

AFRICAN UNION

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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Forty Fourth Ordinary Session
14 - 15 February 2024
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

EX.CL/Dec.1233-1264(XLIV)
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DECISIONS

DECISION ON THE REPORTS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES' COMMITTEE (PRC)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the PRC recommendations on the Reports of its Sub-Committees, taking into account observations made by Member States;
2. **REITERATES** the need to respect the principle of good, efficient and effective administrative and financial management.

I. ON THE JOINT SITTING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON GENERAL SUPERVISION AND COORDINATION OF BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AND THE TECHNICAL EXPERTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN FINANCE MINISTERS (F15)

The Executive Council,

A. Mid-Year Performance Report of the 2023 AU Budget

3. **TAKES NOTE** of the report on mid-year performance and **EXPRESSES** concern on the low execution rates across the AU Commission and AU Organs.
4. **DIRECTS** the AU Commission and Organs to enhance planning and budgeting in a realistic manner according to the available capacities, resources and well-known challenges.

B. Supplementary Budget Request for 2023

5. **APPROVES** the supplementary budget of **US\$13,131,674** for the year 2023 broken down as follows:
 - a) **US\$1,519,342** for the Operational Budget,
 - b) **US\$11,549,926** for the Program Budget, and
 - c) **US\$62,406** for Peace Support Operations.

As per the following sources of funding:

- i) US\$4,771,836 from the Reserves Funds
- ii) US\$5,801,536 from International Partners
- iii) US\$130,000 from Administrative Fund
- iv) US\$843,472 from Member States' voluntary contributions, and
- v) US\$1,584,830 from Peace Fund Interest

6. **ALSO APPROVES** a downward revision of the 2023 Program Budget for the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) of US\$440,000 under the Pan African Support program funded by the European Commission, as requested by the AfCHPR.

Table 1: Summary 2023 Supplementary by Source of Fund

Description	Operational	Programs	PSOs	Total
Reserve Fund	1,389,342	3,382,494		4,771,836
MS Voluntary Contribution		843,472		843,472
Administrative Cost	130,000			130,000
Peace Fund Interest		1,584,830		1,584,830
International Partners		5,739,130	62,406	5,801,536
Grand Total	1,519,342	11,549,926	62,406	13,131,674
Reduction (Partners)		(440,000)		(440,000)
Total	1,519,342	11,109,926	62,406	12,691,674

Table 1

Table 2: 2023 Supplementary Budget by Organ / Office

Organ / Office	Operational	Programs	PSOs	Total
AUC	1,389,342	4,216,561		5,605,903
ACHPR-Commission		542,649		542,649
AfCFTA		1,250,070		1,250,070
AfCHPR Court		1,687,776		1,687,776
AFREC		118,440		118,440
AFRIPOL		1,151,772		1,151,772
APRM		790,052		790,052
AUCIL		26,148		26,148
AUDA-NEPAD	130,000	1,322,214		1,452,214
CIEFFA		74,943		74,943
IPED		142,500		142,500
STATAFRIC		226,800		226,800
PSO			62,406	62,406
Grand Total	1,519,342	11,549,926	62,406	13,131,674
Budget Reduction (Partners) African Court		(440,000)		(440,000)
Total	1,519,342	11,109,926	62,406	12,691,674

Table 2

7. **FURTHER APPROVES** a reallocation of US\$22,050,585 from the Union's 2023 budget within and between AU Organs and Offices as per the breakdown below.

Table 3: 2023 Budget net reallocations by Category

Organ	Operational Budget			Program Budget			PSOs	Total		
	From	To	Operational (Net reallocations)	From	To	Programs (Net reallocations)	PSOs (Net reallocations)	From	To	Net
AUC	(575,509)	2,122,818	1,547,309	(3,369,798)		(3,369,798)		(3,945,307)	2,122,818	(1,822,489)
AfCDC		302,500	302,500	(15,200,000)	3,490,979	(11,709,021)		(15,200,000)	3,793,479	(11,406,521)
AfCFTA		874,999	874,999			-			874,999	874,999
APRM		751,015	751,015		116,098	116,098			867,113	867,113
AUDA-NEPAD			-		14,044,479	14,044,479			14,044,479	14,044,479
AOSTI	(133,006)		(133,006)			-		(133,006)		(133,006)
IPED	(127,747)	300,586	172,839			-		(127,747)	300,586	172,839
Observatory - Khartoum	(646,251)		(646,251)			-		(646,251)		(646,251)
Observatory - Mali	(677,307)		(677,307)			-		(677,307)		(677,307)
Observatory - Morocco	(92,703)		(92,703)			-		(92,703)		(92,703)
PANASTAT	(340,276)		(340,276)			-		(340,276)		(340,276)
PAU	(180,146)		(180,146)	(310,071)		(310,071)		(490,217)		(490,217)
PCRD	(397,773)		(397,773)			-		(397,773)		(397,773)
PSOs			-			-	47,111		47,111	47,111
Grand Total	(3,170,716)	4,351,918	1,181,202	(18,879,869)	17,651,556	(1,228,313)	47,111	(22,050,585)	22,050,585	(0)

Table 4: 2023 Budget net reallocations by Fund

Description	MSs		Admin Fund	Partners	Total
	Operational Budget	Program Budget	Program Budget	Program Budget	
AUC	1,547,309	(1,034,340)	(1,000,000)	(1,335,458)	(1,822,489)
AUDA-NEPAD				14,044,479	14,044,479
APRM	751,015	116,098			867,113
IPED	172,839				172,839
PAU	(180,146)	(310,071)			(490,217)
AfCDC	302,500			(11,709,021)	(11,406,521)
AOSTI	(133,006)				(133,006)
AfCFTA	874,999				874,999
PANASTAT	(340,276)				(340,276)
Observatory - Mali	(677,307)				(677,307)
Observatory - Morocco	(92,703)				(92,703)

Observatory - Khartoum	(646,251)				(646,251)
PCRD	(397,773)				(397,773)
PSOs		47,111			47,111
Total	1,181,202	(1,181,202)	(1,000,000)	1,000,000	(0)

8. **EXPRESSES** concerns about the practice of procurement of consultants outside of approved budgets before getting approval for reallocation of funds in line with the provisions of the AU Financial Rules, and **DIRECTS** the Office of the Internal Oversight to carry out an audit on the manner in which the procurement of consultants in the Commission and organs is conducted, and present its report to the relevant PRC Sub-Committees by April 2024.

C. PAPS Peace Fund Pilot Projects

9. **APPROVES** an amount of **US\$5 million**¹ for 2024 to be drawn from the proceeds of the Peace Fund interest for use to finance the PAPS Peace Fund pilot projects, on mediation and preventive diplomacy, institutional capacity, and peace support operations.

Description	2022 Supplementary	2023 Initial	2023 Supplementary	2024	Total
Allocation to CRF		5,000,000	2,000,000	10,000,000	17,000,000
Allocation to the Fund Manage Fees	917,475		1,584,830	1,758,766	4,261,071
PAPS Peace Fund Pilot Projects				5,000,000	5,000,000
Total	917,475	5,000,000	3,584,830	16,758,766	26,261,071

Peace Fund Interest Allocation from 2022-2024

D. Funding Shortfall of 2024 ATMIS Budget

10. **RECALLS** Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1218 (XLIII) regarding funding the shortfall of ATMIS and **COMMENDS** the PRC and the Commission for the work done to identify the funds from the AU Special Funds in order to finance the shortfall of ATMIS.
11. **APPROVES** an additional budget of **US\$19,068,914**, for ATMIS² for 2024 identified from AU Special Funds to bridge the ATMIS budget shortfall of US\$25,895,129, as follows:

22. ¹ This will revise the 2024 budget of the Union by additional US\$ 5 million

23. ² This will revise the 2024 budget of the Union by additional US\$ 19,068,914

24. The additional amounts will revise the overall 2024 budget of the Union to US\$629,825,524 from the initial approved budget of US\$605,756,610 - EX.CL/Dec.1217(XLIII)

- i) **\$15 million** from the Acquisition of AU properties Fund.
 - ii) **\$1,196,479** from the Special Refugee Contribution Fund
 - iii) **\$2,136,686** from the Special Emergency Fund for Drought
 - iv) **\$735,749** from the African Women Fund
12. **DIRECTS** the Commission to ensure that the disbursement of the identified funds to ATMIS should be in tranches and on a quarterly basis, in accordance with the rate of execution.
 13. **REAFFIRMS** that drawing money from Special Funds to partially fund PSO activities is an exceptionally measure and which does not constitute a precedent.
 14. **DIRECTS** the Department of PAPS to expedite the process of securing the remaining US\$3.9 million in the funding gap identified for ATMIS for 2024 of US\$25.895 million through the pronged strategy of seeking funding from partners, and from rationalization of its annual budget.
 15. **FURTHER DIRECTS** the Department of PAPS to develop modalities to ensure sustainable and predictable funding of Peace Support Operations (PSOs);
 16. **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the endeavors to access the UN assessed contribution to peace and security in support of the African Union led Peace Support Operations (PSOs), **TAKES NOTE** of the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution 2719 (2023) on the matter, and **DIRECTS** the Commission to report on the progress of the implementation of the resolution to the PRC, through the PSC before the Mid-Year Coordination meeting in July 2024.
- E. Investment and Treasury Policy, Transfer of AU-Wide Bank Accounts to Africa and the Criteria for selecting banks**
17. **RECALLS** Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1057(XXXV) and 1218 of July 2023 in which the Commission was directed to gradually move to the Continent all the AU bank accounts opened outside the Continent, and to fully implement the Decision and report to the Executive Council and **DIRECTS** the Commission to fully implement the aforementioned Decisions by the end of December 2024.
 18. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in developing the criteria for the selection of African banks to host African Union accounts and **FURTHER DIRECTS** the Commission to continue consultations with the PRC through its relevant Sub-Committee to finalize this matter and report back to the next Ordinary Executive Council in July 2024.
 19. **RECALLS** paragraph 19 of decision EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI), paragraph 25 of decision 1185 and paragraph 89 1.1 (vi) of decision 1189 and paragraph 16 of decision 1218 **DIRECTS** that the F15 Technical Experts and Commission to finalize their work on the Treasury and Investment policy and present it for

consideration by the PRC, through its relevant Sub-Committees by April 2024 and before its adoption by the AU Commission Chairperson.

F. Reports Presented by the Peace Fund Secretariat

20. **TAKES NOTE** of the report from the AU Peace Fund Secretariat on the modalities of utilization and replenishment of the Fund and its interest as well as the Performance Report from the Fund Managers.
21. **EMPHASIZES** Member States objections to the proposal to impose additional assessed contributions from Member States as a modality to replenish the Peace Fund.
22. **TAKES NOTE** of the report on the performance of AU Peace Fund Managers, and
23. **FURTHER NOTES** with deep concern, the low rate of return on investment on the performance of one of the Peace Fund Managers, which amounts to inefficient use of resources of the Union, **DIRECTS** the Commission to monitor closely the performance of the Fund Managers to ensure that it is in the best benefit of the Union.
24. **REQUESTS** the Commission to conduct the selection of the Independent Evaluation Group process through the eminent personalities' panel to ensure fair and transparent selection process and officially notify the Member States with the call for nominations, whilst recognizing the Member States' ability to propose nominations.
25. **INSTRUCTS** the Commission to revise the term of the Independent Evaluation Group members to 4 years instead of 5 years in order to align it with the eminent personalities' panel composition cycle.
26. **REQUESTS** the Commission to finalize the development of a Resource Mobilization Strategy for the Peace Fund, in consultation with the Joint Sitting for consideration, as early as possible, to be able to start the mobilization of resources for the Peace Fund before the attainment of the USD 400 million endowment, to ensure the sustainability of the Fund;
27. **REITERATES** the importance and urgency of finalizing the modalities of utilization and replenishment of the AU Peace Fund as per the policy organs' directives and decisions, to ensure sustainability of AU Peace Fund and **DIRECTS** the AU Peace Fund Secretariat to continue consultations on the modalities and the AU Peace Fund reserve level with the F15 Technical Experts, and report back to the PRC through its relevant Sub-Committee by April 2024 in preparation for reporting to the Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2024.

