuban people;
4. **REGRETS** the measures implemented by the Government of the United States since 9 November 2017, which strengthen the Blockade and expresses deep concern over the widening of the extraterritorial nature of the Blockade, including the full implementation of the Chapter III of the Helms-Burton Act **(Based on paragraph 250 of the G-77 Ministerial Declaration 2020)**;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that the negative impact of the Blockade is aggravated and even crueller in the current context, when Cuba is combatting the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic;
6. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that the Blockade is the main obstacle for Cuba’s implementation of the United Nation 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and shares this concern due to importance that the African Union attaches to the achievements of the said Agenda;
7. **REAFFIRMS** its solidarity with the people of Cuba.

**MOTION OF APPRECIATION TO HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT MATAMELA
CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND
OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government, meeting at its Thirty-Fourth (34th) Ordinary Session, virtually, on 6 and 7 February 2021,

Taking note of the end of the mandate of his Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa as a Chairperson of the African Union, and **Acknowledging** the commendable and extraordinary efforts he invested during his chairmanship of the African Union (AU) in the year 2020, which contributed to advancing the Union and in addressing Africa's needs, as well as positioning Africa at its rightful place in the world,

Bearing in mind the achievements he made during his tenure, demonstrating great dedication, vision and commitment in the defence of the principles and objectives of the Union, as well as this rooted commitment to the ideals of pan-Africanism and South-South solidarity,

Noting in particular his dynamic and efficient stewardship of the Union during the global COVID-19 pandemic:

1. **EXPRESSES** its profound gratitude to His Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, and Outgoing Chairperson of our Assembly, for his vibrant, visionary and sterling leadership of the Union during his term of office;
2. **COMMENDS** His Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, for the numerous achievements the African Union was able to make during his mandate, including the timely AU response to the COVID-19 pandemic, establishment of the AU Covid-19 Response Fund, appointment of Special Envoys, establishment of the Medical Supply Platform, appointment of the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team, the start of trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area. Leading the first virtually conducted (Second) Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the AU and RECs, leading to the December 2020 back-to-back Extraordinary Summits on Silencing the Guns in Africa and on the African Continental Free Trade Area, both conducted virtually. For his dedication to peace and development and advancing Good Governance and Democracy on the Continent;
3. **REITERATES** its appreciation to His Excellency, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa for his significant contribution towards the Continent's political, economic and social integration and stability process.