G. Development of AU Administrative Cost Policy

28. **RECALLS** Executive Council Decision 1218 regarding the development of the AU Administrative Cost Policy, and **TAKES NOTE** of the efforts made in this regard and **DIRECTS** the AU Commission in collaboration with the relevant PRC Sub-Committee and F15 Technical Experts by June 2024 to finalize the policy prior to its adoption taking into consideration the Financial Rules.

II. ON AUDIT MATTERS

The Executive Council,

29. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the PRC Sub-Committee on Audit Matters and **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained therein.

ON THE OIO ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022

30. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **COMMENDS** the OIO on presenting its 2022 activity report to the PRC Sub-Committee on Audit Matters.
31. **DIRECTS** the OIO to ensure that a new format with comparative figures be used in producing the OIO activity reports starting with the year 2023. The report should also show the impact made on internal controls following audit recommendations.
32. **RECALLS** Executive Council decisions EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI) paragraph 55, EX.CL/Dec.1073(XXXVI) paragraph 4 and EX.CL/Dec.1126(XXXIX) paragraph 56 (v) and **INSTRUCTS** the AUC Management to fast track and prioritize the placement and recruitment of the regular staff for OIO in line with the directorate's approved structure so as to strengthen the function of Internal Oversight and stop relying on a number of short-term staff.

ON THE HRM REPORT ON RECOVERY OF DOUBLE PAYMENTS OF HOUSING ALLOWANCES

33. **TAKES NOTE** of the report and **RECALLS** the decisions of the Executive Council, in particular *EX.CL/Dec.1097(XXXVII) paragraph 63 (c EX.CL/Dec.1057 (XXXV) paragraph 41.a (iv) and EX.CL/Dec.1073 (XXXVI) paragraph 63* and condemns the payment of double allowances which resulted from a lack of responsibility and coordination on the part of the Heads of Financial Services and Human Resources in operation during the years 2018-2019 and requests the Commission to put in place rigorous internal controls to bridge the gaps and prevent the recurrence of such problems relating to the payment of double allowances.
34. **INSTRUCTS** the Commission to review and strengthen internal control systems including coordination mechanisms between Finance and HRM Directorates, to ensure that payments including payment of benefits to staff members are valid

and correctly authorized with proper verifications and due diligences being observed in the processing of all entitlements

35. **DIRECTS** the Commission to develop and propose methods to make accountable and sanction respective offenders in the payment processes who allowed payments of double allowance both from Finance and HRM including staff responsible for the Finance and Human Resources departments who were active during the period 2018-2019 and eventually left the Commission.
36. **ALSO DIRECTS** the Commission to take all the necessary precautions and measures and put in place an effective system to ensure that separation processes and clearance timelines are carefully designed and reorganized to enable the organization recovers all dues owed by staff members before making final benefit payments when separating from the Union.
37. **FURTHER DIRECTS** the Commission to develop a proposal to be presented to the PRC-Sub-Committee on Audit Matters by end of first quarter of 2024 a mechanism and plan for the recovery of the double payment of allowances with clear deadlines and taking into account all Commission staff concerned, as well as those who have left the organisation for a full recovery of the sums due.

ON THE BRIEFING ON PARTNERS' REPORTING FORMATS AND JOINT FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS

38. **TAKES NOTE** of the briefing and **COMMENDS** the AU Commission for the efforts made in enhancing the reporting processes on the Partner Funds and the measures taken to bring the Partners in the Joint Financing arrangements.
39. **URGES** the Commission to provide more detailed reports which should include all Partners, the projects and programs each Partner funds and the utilization of the funds, alongside with the percentages of funding in relation to the utilization thereof.
40. **ALSO DIRECTS** the Commission to include in future reports on Partner Funds management and the element of coordination among all departments like Partnership Management and Resource Mobilization; Strategic Planning and Delivery; Finance, management, and allocation of funds taking into consideration that Partner Funds involve various stakeholders.

ON THE OIO REPORTS ON AUC AND OTHER ORGANS BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE 2023

41. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **RAISES CONCERNS** on the low implementation rates of the 2023 budget at the end of the first half of the year.

42. **RECALLS** Executive Council decisions EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI) paragraph 32; EX.CL/Dec.1073 (XXXVI) paragraph 66(iii) and EX.CL/Dec.1057(XXXV) paragraph 39(b) and **REITERATES** that the use of consequence management as part of corrective measures towards the low performance which hinders the attainment of the planned goals should be reinforced and measures should also be put in place to encourage high performance by recognizing achievers whilst punishing the failures.
43. **ALSO RECALLS** Executive Council decisions EX.CL/864(XXVI) (iv) paragraph 2(i) and **DIRECTS** that year end reports should be enhanced to show clearly the degree of attainment of goals and impact to the Organisation with detailed explanations on each element with assigned responsibilities.

ON THE OIO REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX OF PREVIOUS AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

44. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **COMMENDS** the AU Commission for the measures put in place by Management to enhance the follow up and implementation of audit recommendations like establishment of the Internal Accountability Committee (IAC).
45. **URGES** Management to enhance implementation of outstanding audit recommendations in particular those rated high in priority, and managers who are contravening relevant financial and administrative rules and not adhering should be held accountable In this regard, the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Audit Matters should facilitate a meeting of the PRC with the Chairperson of the AUC per Executive Council Decision EX.CL/ Dec.1218 (XLIII) paragraph 41 of July 2023 to convey the challenges encountered on the implementation of audit recommendations and to report on the outcome to the Executive Council during its session in July 2024.
46. **RECALLS** Executive Council decision EX.CL/ Dec.1218 (XLIII) paragraph 40 and **DIRECTS** the Commission to establish and fast track the operationalisation of the Joint Task Force so as to help address the issue of recurrent findings and systemic non-implementation of recommendation made by audit Reports as well as decisions of the Executive Council on audit Matters in order to improve accountability and internal controls. The Joint Task Force should assist in addressing the issue of recurrent findings on systemic issues and non-implementation of recommendation made in audit reports as well as decisions of the Executive Council on audit, human resources, financial, compliance and internal control issues in order to improve accountability and overall internal controls.
47. **ALSO DIRECTS** the Commission to enhance the format of the matrix and put the long outstanding high priority recommendations and to categorize them by years per Organ and Department so as to task respective management to accelerate

implementation. The report should also include more details and explanations especially on the categorisation of the rating, and the recommendations in progress should be put with clarity showing the concrete deadlines for completion, as well as, the responsible directorates and persons and the age analysis of the recommendations should be included on all categories. The matrix should also clearly show the breakdown of each category of recommendations implemented, in progress, not implemented and no longer relevant so as to enable Member States review what has been done on each of them. The matrices both on the implementation of audit recommendations and on the implementation of Executive Council decisions should be in the form of an overall matrix of implementation of recommendations, accompanied by sub-matrices of implementation of priority recommendations categorized according to their typology (financial, technical and management), their age and their impact on the functioning of the organ.

48. **FURTHER DIRECTS** the AUC in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Sub-Committees on AM and GSCBFAM to establish and fast track the operationalization of the Joint Task Force by July 2024 so as to help address the issue of recurrent findings on systemic issues and non-implementation of recommendation made in audit reports as well as decisions of the Executive Council on audit, human resources, financial, compliance and internal control issues in order to improve accountability and overall internal controls. **ALSO DIRECTS** that the implementation matrix should be one of the working documents of the joint taskforce.

ON THE OIO REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISIONS ON AUDIT MATTERS

49. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **COMMENDS** the PRC Sub-Committee on Audit Matters for the continued work on the follow up of the decisions on Audit Matters in implementation of its mandate.
50. **RAISES CONCERNS** on the low rates in implementing the decisions on audit matters and **URGES** AUC and other AU Organs to enhance the implementation rates and also ensure that updates on implementation are sent on time whenever requested.
51. **REQUESTS** AUC Management to convene as a matter of urgency, a special meeting between the PRC and the Chairperson of the AUC to discuss the challenges of implementation of Audit Recommendations and its effects on the Commission's performance, and express concerns on the issues raised in the report and the ineffectiveness of internal and external controls, in accordance with Executive Council Decision EX.CL/ Dec.1218 (XLIII) paragraph 41 of July 2023.
52. **URGES** the Commission to clearly indicate in the matrix the programme sectors that are mostly affected by non-compliance in implementation of the decisions and what actions the Commission can take, indicating the time frame and the

responsible person or department to ensure accountability and full implementation of decisions.

**ON THE IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX ON THE OUTCOMES AND
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2022 DEBREZEIT/KURIFTU RETREAT OF PRC
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AUDIT MATTERS**

- 53. TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **COMMENDS** the PRC Sub-Committee on Audit Matters for following up the implementation of the outcome of the retreat to enhance its work and the internal control systems of the AU.
- 54. RECALLS** Executive Council decision EX.CL/Dec.1189(XLII) paragraph 35 and **DIRECTS** the Commission to: -
- i. Organise the workshop for orientation and training of Members of the Sub-Committee on Audit Matters in 2024 to have a better understanding and to be more empowered on its work.
 - ii. Conduct an Orientation Retreat / Training for all Member States on the issues of budgets and planning, auditing, financial and human resources management to enhance their oversight roles.
 - iii. Develop proposals on modalities in rotating Sub-Committee membership to ensure smooth and effective handover for continuity and transfer of knowledge.
 - iv. Take all necessary measures to secure services of an Expert to support the Audit Committee in accomplishing the important responsibilities, and requests the Office of Internal Oversight to follow up on this matter and present a full report to the next meeting of the Sub Committee.

**ON THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM OF THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON AUDIT
MATTERS WITH PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT'S COMMITTEE ON AUDIT AND
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (CAPA)**

- 55. TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **COMMENDS** the two Committees for organizing such an exchange program between the oversight functions.
- 56. FURTHER TAKES NOTE AND SUPPORTS** the key outcomes of the exchange programme as a way of strengthening its oversight function within the AU.
- 57. FURTHER URGES** the PAP's Committee on Audit and Public Accounts as an Oversight Committee to ensure that there is proper management of financial resources as well as good governance and rule of law within PAP.

III. ON JOINT SITTING OF THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEES ON AUDIT MATTERS, GENERAL SUPERVISION AND COORDINATION ON BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS; AND EXPERTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN MINISTERS OF FINANCE (F15) Doc. EX.CL/1458(XLIV)

The Executive Council,

58. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Joint Sitting of PRC Sub-Committee on Audit Matters and Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters, and Technical Experts of the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15).

59. REITERATES the need to respect the principle of good, efficient and effective administrative and financial management.

A. ON THE AU BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT LETTERS ON 2022 FINANCIAL AUDIT OF AU ORGANS

60. RECALLS the Executive Council decision EX.CL/ Dec.1218 (XLIII) on the AU Board of External Auditors (BoEA) audit of AU Financial Statements for the Year ended 2022;

61. RAISES grave concerns on the audit issues raised in the AU Board of External Auditors' management letters of AU Organs and **DIRECTS** the AU Commission assisted by the Internal Accountability Committee (IAC) and other AU Organs to ensure implementation of all recommendations contained in the reports and to report back to the Executive Council on the progress made therein during its July 2024 session, and if necessary to the February 2025 session.

62. EXPRESSES serious concerns on the very low implementation rates of External Audit recommendations and **DIRECTS** the AUC and other AU Organs to enhance the efforts put in the implementation of Audit Recommendations.

63. DIRECTS the OIO to assist in developing a template for the respective Organs to provide detailed responses within a month following the issuance of the BoEA **reports** with findings, and signed by the respective Heads of Organs for presentation to the Joint Sitting of the relevant PRC Sub-Committees.

64. REQUESTS the BoEA to present a list where there were financial losses to the Organization with recommendations on the way forward on the recovery of the funds in accordance with Regulations 13 of the AU Staff Rules and Regulations on Indemnity in collaboration with the Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC);

65. **ALSO REQUESTS** the OIO to prepare a consolidated Matrix of all audit recommendations (Internal/ External/ Forensic) to be communicated officially to the Chairperson of the Commission, signed jointly by the Co-Chairs of the Sub-Committees on GSBCFAM and Audit Matters, highlighting the key mismanagement issues, urging the Chairperson to take corrective measures, including a timeline for full implementation of recommendations, and for the OIO to report regularly thereon, with a goal of concluding on the persistent audit findings within a timeframe of two years;
66. **DIRECTS** the AU Commission and AU Organs to develop an effective mechanism to implement the reported recommendations, and to take disciplinary actions towards staff responsible for non-implementation and report thereon.
67. **RECALLS** the Executive Council decision. EX.CL/Dec.1218 (XLIII) par 40 which requested the PRC to set up a Joint Task Force and **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made by the Chairs of the relevant Sub-Committees in developing the Terms of Reference of the Joint Task Force. **URGES** the PRC through its relevant Sub-committees to ensure that the work of the Joint Task Force commences immediately after the February 2024 Summit.

B. ON THE PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PWC - FORENSIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON AUC

68. **RECALLS** the Executive Council decisions EX.CL/Dec.1126(XXXIX) paragraph 56(iv) and EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI) paragraph 59, and **COMMENDS** the AU Commission for providing the updated and final progress report.
69. **REQUESTS** the Commission to include the status of implementation of the remaining PWC recommendations as part of the consolidated matrix of all audit recommendations (Internal/ External/ Forensic) to be communicated officially to the Chairperson of the Commission as per the conclusions of the item on the 2022 external audit report.
70. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the AU Commission to provide an update on the implementation of Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1126(XXXIX), especially on the issue related to recovery of misappropriated funds in line with Rule 13 of AU staff rules and regulations and in collaboration with the Office of Legal Counsel by April 2024.

C. ON THE PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE LOCHAN-FORENSIC AND PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORTS ON SIX (6) AU ORGANS (ACHPR, AFCHPR (AU COURT), AUDA-NEPAD, APRM, AUABC, AND PAP)

71. **RECALLS** the Executive Council decision **EX.CL/Dec.1189(XLII) paragraph 62** and **COMMENDS** the Commission and the AU Organs for providing the report on

the Implementation Status on Recommendations of the Lochan's Forensic and Performance Audit of the Six Organs (ACHPR, AfCHPR, AUDA-NEPAD, APRM, AUABC, AND PAP).

72. **COMMENDS** AUDA-NEPAD for the highest rate of implementation and **DIRECTS** the other respective Organs to achieve the highest rate possible in the implementation of the recommendations.
73. **REQUESTS** the AUC to update the report based on the comments and recommendations from the Members States, mainly to include in the report a detailed qualitative analysis on the implementation of the recommendations on the report to be presented to Member States for the July 2024 Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

IV. ON THE JOINT SITTING OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE (PRC) SUB-COMMITTEES ON GENERAL SUPERVISION AND COORDINATION ON BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (GSCBFAM), STRUCTURAL REFORMS AND THE TECHNICAL EXPERTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN MINISTERS OF FINANCE (F15)

The Executive Council,

A. Africa CDC Financial Sustainability Report and Epidemic Fund

74. **TAKES NOTE** of the two reports of the Africa Centres of Disease Control and Prevention on the financial sustainability of the Centres and the specific proposal by the Africa CDC on the establishment of the Epidemic Fund and **COMMENDS** the Committee of Experts of the F15 for their analysis and recommendations on the two reports.
75. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERNS** on the issues and observations highlighted by the F15 Experts as well as the Member States regarding the proposals by the Africa CDC on the financing of the Epidemic Fund and its proposed financial sustainability, and **NOTES** that Africa CDC's proposal is not adequate for consideration by the Policy Organs.
76. **DIRECTS** the Commission to revise the proposal through an internal technical Task Force as per the F15 Experts recommendations to ensure that appropriate consultations are conducted and that the revised proposal be re-presented to the F15 Experts and subsequently to the PRC through its relevant Sub-Committees, and **FURTHER DIRECTS** the Commission to align the revised proposal with the AU Financial Rules and the Africa CDC Statute respectively.

77. **FURTHER EXPRESSES RESERVATIONS** on the proposal by the Africa CDC to amend the current AU Financial Rules (FR), in order to accommodate the specific need of the Africa CDC, especially noting that the AU FR was recently adopted by the respective Policy Organs and further that all AU Organs and entities, without exception, are subjected to the provisions of the AU FR.
78. **DIRECTS** that the revised proposal be presented to the Joint Sitting by April 2024, to be considered by the Executive Council in July 2024.
79. **FURTHER DIRECTS** that in case of any urgent request for funding, the Africa CDC through the Commission could duly put a request to the PRC, in accordance with due process, on a case-by-case basis until the finalization of the proposal by the Africa CDC by July 2024.

B. UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF SACA

80. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the complexity and far-reaching implications of the Skills Audit and Competency Assessment process on the Commission and staff as well as its significant long-term financial, structural, and legal implications.
81. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in the consideration of SACA reports and **COMMENDS** the Commission for the work done so far, **STRESSES** the importance of respecting the respective quotas of Member States in the implementation of the SACA process.
82. **RECALLS** Executive Council Decision 1217, paragraph 27 which **DECIDED** to delegate to the PRC the mandate to authorize the utilization of the ring-fenced budget allocation subsequent to obtaining full disclosure from the Secretariat regarding the SACA process and **DIRECTED** the F15 Committee of Experts in collaboration with the Commission to come up with holistic financial implications and sustainability of the AU structures.
83. **REITERATES** the importance of respecting quota, the principle of merit in the conduct of the process, as well as addressing the issue of the current under-representation of Member States, and ensuring the implementation of the personnel's code of conduct in the SACA process.
84. **DIRECTS** the Commission to provide a clear and accurate report on the financial, structural and legal implication of the process.
85. **FURTHER DIRECTS** the Commission to present a proposal for a follow-up mechanism to ensure a transparent phased approach in the implementation of SACA, ensuring information sharing with Member States.
86. **INSTRUCTS** the PRC, through its relevant Sub-Committees, in close collaboration with the Commission to continue the consideration of the SACA process reports,

including the Board of External Auditors (BoEA) audit report on SACA, and to expedite the progress on the matter and report back to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2024.

V. ON THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

The Executive Council,

87. **RECALLS** Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.762(XXXIII), of February 2020 reaffirming the right of all AU Member States to participate in Statutory Meetings, related to partnerships between the African Union/African Continent and another Continent or Regional Organization; and “DECIDES that African Union/African Continent shall be represented at the Statutory Meetings of partnership between the African Union/African Continent and a partner country by the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, the Chairpersons of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of AUDA-NEPAD and the Chairperson of the AU Commission” .;

On AU – EU Partnership

88. **REQUESTS** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission to assess the reasons for postponement of the meetings and avoid similar circumstances in the future without proper prior consultations;
89. **ALSO REQUESTS** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission and the EU to agree on new dates for the 3rd AU-EU Ministerial Meeting to be held in Brussels, Belgium, in 2024, back-to-back with the 1st AU-EU Ministerial Follow-up Committee Meeting;
90. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission to continue to engage with the EU with the view to finalising the Working documents for the 3rd AU-EU Ministerial Meeting and the 1st AU – EU Ministerial Follow-up Committee.

On Africa – Arab Partnership

91. **REQUESTS** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission to assess the reasons for postponement of the meetings and avoid similar circumstances in the future without proper prior consultations;
92. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission to engage with the Secretariat of the League of Arab States to agree on new dates for the holding of the 5th Africa-Arab Summit to be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

93. **URGES** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission and the League of Arab States to continue all necessary consultations for the finalisation of the Working Documents for the 5th Africa-Arab Summit.

On Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

94. **TAKES NOTE** of the increased collaboration between the Commission and the Government of Japan, and the ongoing Review within the context of the 30th Anniversary of the TICAD process being implemented by AUDA-NEPAD, the Commission and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA);
95. **APPROVES** the holding of the 2024 TICAD Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo, Japan, on 24 – 25 August 2024, as proposed by the Government of Japan, and **REQUESTS** the PRC in collaboration with the Commission and Japan, to commence the preparatory processes for the successful holding of the Ministerial Meeting immediately;
96. **FURTHER APPROVES** the holding of the TICAD 9 Summit in Yokohama, Japan, from 20 – 22 August 2025.

On Africa – India Partnership

97. **REQUESTS** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission, the African Group of Ambassadors in New Delhi, India, to agree on the exact dates for the 4th Africa-India Summit and to ensure an effective preparation of the said Meeting, which shall be hosted at the Headquarters of the African Union, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

On Africa – Korea Partnership

98. **REQUESTS** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission, to continue monitoring the implementation of the commitments made during the 5th Korea – Africa Ministerial Forum and to continue annual consultations with the view to best preparing the next Ministerial Forum to be held in Africa in 2026.

On Africa – Türkiye Partnership

99. **REQUESTS** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission, the African Group of Ambassadors in Ankara, Istanbul, to agree on the exact dates for the Third Ministerial Review Conference and to ensure effective and adequate preparation of the said Meeting;
100. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the PRC to conduct a selection process for Member States willing to host the Third Ministerial Review Conference.

VI. ON THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON HEADQUARTERS AND HOST AGREEMENTS

The Executive Council,

101. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Sub-Committee on Headquarters and Host Agreements, and **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue consultation with Host Countries to address all the pending issues in the matrix and update the matrix in accordance with inputs made by Member States.
102. **REQUESTS** the Commission to develop Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Sub-Committee on Headquarters and Host Country Agreement before April 2024 and submit them to the Sub-Committee for consideration and onward transmission to the PRC for adoption in accordance with the Existing Rules of Procedure of the Union.
103. **REQUESTS** the Secretariat and the Member States hosting AU Organs, Institutions and Offices to provide regular updates to the Members of the Sub-Committee on new issues that require their attention.
104. **COMMENDS** the efforts made by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and its commitment to finalize the Host Country Agreement of the Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the League of Arab States hosted in Cairo, Egypt.
105. **SALUTES** the efforts made by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in addressing the outstanding matters in the matrix and **COMMENDS** a continuous improvement of the smooth functioning of the African Union Commission and the diplomatic missions hosted by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
106. **COMMENDS** the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and Secretariat of Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU) for completing the construction and inaugurating the permanent seat of the Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU) in Arusha, Tanzania.
107. **COMMENDS** the Government of the Republic of South Africa for its commitment to finalise the ongoing consultations on the Host Country Agreements with the AU institutions hosted by South Africa and **REQUESTS** the Office of the Legal Counsel to engage with the Government of the Republic of South Africa to finalise this matter.
108. **EXPRESSES** appreciation to the Government of Ethiopia for approving the refund of foreign currency seized from African nationals in transit at the Bole International Airport over failure to comply with relevant local laws;

VII. ON THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (HRDG)

The Executive Council,

109. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Activities of the PRC Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance (HRDG) for the period of January to December 2023;
110. **COMMENDS** the Sub-Committee for validating the African Governance Report 2023, which was developed by the APRM on behalf of the African Governance Platform (AGP) of the African Governance Architecture (AGA);
111. **WELCOMES** the continuation of the annual joint session between the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the PRC Sub Committee on HRDG and the AGP and **UNDERLINES** the implementation of the PSC Communique of the 1167th Meeting on the Joint Session held on 11th of August 2023;
112. **APPLAUDS** the work of members of the African Governance Platform especially the ACHPR in promoting and protecting human and peoples' rights on the Continent and calling for the universal ratifications of related Protocols. **FURTHER APPLAUDS** the work of ECOSOCC on meaningfully engaging African Citizens and Civil Society Organizations in the affairs of the African Union and **EXPRESSES** support for the preparation of the African State of Civil Society Report in 2024;
113. **TAKES NOTE** of the Joint Retreat held between the PRC Sub-Committee on HRDG and ACHPR and encourages the continuation of these joint consultations and **CALLS** for more political, financial and capacity support to the AU Organs with a human right mandate;
114. **TAKES NOTE** of the work of the Department of Political Affairs Peace and Security (PAPS) on the status of the AU Strategy for the Mainstreaming of the ACDEG in School's curriculum and **CALLS ON** all Member States to support this project;
115. **RECOGNISES** the unique positioning of the African Governance Platform (AGP) as the only existing platform that brings AU Organs, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Mechanisms (RMs) together on issues of human rights, democracy and governance.
116. **UNDERSCORES** the significance of synergies between the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and **RECALLS** the request made by the PSC on the 1167th meeting held on 11 August 2023 to the AU Commission to enhance the institutional capacity of AGA-APSA

Secretariat to effectively support the PRC Sub-Committee on HRDG and the African Governance Platform in discharging their respective mandates and **CALLS ON** enhanced synergies and complimentary of efforts between the AGA and the APSA;

117. **REITERATES** the call for universal ratification, domestication, implementation and reporting of all AU Shared Values Instruments, particularly, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG);
118. **CALLS** for the AU Commission to expedite the operationalization of the African Governance Facility;
119. **REQUESTS** the PRC Sub Committee on HRDG and the AGP to conduct promotional visits on AU Shared Values Instruments; and to participate in a more active role in preventive diplomacy efforts of the African Union;
120. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the PRC Sub Committee on HRDG to continue its engagement with the AU Organs and Institutions with Human Rights and Governance mandate with a view to enhancing coordination and collaboration, especially in enhancing the synergy between the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA);
121. **ENDORSES** the recommendation made to declare 2025 as “the Year of Human Rights, Democracy and Governance in Africa”.

VIII. ON THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND TRADE MATTERS

The Executive Council,

122. **TAKES NOTE** and **ADOPTS** the Report of the Activities of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Economic and Trade Matters for the period of January to December 2023 and recommendations contained therein;
123. **TAKES NOTE** of the adoption of the landmark resolution towards a UN Framework Convention on international Tax cooperation, tabled/spearheaded by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group in New York and **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to support the African Group in New York **REITERATES THE NEED** to organise the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly dedicated to the operationalization of the AUFIs before end of 2024;
124. **APPRECIATES** the support that the PRC, through the Sub-Committee, continues to provide to the Commission in fulfilling its mandate towards achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development, thereby contributing to the realization of the Aspirations and Objectives of Agenda 2063;

125. **CALLS UPON** all Member States to reaffirm their political commitment for the expeditious establishment and operationalisation of the AUFIs, recognizing their pivotal role in advancing Africa's inclusive growth and sustainable development.

IX. ON THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON NEPAD

The Executive Council,

126. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the PRC on the report of the PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD;
127. **COMMENDS** AUDA-NEPAD for the central role it plays in the implementation of Agenda 2063, and **ENCOURAGES** it to intensify its efforts in the implementation of the Second Ten-Year Plan of Agenda 2063. In this regard, **REQUESTS** AUDA-NEPAD to accelerate the finalization of the feasibility study on the Development Fund, in accordance with Executive Council decision 1143, for submission at the next session of the Executive Council scheduled for July 2024;
128. **EMPHASIZES** the need to strengthen synergies between NEPAD programs and AGENDA 2063; and in this regard, **REQUESTS** the Commission to examine the feasibility, of merging the PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD and the Ambassadorial Committee on Agenda 2063 both on the legal and financial aspects, and **REPORT** to the Executive Council at its session in February 2025;
129. **APPROVES** the transformation of the PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD into a plenary Sub-Committee and **REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary steps to give effect to this decision and to **REPORT** to the Executive Council at its session in February 2025;
130. **ALSO APPROVES** the holding of an annual retreat between the PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD and AUDA-NEPAD;
131. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the PRC through its relevant joint sitting to consider an increase in the AUDA-NEPAD budget ceiling, on a case by case, as well as the budget ceiling of the AUDA-NEPAD Coordination Unit in order to facilitate a better execution of their respective mandates; and in this respect **REQUESTS** AUDA-NEPAD and the Commission to submit proposals to the PRC for approval in accordance with the established due procedures;
132. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to finalize the recruitment and deployment of the staff provided for in the AUDA-NEPAD Coordination Unit structure as soon as possible;
133. **DECIDES** to remain seized of the matter.

X. ON THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURAL REFORMS

The Executive Council,

- 134. RECALLS** Article 9(2) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which mandates the Assembly to delegate any of its powers and functions to any Organ of the Union;
- 135. RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly to delegate its authority to the Executive Council to consider and adopt, during its 45th Session in June/July 2024, the following structures:
- The African Humanitarian Agency
 - The Africa Inclusive Markets Excellency Centre.

**DECISION ON THE REPORTS OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEES (STCs) AND OTHER MINISTERIAL MEETINGS**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Reports of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) and other Ministerial Meetings;
 2. **RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.1186(XLI) para 12, adopted at the 41st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2022, regarding the moratorium on establishing new structures;
 3. **STRESSES** that the following Decisions should not bear any financial, legal and structural implications to the AU and **FURTHER CALLS UPON** the STCs and all technical ministerial councils and meetings to refrain from adopting any structures or budgets that were not considered by the AU Policy Organs through the due process;
 4. **REQUESTS** that all STCs adopt their Reports at the end of their meetings.
- I. **FOURTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT (ARDWE)**

The Executive Council,

5. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment held on 29 May 2023 and endorses the recommendations there in;
6. **COMMENDS** the Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment for successfully holding the 5th Extraordinary Session of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment;
7. **COMMENDS** the Commission for the progress reported on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the 4th Ordinary Session of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment in December 2021, and requests further progress to be reported during the 5th Ordinary Session of the STC of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment to be held on 13-17 November 2023;

On the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health (AFSH) Summit;

8. **APPRECIATES** the Republic of Kenya for accepting to host the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2023;
9. **COMMENDS** the Commission for the progress made in organizing the Summit, in particular for ensuring wide consultation and ownership of the documents for the Summit;

10. **TAKES NOTE** of and recommends three documents for consideration by the Summit:
 - (i) the Draft declaration on Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health
 - (ii) the Draft 10-year Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan
 - (iii) the Soil Initiative for Africa
11. **APPRECIATES** the technical and financial support from technical and development partners to the Commission to organize the Summit;

On the Common African Agro-Parks

12. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in advancing the work on the Common Africa Agro-Parks (CAAPs) initiative;
13. **APPRECIATES** the technical and financial support from technical and development partners to the Commission to advance the CAAPs initiative;
14. **ENDORSES** the request for the CAAPs initiative to be a flagship program under the second 10-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063;
15. **REQUESTS** the Commission to mobilize financial resources to support further advancement of the CAAPs initiative;

On Food Security

16. **APPRECIATES** the presentation made by FAO, on behalf of the AUC-FAO Taskforce, on the status of food security on the Continent and NOTES with concern the implications of global food crisis on food security in Africa,
17. **APPRECIATES** the efforts of H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and former Chair of the African Union, including by hosting the Dakar Food Security Summit in January 2023 and the valuable outcomes contained therein;
18. **UNDERLINES** the importance of expediting the implementation of the Africa Common Position to the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021 and the CAADP objectives and requests the African Union Commission to report on progress of the implementation of the Africa Common Position during the next 5th Ordinary STC of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment;
19. **ALSO ENCOURAGES** the African Union Member States to advocate for the African Common Position on food systems transformation and its priority areas during their participation in the World Food Forum in October 2023;

On Environment and Climate Change

20. **CONGRATULATES** H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs and COP 27

President and the people of Egypt for hosting a successful COP 27 and delivering critical decisions to advance climate action and implementation;

21. **TAKES NOTE** with appreciation of the political guidance and preparatory meetings convened by the Committee of the African Heads of States and Governments (CAHOSCC), the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) and meetings of the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN) in preparation for COP 27;
22. **WELCOMES** the strong participation of the African Union Commission, AU Policy Organs and African Civil Society in COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh that contributed to successful and rebalanced outcomes for the African countries and the developing world at large and requests the incoming COP 28 Presidency to build on this momentum and to ensure Africa's strong presence;
23. **ALSO WELCOMES** the decisions of COP 27 that recognize the importance of food and water security in the context of global climate action; and calls for expedited concessional and predictable finance to address the growing adaptation needs in Africa against climate change impacts,
24. **ENDORSES** the COP 27 Presidency's initiatives on Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) and Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace (CRSP) as guiding frameworks to boost climate action and accessing climate finance without financial, legal or structural implications with the other existing initiatives such as the Africa Adaptation Initiative, the African Union Climate Change Strategy and the Africa Agriculture Adaptation Initiative and the 3S initiative and also **INVITES** the Member States to join the implementation of the two initiatives.

II. FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

The Executive Council,

25. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the 5th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment held on 14-17 November 2023;
26. **COMMENDS** the Ministers responsible for Agriculture Rural Development, Water and Environment for the successful holding of the 5th STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.
27. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal to rename the STC Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) to STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, Water and Environment (ARBWE) and **RECOMMENDS** its consideration to the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

28. **TAKES NOTE** of the achievements of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme as presented in 4th Biennial Review (BR) Report and **EXPRESSES CONCERN** that the continent is not on-track to meet the CAADP goals and targets by 2025.
29. **NOTES** that despite significant progress over two decades, the continent's ambitions and aspirations under the Maputo and Malabo CAADP agendas have not been met. This challenge has been compounded by global issues, including climate change, conflicts, epidemic outbreaks, and economic downturns; and therefore, there is a need to retain the strengths of the CAADP agenda while adjusting and deepening it to respond to emerging issues.
30. **TAKES NOTE:**
- (i) that the Post-Malabo Agenda must meet the needs of sustainable food systems transformation in the context of climate change and shocks from multiple sources. This can only be accomplished by building on previous successes while tackling ongoing and new challenges;
 - (ii) of the postponement of the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit that was supposed to be held in 2022/2023 and **ENDORSES** the request to convene the Summit in May 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.
31. **ENDORSES** for submission to the 37th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in February 2024, the following documents:
- (i) Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) 4th Biennial Review Report;
 - (ii) 2022 Annual Report of the Commission on the July 2008 Assembly Declaration regarding the Sharm El-Sheikh;
 - (iii) Swakopmund Declaration on "Accelerated Action for Inclusive, Sustainable, Resilient and Safely Managed Sanitation and Hygiene Services Delivery in Africa";
 - (iv) The Kampala Declaration on the 2nd Edition of the G25Africa Coffee Summit held on 8 August 2023 on the inclusion of coffee as a strategic commodity in the AU Agenda 2063 and for the Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO) be appointed as an AU designated agency responsible for coffee to work with the African Union Commission (AUC) and Member States on effective transformation of the coffee value chain in Africa.
32. **CONSIDERS and ENDORSES** the following frameworks, guidelines and strategies to accelerate agricultural transformation, rural development, water and environment management:
- (i) the Post-Malabo CAADP Agenda and Road Map;
 - (ii) Guidelines for inclusive agricultural value chains development (iAVCD) in Africa;
 - (iii) the Digital Agriculture Strategy and its implementation Plan (2024-2027);

- (iv) the Rural Infrastructure Development Policy Framework for Africa;
- (v) the ten-year action of the Partnership for Integrated Seed Sector Development in Africa (PISSA);
- (vi) the pan African programme on eradication of Peste des petits ruminants and control of other priority small ruminant diseases (2023-2027);
- (vii) the African Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (ABSAP);
- (viii) the Continental Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) which intends to facilitate Africa's transition to a circular model;
- (ix) the Strategy and the Ten-Year Implementation Framework for the Great Green Wall Initiative.
- (x) the Africa Urban Resilience Programme (AURP);
- (xi) the digital one health information policy and associated one health information architecture framework for improved digitalised one health governance and management;
- (xii) mechanisms for enhancing the effective role and participation of African Union Member States in regional, continental, and global aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management related fora or regimes;
- (xiii) the guidelines for developing Public-Private Partnership models for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development in Africa;
- (xiv) the framework for Harmonized minimum terms and conditions for fisheries access in the African Union Member States;
- (xv) the Strategy for rational management of African inland fisheries;
- (xvi) the Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF) as a continental platform of AU directors of aquaculture to promote coherent sustainable aquaculture development in Africa;
- (xvii) establishment of the Pan-African Network of nationally registered civil society organizations (NCSOs) in the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector (AFRIFISH-NET);
- (xviii) establishment and operationalization of the African pastoral markets development (APMD) platform;
- (xix) urgent Actions to Address Feed Shortages and Avert Future Feed Related Disasters;
- (xx) commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa;
- (xxi) the outcomes of the Inaugural Africa Food Regulatory Authorities Forum;
- (xxii) the recommendations of Abuja meeting in July 2023 on harmonization of standards for registration of veterinary vaccines and certification of vaccine manufacturing facilities in Africa, which are based on the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH) and the Veterinary International Conference on Harmonization (VICH) for International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products;
- (xxiii) the outcomes of the Inaugural Africa Food Regulatory Authorities Forum held under the auspices of the African Union Commission with the view of promoting modernization and harmonization of food regulatory practices in the continent.

33. FURTHER CONSIDERS AND ADOPTS the following Reports:

- (i) the Report on Development of an African Common Position Towards a Legally Binding Protocol on Drought Under the UNCCD;
- (ii) the AMCEN report and the outcomes of the AMCEN 19th Ordinary session;
- (iii) the Report on the Establishment of the African Centers of Excellence on Disaster Risk Reduction;
- (iv) the 2023 Report on the Implementation of the 2015 Ngor Declarations;
- (v) the independent (external) audit of the overall CAADP Biennial Review process, with additions to the inclusion and clear documentation of the successes of the Biennial Review process, and with the exception of the reporting period that will remain biennial up to 2025.
- (vi) the expansion of AU-PANVAC mandates to include auditing and certification of vaccine manufacturing facilities in collaboration with national regulatory authorities in Africa;
- (vii) Preparedness of African countries to eliminate rabies by 2030;
- (viii) Donkey species preservation in Africa: “DONKEY IN AFRICA NOW AND IN THE FUTURE”;
- (ix) Continental strategy for mainstreaming gender in aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management;
- (x) Improving Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity;
- (xi) the Statute for Continental Civilian Capacity Mechanism on Disaster Preparedness and Response;
- (xii) the new coordination Strategy and Ten Years Implementation Framework for the Great Green Wall Initiative.

34. DIRECTS the AUC to:

- (i) allocate US\$1 million annually from Member States contribution to support the operations of the AMHEWAS Situation Room in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- (ii) organize a pledging conference for Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine (SEAF) to mobilize support for AMHEWAS;

35. REQUESTS the February 2024 AU Assembly to convene an Extraordinary Summit on the Post-Malabo CAADP Agenda and the Road Map in the last quarter of 2024 or at the margins of the regular AU Assembly in January/February 2025;

36. ENDORSES the 10-year Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan and the Soil Initiative for Africa (SIA) Framework Document adopted by Ministers responsible for ARDWE, during the Extraordinary Session of the STC on ARDWE that was held on May 29, 2023.

37. REQUESTS the 37th Ordinary Session of AU Assembly in February 2024 to endorse the decision to host the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health (AFSH) Summit from May 7-9, 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

38. REQUESTS the Commission:

- (i) to collaborate with members of the Bureau of the 5th STC Session to develop a plan of action and roadmap for the implementation of the recommendations;
- (ii) to develop a monitoring framework on the implementation of the decisions of all relevant sectors of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment;
- (iii) and Development partners, RECs to support and facilitate Member States in the implementation of the decisions of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.
- (iv) to execute the change from Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel initiative (GGWSSI) to the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) and **REQUESTS** for adoption of a biennial review and score board.
- (v) to present the Statute of the Joint Africa-Arab Fund on Disaster Risk Reduction for consideration by the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs;
- (vi) to expand and diversify the scope of the Situation Room to include other hazards besides meteorological hazards;
- (vii) in collaboration with the AMCOMET Secretariat, to operationalize a continental monitoring mechanism providing status reports for implementation of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology every two years.

39. URGES the AUC:

- (i) to accelerate the operationalization of the already approved Centers of Excellence (CoEs) in Fisheries and Aquaculture in Angola, Cameroon, Gabon and Namibia, taking into consideration the moratorium on establishment of new CoEs;
- (ii) to mobilize requisite resources in collaboration with relevant regional and global stakeholders, including non-state actors, to implement the newly outlined Strategy and Ten-Year Framework, facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building among Member States, fostering synergies and collective action and bolster the impact and outreach of the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI);
- (iii) to develop an African Water Policy that can provide strategic framework towards inclusive and climate resilient water security in the continent;
- (iv) and AMCOW to further strengthen the Partners Coordination Platform (PCP).

40. URGES all African Union Member States to:

- (i) join AUC's initiative of multi-country program to access climate finance;
- (ii) develop national climate resilient water investment programs and in developing programs access climate finance for climate resilient and inclusive water security programs.

41. URGES Member States and RECs to join the GRAP implementation through the submission of their proposals.

42. **APPROVES** the proposal to adopt “Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063” as the African Union Theme of the year 2026.

III. THE 4TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TRANSCONTINENTAL AND INTERREGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND ENERGY (STC-TTIIE) HELD FROM 12TH TO 15TH SEPTEMBER 2023 IN ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA

The Executive Council:

43. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the 4th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, and Energy (STC-TTIIE) held in Zanzibar-United Republic of Tanzania from 12th to 15th September 2023 and the related Declaration.
44. **COMMENDS** the Ministers responsible for Transport and Energy for the successful holding of the 4th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, and Energy (STC-TTIIE) and achieving notable outcomes for the development of the Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, and Energy in Africa.
45. **ENDORSES** the change of the name of the Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism (STC-TTIET) to Specialised Technical Committee on Transport and Energy (STC-T&E).

Under Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure

46. **ADOPTS** the updated PIDA Quality Label (PQL) methodology incorporating the Green Check Methodology (GCM) of the PIDA Service Delivery Mechanism (SDM) as a tool to assess climate risk mitigation potential and climate adaptation potential for PIDA projects.
47. **REQUESTS** the AUC to organize high-level engagement meetings with Member States and RECs to advocate for more commitment to their priority infrastructure projects.
48. **REQUESTS** the AFRI-RES Partnership, continental and regional institutions, and development partners to increase the scale and pace of support to Member States and infrastructure stakeholders to climate-proof investments and accelerate the flow of climate finance for PIDA-PAP2 and other infrastructure projects.

Under Transport Sector

49. **ADOPTS** the roadmap for a comprehensive and integrated regulatory framework of road transport in Africa; The report on Ports Efficiency and Competitiveness in Africa; The African Green Ports Forum (AGPF) Terms of Reference (ToRs) and Implementation Roadmap; The continental Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) Development and Deployment Action Plan.
50. **CALLS** on the remaining 18 Member States to sign the Solemn Commitment to join the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM).
51. **ALSO CALLS** on all SAATM Member States to join the Project Implementation Pilot (PIP) initiative to accelerate the implementation of SAATM.
52. **FURTHER CALLS** on all remaining Member States to complete the ratification process for the Road Safety Charter, the Revised Maritime Transport Charter and the Luxembourg Protocol on railway rolling stock.
53. **CALLS FOR** the change of name of the AU flagship project, the "African Integrated High-Speed Railway Network" to "African Integrated Railway Network".
54. **CALLS** on the AUC and partners in collaboration with a host Member State to mobilise resources to convene a high-level forum on African Road Safety in 2024.
55. **REQUESTS** the AUC in collaboration with Africa Transport Policy Programme (SSATP), International Transport Forum (ITF), Africa Transport Development & Policy (ITDP), UNHABITAT and other partners to develop continental policy and standards for sustainable urban mobility providing opportunities to develop smart urban mobility solutions including public transport, non-motorised transport, e-mobility initiatives and improving road safety.
56. **ALSO REQUESTS** the AUC in collaboration with partners, Ports Associations and Maritime Organizations to implement the roadmap on the Africa Green Ports Forum (AGPF).
57. **FURTHER REQUESTS** AFCAC in collaboration with AUC-Office of the Legal Counsel and the Yamoussoukro Declaration on SAATM monitoring body to convene meetings of legal experts from Member States to discuss the challenges faced in the implementation and enforcement of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on SAATM legal and regulatory instruments.
58. **REQUESTS** AFCAC in collaboration with AUC and ICAO to finalise the process for the amendment of the Abuja Safety and Air Navigation Targets including the associated performance framework required to align with the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) as amended once every triennium.
59. **DELEGATES** to the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) /SAATM Monitoring Body the responsibility of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) including the selection and appointment of the members of the Administrative Council and

approve the Administrative Council's budget, work plans and periodic reports in line with Annex 2 of the YD and report back during subsequent STC meetings.

60. **ADOPTS** the 2024-2025 Action Plans for the transport (road, railway, maritime and air).

Under Energy Sector

61. **CALLS** for the adoption of the African Single Energy Market (AfSEM) with its Continental Power Systems Masterplan (CMP) component by the AU Summit as an AU Agenda 2063 Flagship Project.
62. **REQUESTS** the AUC and partners in collaboration with a host Member State to mobilise resources to convene an African Energy Summit in 2024, which will bring together all ministries and stakeholders relevant to energy infrastructure development.
63. **ADOPTS** the AfSEM strategic and action plans, establishment of the AfSEM Strategic Planning and Coordination Unit (SPCU) within the AUC Department of Infrastructure and Energy, the Five-Year Business Plan and Year-1 Work Plan for the SPCU, and the AfSEM Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism.
64. **FURTHER ADOPTS** the AUC study report on the technical, economic, social, and political implications of green hydrogen development in Africa.
65. **ALSO ADOPTS** the continental regulatory framework for crowding-in private sector investment in Africa's electricity markets.
66. **ALSO ADOPTS** the CMP Mwanga Database Data Classification Paper and the CMP Synthesis report, along with its associated Specific Support Studies (SSS).
67. **CALLS** on Member States to allocate financial resources for the implementation of AfSEM, CMP, and to ratify the Convention of the African Energy Commission (AFREC), and to strengthen their collaboration and communication with AFREC for effective implementation of its mandate.
68. **REQUESTS** the AUC and its partners to mobilize financial resources for implementing the second phase of the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF) and establish the geothermal capacity building programme to enhance policy and regulatory frameworks in the Member States, and to encourage private sector investment.
69. **ALSO REQUESTS** AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and development partners to establish a more encompassing Continental Renewable Energy Risk Mitigation Facility by expanding the existing GRMF to de-risk and expedite the adoption and integration of renewable energy sources within the African energy system.

70. **FURTHER REQUESTS** AFREC and AUDA-NEPAD in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and other partners to develop the Clean Energy Value Chains in Africa (CLEVA) initiative.
71. **REQUESTS** AUC, ECA, AUDA-NEPAD, AFREC, AfDB, Regional Power Pools (RPPs) and development partners to develop a continental energy security policy framework as called for by the 41st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and develop an Energy Security Index and Dashboard to track advancements in achieving Africa's energy security.
72. **ALSO REQUESTS** AUDA-NEPAD, AUC, AFREC, ECA, AfDB, power pools and development partners to conduct a comprehensive assessment of local manufacturing of renewable energy technologies and beneficiation of critical minerals for battery manufacturing.
73. **FURTHER REQUESTS** AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, the Government of DRC and other key stakeholders to establish a Strategic Coordination Committee on the Grand Inga project based on the recommendations from the STC Energy Sub-Committee meeting of March 2018 to ensure challenges within the project are addressed and implementation is accelerated.
74. **ADOPTS** the 2024-2025 Action Plans for Energy.

IV. THE FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION AND ICT HELD IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA ON 23 NOVEMBER 2023.

The Executive Council:

75. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Fifth Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information & Communication Technologies (**STC-CICT-5**) held from 20 to 23 November 2023 and the 2023 Declaration;
76. **COMMENDS** the Ministers responsible for Communication, Information and Communication Technology for the successful holding of the Fifth meeting of their Specialized Technical Committee (STC) and achieving notable outcomes for the development of the Communication, Information and Communication Technology sectors in Africa;
77. **ENDORSES the:**
 - (a) DTS Institutional Architecture, Implementation and MEL Frameworks;
 - (b) Continental Strategy on Enabling Policy and Regulatory Environment for Africa's Single Digital Market; Its Implementation Plan and M&E Framework.
 - (c) Guidelines on the Integration of Data Provision in Digital Trade Protocols.
 - (d) Policy on Child Online Safety and Empowerment

- (e) Review Report of the Malabo Convention
- (f) Conceptual Framework of the Continental Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy
- (g) Implementation Plan and Self-Capacity Assessment Tool of the AU Data Policy Framework along with its Responsibility Matrix.
- (h) Continental Report on "Harmonization of Market Entry Conditions and Data
- (i) Protection & Localization".
- (j) Study Report on Improving the Digitalization of Postal Services in Africa

78. REQUESTS THE AU COMMISSION TO:

- a. Develop an African Digital Compact as a contribution to the Global Digital Compact in preparation for the United Nations Summit of the Future
- b. Organize an Extra-Ordinary STC on Communication and ICT in the first half of 2024 to consider and approve the African Digital Compact as a contribution to the Global Digital Compact for adoption by the AU Summit.
- c. Develop and implement strategies to utilize digital solutions to address climate, food security and energy access crises.
- d. Expedite the development of the Continental Cybersecurity strategy and the Continental Artificial Intelligence (AI) strategy with their implementation roadmaps;
- e. Work towards strengthening regulatory cooperation and enhancing harmonization of digital legal and regulatory frameworks to integrate Africa to a Single Digital Market in line with AfCFTA and Agenda 2063 goals.
- f. Cost the implementation of the components of the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa and coordinate the development of its Resource Mobilization Strategy
- g. Organize an African Digital Transformation Summit every two years taking into account the principle of rotation among the 5 AU regions
- h. Work with the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to include indicators of press freedom, access to information and the safety of journalists in its Governance Index
- i. Develop and implement an integrated Knowledge Management Strategy and Process for the African Union to ensure that the information about the Union and its activities, mandates, decisions, programmes, research and other key data is available to the public and Member States in an open and easily accessible platform to promote the use of African data and information in policy making and promoting Africa's development agenda;
- j. Support AU Member States in domesticating the AU Data Policy Framework and developing national data governance systems and capabilities.
- k. Coordinate the development of a Cross Border Data Flows Mechanism that considers the different levels of digital readiness, data maturity as well as legal and regulatory environments of AU Member States.

- l. Coordinate the development of Common Data Categorization and Sharing framework to foster data flows while considering the associated levels of protection and security.
- m. Collaborate with UNESCO to encourage inclusion in the next version of the Internet for Trust guidelines a set of obligations for Tech platforms to safeguard, support and advance public interest news and journalism as a public good in society.
- n. Implement the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1069(XXXV) of July 2019 that all AU activities relating to communications shall be managed by the Information and Communication Directorate and task the Human Resources Department to ensure adherence in all forms of staffing including recruitment, contracting, secondment, internship and volunteering for better accountability and coordination of AU communication activities.
- o. Allocate adequate financial resources to capacitate the ICD to enable it to better and effectively communicate to various stakeholders and audiences on different media platforms in a strategic and consistent manner;
- p. Undertake a benchmarking exercise of communication budget allocations for institutions of a similar nature and size as the African Union to establish a baseline for communication budget to be used as a guide on recommendation for adequate funding and to present their report to the Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters
- q. Capacitate key service departments such as the Information and Communication Directorate in the first phase of the Institutional Reforms
- r. Enhance media education at a continental level by incorporating within the curricula of the Pan African University and the Virtual University, modern training course for policy makers, media practitioners and content creators that takes into consideration emerging developments in technology so as to upskill African media and communicators to make them fit for purpose in the digital age, promote Agenda 2063 through developmental journalism and support the dissemination of balanced narratives about Africa
- s. Implement Executive Council Decisions EX.CL/Dec.1143-1167(XL) (2022) and EX.CL/Dec.1073-1096(XXXVI) (2020) and Ensure the AU Brand & Communication Style Guide and the AU Communication Policies and Procedures are instituted within the AUC and the organs and institutions of the African Union and adopted and used in all Member States and ensure adherence by partners in their support to the AU.
- t. Work with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to undertake a 10-year review and update of the 2013 African Model Law on Access to Information, to ensure compliance with the 2019 Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, and particularly to make it fit for purpose in the digital age.

79. REQUESTS AUDA-NEPAD TO:

- a. Implement the African Cybersecurity Capacity Building Agenda and to work with Member States to mobilise resources from private sector and development partners for its implementation.
- b. Prepare a country engagement plan on the AU Data Policy Framework and sensitize Member States on its implementation.

80. CALLS UPON: Multilateral financial institutions, development partners and the private sector, including the AfDB, the World Bank and Afrexim Bank to mobilize necessary resources to implement continental strategies, frameworks and Programs adopted by AU Policy Organs.

V. THE 8TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (STC ON GEWE)

The Executive Council,

A. Report on the 2022 Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)

- 81. TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in implementing the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.
- 82. FURTHER ENCOURAGES** Cabo Verde which has not yet submitted its initial SDGEA report to do so to the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate.
- 83. ADOPTS** the 2022 reports of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa

B. High-Level Presidential Initiative on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Girls

Preparations for the 3rd Men's Conference on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Girls

- 84. REQUESTS** the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate to develop an Implementation Framework for the outcomes of the Men's Conference to facilitate implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Updates on the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

- 85. REQUESTS** the Commission to facilitate wider consultations with Member States, including on the structure of the Convention before the draft is submitted for official negotiations.
- 86. PROPOSES** the Convention to address key thematic areas such as hate speech and violence in the cyber/ digital space; financing to end violence against women and girls; as well as dealing with negative social norms.

87. **CONVENES** a Consultation meeting of the AU Ministers in charge of Gender and Women's Affairs to engage the draft text of the Convention before its submission for negotiations.
88. **TAKES NOTE** of the process and progress to develop the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)

C. Regional Action Plan for Africa with a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)

89. **TAKES NOTE** of the Regional Action Plan for Africa on EVAWG as a continental framework to guide Member States efforts in translating global and regional commitments into strategies and actions at regional and national levels to end violence against women and girls.
90. **RECOMMENDS** that the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate develop a Compendium of best practices to accompany the Regional Action Plan without prejudice to its future consideration and adoption by Member States.

D. AU Women and Youth Financial Mechanisms

Fund for African Women (FAW)

91. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to provide the list and disburse grants to the currently verified beneficiaries in line with EX.CL/Dec.1190(XLII), working together with the Ministries in charge of Gender and Youth to coordinate.

E. Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Maputo Protocol - Maputo Protocol @20

92. **TAKES NOTE** of the High-Level Conference to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.
93. **RECOGNISES** the forty-four (44) Member States that have ratified the Maputo Protocol
94. **ENCOURAGES** the eleven (11) Member States which have not ratified, while reaffirming their sovereign rights in this regard, to consider, to sign and ratify/ accede to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

F. Gender and Youth Statistics

95. **ENSURES** that there are national gender and national youth indicator frameworks that reflect the gender and youth strategies and programs of Government and can be used as leverage for the funding of gender data and statistics production and use.

96. **PROMOTE** the mainstreaming of gender in the national statistical system, survey questionnaires and administrative data systems.
97. **FACILITATES** the establishment of coordination committees for gender and youth statistics respectively.
98. **ENSURES** adequate support and capacity building to National Statistical Offices for gender data collection and analysis.

VI. THE 8TH AND 9TH EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS, and 9TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS AND CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

The Executive Council,

I. THE 8TH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC ON JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

99. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and recommendations of the Eight Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs held from 11 to 13 December 2023 (Meeting of Government Legal Experts) and from 18 to 19 December 2023 (Ministerial Meeting) in hybrid format (in Addis Ababa and via videoconference);
100. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the *Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights relating to the Specific Aspects of the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa*;
101. **DECIDES** to recommend the same to the Assembly for consideration and adoption.

II. THE 9TH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC ON JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

102. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and recommendations of the Ninth Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs held from 07 to 09 February 2024 (Meeting of Government Legal Experts) and 10 February 2024 (Ministerial Meeting) in Durban, South Africa;
103. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the following *Draft Legal Instruments*:
 - i. *Protocol to the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Women and Youth in Trade*; and
 - ii. *Protocol to the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Digital Trade*.
104. **DECIDES** to recommend the same to the Assembly for consideration and adoption.

105. FURTHER DECIDES to refer the bracketed Articles 5 and 6 of the Draft Protocol on Digital Trade, dealing with rules of origin and customs duties, to the Assembly for consideration.

III. THE 9TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC ON JUSTICE AND LEGALAFFAIRS

106. TAKES NOTES of the Report of the 9th Ordinary Session of the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs held from held from 14 to 16 December 2023 (Meeting of Government Legal Experts) and from 18 to 19 December 2023 (Ministerial Meeting) in hybrid format (in Addis Ababa and via videoconference);

107. ALSO TAKES NOTE of the following Draft Legal Instruments:

- i. Proposed amendment of Article 22(4) of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption; and*
- ii. Draft Revised Statute of the African Union Administrative Tribunal.*

108. DECIDES to recommend to the Assembly for consideration and adoption the *Proposed amendment of Article 22(4) of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption* to revise the term of office of the members of the African Union Board against Corruption (AUABC) from two (2) to six (6) years renewal once;

109. ALSO DECIDES to refer the Draft Revised Statute of the African Union Administrative Tribunal back to the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs and **REQUESTS** the STC to reconsider it taking into account the proposals submitted by the Commission;

110. NOTES with concern, the low rate and pace of ratification / accession of Treaties establishing AU Judicial Bodies;

111. REQUESTS the Commission, through the Office of the Legal Counsel, to continue advocating for the ratification of the *Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights*, and the *Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights*, to secure the requisite threshold of ratifications for their entry into force.

**DECISION ON THE
THE COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
(CAADP) FOURTH BIENNIAL REVIEW REPORT**

The Executive Council,

1. **ENDORSES** the 4th CAADP Biennial Review Report;
2. **URGES** Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AUC, and all stakeholders to renew their commitments to CAADP as Africa's transformative plan for agriculture-led growth;
3. **CALLS UPON** Member States, AUC and RECs to use different available platforms to disseminate the 4th CAADP BR Report and use it as widely as possible to stimulate debate, discussions, and policy changes;
4. **REQUESTS** AU Member States, RECs, the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to strengthen the existing established central multi-sectoral coordination mechanism for effective CAADP implementation;
5. **ENCOURAGES** the AUC and other stakeholders to document lessons learned and establish areas of successes and challenges that will provide priority areas to feed into implementation processes for the next two years until 2025. This will also feed into the development of the post-Malabo agenda for the next 10 years (2026-2035);
6. **REITERATES** the need for strong political leadership and commitment, including strengthening of financial and human resources capacities at all levels to drive implementation, mutual accountability, to achieve the aspirations of CAADP;
7. **ENCOURAGES** RECs to continue to play a critical role in the CAADP implementation and, in particular, the management of the Biennial Review process;
8. **REQUESTS** AUC and Member States to work on improving data quality and incorporating the BR process into the national statistical and monitoring and evaluation systems. Furthermore, Member States, with support of AUC and technical partners should synergize the processes of the BR, National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIP) and Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs).

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AFRICAN UNION MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE
ON COUNTER-TERRORISM (AUMCCT)**

The Executive Council,

1. **RECALLS** the Declaration [Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.(XVI)] and Decision [Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.(XVI)] of the 16th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa, held on 28 May 2022, in Malabo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea, which established the AU Ministerial Committee on Counter-Terrorism (AUMCCT) to serve as a high-level coordination, monitoring, evaluation and follow-up mechanism of the implementation of the commitments made in the Declaration;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the Draft Terms of Reference of the AUMCCT and **COMMENDS** the Peace and Security Council and the Commission for their formulation to ultimately ensure the implementation of the Decision and Declaration of the 16th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly;
3. **STRESSES** the importance of the establishment of the AUMCCT to contribute to the timely, efficient and robust response to the persistent threat and acts of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in Africa; and **RAISES** the need to ensure coordinated and harmonized actions in AU counter-terrorism efforts;
4. **EMPHASIZES** the essence for the newly established AUMCCT to work closely with the Peace and Security Council as the standing decision-making Organ for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts in Africa in order to ensure coordination, coherence, complementarity and synergy in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism; in this regard, **REITERATES ITS CALL** to the PSC to reactivate its Sub-Committee on Counter-Terrorism;
5. **DECIDES** to refer the Draft Terms of Reference to the Peace and Security Council and the Permanent Representatives' Committee for further consultations and consideration before they are submitted to the Executive Council in July 2024.
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to provide Member States with the necessary technical support for this process, and **URGES** regional deans to facilitate consultations on the matter at the regional level.

DECISION ON THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PANEL OF EMINENT AFRICANS

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Constitution of the Panel of Eminent Africans to oversee the pre-selection of the Members of the African Union Commission.
2. **ENDORSES** the following as Members of the Panel of Eminent Africans to oversee the pre-selection of Members of the Commission for the election scheduled to take place in 2025.

NO.	NAME	GENDER	COUNTRY	REGION
1.	Paul Ngarambe	Male	Burundi	Central
2.	Konjit SineGiorgis	Female	Ethiopia	Eastern
3.	Nozipho Joyce Mxakato-Diseko	Female	South Africa	Southern
4.	Patrick Hayford	Male	Ghana	Western

3. **MANDATES** the four (4) endorsed Members of the Panel to commence discharging their functions with immediate effect, pending the constitution of the full panel.
4. **CALLS ON** the Northern Region to expedite the conclusion of regional consultations and the submission of one (1) nominee, to complete the composition of the Panel.
5. **DIRECTS** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to include in the Panel, the nominee from Northern region once regional consultations are finalised and to inform the Permanent Representatives Committee accordingly.
6. **FURTHER DECIDES**, in accordance with Rule 35 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, for this decision to take immediate effect upon its adoption to comply with the timeline on election outlined in the Statute of the Commission.

DECISION ON THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFRICA**The Executive Council,**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the African Union Commission on the Humanitarian Situation in Africa for the period January to December 2023, and the recommendations contained therein.
2. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** on the urgency, magnitude, and complexity of the humanitarian situation in Africa caused by a combination of political instabilities, conflicts and natural disasters especially in the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Horn of Africa region, the Great Lake region, the Sahel region.
3. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the Member States that continue to grant asylum and host refugees and migrants for protracted periods despite the limited resources at their disposal and call for global solidarity and burden sharing with these countries and the host communities.
4. **EXPRESSES** the need for Member States to renew their commitments towards the speedy resolution of the protracted humanitarian situations, to pave way for durable solutions for the affected communities and a return to normalcy.
5. **DECIDES** to:
 - a. **TAKE NOTE** with deep concern of the heavy humanitarian burden that Africa is shouldering, and the dwindling resources for swift and effective responses to humanitarian crises in Africa and appeals for redoubled efforts in mobilizing financial resources for emergency humanitarian action especially in the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes, the Sahel region and to **FURTHER CALL UPON** the international community to redouble their efforts to support humanitarian activities in Africa in the context of burden sharing.
 - b. **COMMEND** Member States that have honored their pledges made at the 15th AU Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and pledging conference held on 27 May 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea and **REMIND** Member States and all Partners that pledged to honor their pledges as soon as possible.
 - c. **CALL ON** All Member States, and development partners to provide increased support to the humanitarian emergency in Africa,
 - d. **CALL ON** all parties to conflicts to respect international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law, including by protecting civilians during armed conflict and preventing serious human rights violations in order to ensure that humanitarian actors are safe and have access to

populations affected by conflicts and disasters.

- e. **CALL ON** all Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the 1969 OAU Convention and the 2009 Kampala Convention to do so, and those that have ratified these instruments are urged to fully incorporate them into their national laws and policies to enable their effective implementation at national and local levels.
- f. **REQUEST** the Commission to follow the process of expanding the mandate of the existing PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, IDPs and Humanitarian Affairs to incorporate Migration and Labour Migration areas, with overall purpose to provide comprehensive continental strategic policy direction and advice.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE CONTINENTAL TEN-YEAR REVIEW OF THE
ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA
POST-2014 (AADPD)**

The Executive Council,

1. **ACKNOWLEDGING** the principles outlined in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action, which uphold the sovereign right of each nation to implement recommendations in alignment with national laws and development priorities, and with utmost regard for the diverse religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of the population, while adhering to universally recognized international human rights instruments.
2. **RECALLS** the Executive Council Decision (EX.CL/Dec.1169(XLI) which in 2022, adopted the recommendations of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Health , Population and Drug control (STC-HPDC 4) to conduct the 10 years review of Addis Ababa Declaration of Population and Development (AADPD) and the submission of the continental report to the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development in 2024 as Africa's contribution to the global review and appraisal of the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action (ICPD+30).
3. **FURTHER RECALLING** the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Plan of Action 1994, with 2024 marking 30 years of implementation and Africa encouraged to be part of the global review, taking place at the 57th Commission on Population and Development.
4. **TAKES NOTE** of the continental 10 years review of Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development recommendations contained therein; and **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations contained in African Population Experts Committee (APEC) and the Ministers in Charge of Population reports on 10 years review report.
5. **ENCOURAGED** by AU Member States progress across the AADPD's six pillars, including Dignity and Equality; Health; Place and Mobility; Governance; Data and Statistics; and Partnership and International Cooperation;
6. **CONCERNED** by the magnitude of migration and challenges faced by African countries, evident that migration will remain a critical determinant affecting access to services in Africa and uneven distribution of socioeconomic amenities such as education, healthcare, and employment compel individuals to migrate from rural to urban areas.
7. **REAFFIRMS** the significance of education as pivotal to accelerating socio-economic development and improving the quality of life in the continent. Also, raised concerns on the inequality in access to quality educational opportunities in

Africa. Thereafter, **STRONGLY RECOMMENDS** for education to be created as a stand-alone pillar in addition to the already existing 6 AADPD pillars as this will facilitate tracking continental progress at achieving SDG 4.

8. **REAFFIRMS** the need to ensure a Resilient Africa that is united in ensuring preparedness and response to current and future crises, shocks and disruptions, such as the impact of climate change, conflict public health emergencies
9. **TAKES NOTE** of Africa Digital Transformation strategy 2020-2030, recognizes the importance of innovation to accelerate Africa's inter-intra-regional development and for achieving inclusive and sustainable development. **UNDERScores** the need to invest in infrastructure and create enabling environment that will enable digital technology, innovation and creativity to thrive for the benefit of young people of Africa, so that Africa will not be left behind.
10. **REQUESTS** the Commission, through the African Population Expert Committee and in collaboration with the United Nations, especially UNFPA, and UNECA to follow up on the implementation of the review recommendations and outcomes. and further Prepare and ensure adequate representation of the continent during the ICPD at 30 global review.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION PEACE FUND

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report and **COMMENDS** the AU Commission for the progress made in operationalisation of the African Union Peace Fund, in terms of, putting in place the governance structure and providing financial resources through the Crisis Reserve facility and pilot projects to address security challenges in Africa.
2. **RECALLS** EX.CL/ Dec.1223(XLIII) paragraph 31, taken during the Ordinary sitting of the Executive Council in July 2023 held in Nairobi, which requested the Commission through the Peace Fund Secretariat to explore modalities for seeking voluntary contributions from Member States as well as contributions from the private sector and High Net Worth Individuals and report back to the Executive Council in February 2024; and **ENCOURAGES** the AU Peace Fund Secretariat, supported by the Executive Management Committee and its Board of Trustees to extend all efforts in mobilizing additional resources through Member States voluntary contributions in strict compliance with AU Financial Rules, by engaging with the partners, the private sector, high net worth individuals and the citizens of our continent.
3. **URGES** Member States who have not yet fulfilled their financial commitments to the Peace Fund to fulfil their commitments.
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to deploy all efforts to operationalise the Independent Evaluation Group and undertake the selection process through the Panel of Eminent persons to ensure transparency.
5. **INSISTS** that any future funding, including the ceilings of 2025 CRF and pilot projects, must follow the due process via the Joint Sitting of the Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters and the Technical Committee of 15 Experts (F15) and should be dependent on the performance and objectives achieved by previous funding allocated to these mechanisms in strict compliance with the AU Financial Rules, the Article 21 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the approved Instrument Relating to the African Union Peace Fund.
6. **DIRECTS** the Peace Fund Secretariat to finalise and present the revised Peace Fund utilization and replenishment modalities to the Executive Council during its 45th Ordinary Session to be held in June/July 2024 through the appropriate channels by involving F15 Experts in the process.

7. **NOTES** the progress made so far to the endowment of the peace fund by African member states and calls on the UN to continue to provide support for AU led peace support operations, in line with its mandate for global peace and security.
8. **INVITES** the Commission to ensure a fair distribution among the five regions in matters of the funds allocated, particularly in the framework of pilot projects in strict compliance with the AU Financial Rules, the Article 21 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the approved Instrument Relating to the African Union Peace Fund.
9. **EXPRESSES** its reservations about the imposition of new statutory contributions to reach the expected threshold of 400 million or with a view of the replenishment of the fund or the mobilisation of resources.
10. **URGES** prioritizing interventions by the Fund for the African regions most affected by the negative consequences of wars and instability, such as the Sahel region, the Great Lakes, the Horn of Africa, and other areas that require peace reinforcement and support in strict compliance with the AU Financial Rules, the Article 21 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the approved Instrument Relating to the African Union Peace Fund.
11. **RECOGNISES** that the Peace Fund does not in any way seek to absolve the UN Security Council of its primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security by Article 24 of the UN Charter; **TAKES NOTE** of the UNSC Resolution 2719 and **CALLS UPON** the Commission to submit a proposal to the UNSC after adoption by the Peace and Security Council, by August 2024 in order to trigger the operationalization of this funding mechanism for AU led Peace Support Operations.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE AfCFTA ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU THEME OF THE YEAR 2023
“ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL
FREE TRADE AREA”**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the Report of the AfCFTA Secretariat on the Theme of the Year of 2023 “Acceleration of AfCFTA implementation” which highlights milestones and results achieved and provides the recommendations and follow up actions.
2. **WELCOMES** the launch of the 2nd AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative comprised of thirty-four State Parties, namely: Angola, Algeria, Burundi, Botswana, Chad, Central African Republic, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Congo, Comoros, Cote d’Ivoire, DRC, Eswatini, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, Tanzania, Tunisia, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe.
3. **CONGRAGULATES** the Republic of Zambia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania for setting an exemplary role and taking practical steps towards implementation of the AfCFTA through the successful hosting of the 1st AfCFTA Youth Symposium, the 3rd Intra-Africa Trade (IATF), launch of the inaugural shipment and engaging in preferential trade under the AfCFTA; and the hosting of the 2nd Conference on Women in Trade respectively.
4. **RECALLS** decision no Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.2(XVII) that directed the Secretariat to support state parties in the establishment of the Trade Aggregating Companies and welcomes the establishment of the trading companies by the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Ghana and the ongoing process of establishment of similar companies in Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Cote d’Ivoire.
5. **FURTHER RECALLS** decision EX.CL/Dec.1-9(XLIII) that directed the AfCFTA Secretariat to engage in revenue- generating activities and resources mobilisation to facilitate the full implementation of the AfCFTA and **DIRECTS** the AfCFTA Secretariat to partner with the African financial institutions and private sector to establish a continental Trade aggregating company and to submit an update report, including its self-sustained sources of funding, equity sharing and proposed structure to the next meeting of the Executive Council.
6. **WELCOMES** the conclusion of the negotiations of the AfCFTA Protocols under Phase I and II and the operationalisation of 22 AfCFTA National Implementation

Committee's (NICs),³ **CONGRATULATES** the 27 AU Member States⁴ that adopted AfCFTA Implementation Strategies and the validated Regional AfCFTA Implementation Strategies of ECOWAS, EAC, IGAD and ECCAS.

7. **WELCOMES** with appreciation the progress made in the operationalization of the AfCFTA Adjustment Fund to support State Parties in addressing potential revenue losses, in the implementation of the AfCFTA and **DIRECTS** the AfCFTA Secretariat and the Afreximbank to fast track the finalisation of the operational guidelines;
8. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that as a flagship project of Agenda 2063, the implementation of the AfCFTA goes beyond the celebration of the Theme of the Year and **DIRECTS** the AfCFTA Secretariat to continue on the fast lane coordinating the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement.
9. **EMPHASISES** the need for a continued collaboration between Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and the private sector for the continent's economic development and integration and **CALLS UPON** all AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AU Organs, and the Private Sector to continue supporting the implementation of activities and programmes in line with the AfCFTA.
10. **DIRECTS** the AfCFTA Secretariat to comprehensively report on the significant achievements, challenges faced towards the full implementation of the AfCFTA.

³ Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, and Tunisia.

⁴ Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eswatini, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN THE PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP)**The Executive Council,**

1. **TAKES NOTE** with concern the report submitted by the Commission on the situation in the Pan-African Parliament;
2. **RECALLS** the article 7 of the Statute of the Commission on functions and responsibilities of the Chairperson of the Commission as the legal representative of the Union;
3. **FURTHER RECALLS** the Assembly decision Assembly/AU/Dec.757(XXXIII) of February 2020 on the Decision on Consequence Management and the Oversight Role of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Functioning of the AUC and other AU Organs, which directed the Chairperson to take effective action to address all acts of misconduct in the African Union, and to exercise financial and administrative oversight over all non-Policy Organs and Institutions of the Union, including the Pan-African Parliament, the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, and their elected officials;
4. **FURTHER RECALLS** its decision EX.CL/Dec.1128(XXXIX) of October 2021 on the Report on the Incident in the Pan African Parliament, which requested the Commission to expedite the reform process of the PAP to create a conducive environment for the operation of the Organ;
5. **INVITES** Member States that have not yet ratified the Malabo Protocol of 2014 to take all necessary measures to do so to allow the legislative mandate of PAP to come into force;
6. **REITERATES** its decision EX.CL/Dec.1174(XLI) on the Report on the Implementation of Executive Council Decision Ex.CL/Dec.1148(XI), which instructed the Office of the Legal Counsel, in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the PAP, to urgently review the Rules of Procedure of the PAP to ensure alignment with African Union values, rules, and regulations, as well as established practices of the Union, including the principle of geographical rotation;
7. **EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN** regarding recurring leadership and operational issues that continue to impede the effectiveness of the Organ and the resulting legal, financial, and reputational risks caused by decisions made by the PAP leadership that violated the rules and regulations of the Union;
8. **DECIDES** that,

- a) The PAP Plenary session should be convened at PAP headquarters before the end of March 2024 **to fill the vacancies in the PAP Bureau**. The Commission should oversee the election process of Bureau members to ensure transparency and independence, following the guidelines developed by the Office of the Legal Counsel.
 - b) Pending the finalization of the election, the third vice president should immediately act as president in line with Article 12(7) of the PAP Protocol, which specifies that rotation within the Bureau should occur in the absence of a president.
 - c) The Clerk of the Secretariat of the Pan-African Parliament should be immediately reinstated.
 - d) The suspended Rules of Procedure of the Pan-African Parliament should be reconsidered by the PAP Plenary, taking into consideration the inconsistencies outlined in the Legal Opinion issued by the Office of the Legal Counsel.
 - e) Any decision made based on the suspended revised Rules of Procedure of the PAP dated 4 November 2022, should be considered null and void.
 - f) Administrative decisions made by the former and current leadership of PAP without following established rules and due process, including recruitment, promotions, and suspensions, should be reviewed and nullified.
9. **EXPRESSES ITS DISSATISFACTION** with the lack of accountability in the PAP and **STRONGLY URGES** the PAP Plenary to ensure that its members are held accountable for any legal, financial, or reputational damage caused or that will be caused to the Union. This includes holding accountable members of the current and former PAP leadership who have been or will be found responsible for posing legal, financial, or reputational risks to the Union.
10. **REQUESTS** the Commission to conduct an independent and comprehensive forensic audit of the PAP's overall administration, finances, and operations through the Board of External Auditors, and submit an audit report to the 46th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2024.
11. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a clear operational framework outlining the roles of the PAP Bureau, the President, and the Clerk at the next session of the Executive Council in June/July 2024.
12. **DECIDES** to remain seized of the matter.

**DECISION ON THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE HOSTING OF THE AFRICAN
UNION COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW (AUCIL)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Progress Report on the Hosting of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL);
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the expression of interest of Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and Mauritania in hosting the AUCIL;
3. **RECALLS** Decisions EX.CL/Dec.1176(XLI) and EX.CL/ Dec.1227(XLIII) on the relocation of AUCIL Secretariat and **TAKES NOTE** with concern of the delay in the process;
4. **DECIDES** to:
 - i. **DIRECT** the Commission, in collaboration with the relevant PRC Sub-Committee, to find resources to carry out the assessment missions for the hosting of the AUCIL in 2024, including through reallocation and/or supplementary budget, or any other means consistent with AU Regulations and Rules;
 - ii. **REQUEST** the Commission to submit a report on the assessment missions to the Policy Organs in February 2025.

**DECISION ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION
ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (ACHPR)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the combined Fifty-fourth (54th) and Fifty-fifth (55th) Activity Reports of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR);
2. **EXPRESSES** its appreciation for the efforts made by the ACHPR during the period under review to promote and protect human rights on the continent;
3. **WELCOMES** the commemoration of 2023 edition of the African Human Rights Day and the twentieth anniversary of the Maputo Protocol by organising a series of activities including the High-level Panel entitled "**Commemorative High-Level Panel of the African Human Rights Day on Maputo@20: Call for Universal Ratification, Implementation, Domestication and Reporting on the Maputo Protocol**";
4. **COMMENDS** the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting successfully the 77th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR from 20th October to 9th November 2023 in Arusha, and **INVITES** other States Parties which have never hosted a Session of the ACHPR to consider doing so by extending an invitation to the ACHPR to hold its future Sessions on their territories;
5. **COMMENDS** those States Parties to the African Charter (States Parties) that have fulfilled their reporting obligations and **ENCOURAGES** those States Parties that have never submitted reports, as well as those with more than three outstanding periodic reports, to submit them in accordance with Article 62 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), Article 26 of the Maputo Protocol and Article 14 of the Kampala Convention;
6. **INVITES** Member States that have not yet ratified various African Union (AU) human rights instruments to take all necessary measures to do so;
7. **URGES** States Parties to comply with the decisions rendered by the ACHPR on the Communications involving them, as well as the recommendations issued pursuant to promotion missions and periodic reports review;
8. **WELCOMES** the progress in the implementation of Executive Council Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1045(XXXIV)** which institutionalises an annual joint retreat of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) and the ACHPR in order to improve relations between the two institutions, in view of the Joint Retreat of the ACHPR and the PRC Subcommittee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance, which was held from 5 to 7 December 2023 in Dakar, Senegal;

9. **COMMENDS** the efforts made by the Government of the Republic of The Gambia towards the construction of a permanent headquarters for the ACHPR, and **REITERATES** its directive to the African Union Commission (AUC) to work jointly with the Government of The Gambia and the ACHPR to mobilize resources to accelerate efforts towards building the headquarters;
10. **COMMENDS** the ongoing efforts in the review by the ACHPR of its organisational structure in consultation with the AUC, pursuant to Executive Council decision EX.CL/Dec.995(XXXII), and **DIRECTS** the PRC through its relevant sub-committees to accelerate the review of the ACHPR's new structure and report accordingly to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
11. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the ACHPR, working in collaboration with the AU Commission and the R10, for progress made in the recruitment of some critical staff for the ACHPR, including top management positions in accordance with Decision EX.CL/DEC.1097(XXXVII), and **DIRECTS** the PRC through its relevant Sub-Committees to consider at its next supplementary budget session allocation of appropriate budget to hire additional critical staff to vacant ACHPR positions;
12. **TAKES NOTE** of the budgetary difficulties encountered by the ACHPR in the implementation of some aspects of its mandates and **DIRECTS** the PRC to consider proposals to address these difficulties;
13. **ENCOURAGES** the ACHPR to continue to work towards improving cooperation and collaboration mechanisms with State Parties and the AUC for enhanced protection of human rights in Africa; and
14. **AUTHORIZES** the publication of the 54th and 55th combined activity reports of the ACHPR, considering the contributions and observations made by the States Parties.

**DECISION ON THE 2023 ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON
HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (AfCHPR)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Activity Report of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Court) for the period 1 January to 31 December 2023.
2. **COMMENDS** the African Court and the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Algeria for the successful organization of the 71st Ordinary Session of the Court and the Sixth (6th) African Union Judicial Dialogue in Algiers, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, from 6 November to 4 December 2023, and 20 to 22 November 2023 respectively; and **TAKES NOTES** of the Final Communiqué adopted at the end of the Dialogue.
3. **CALLS** on the African Court to engage with the Commission and other relevant AU Organs and institutions, as well as relevant national and sub-regional institutions to ensure the effective implementation of the recommendations from the Dialogue.
4. **CONGRATULATES** the twenty (20) Member States that have appointed National Focal Points for the Court, namely: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, in conformity with Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1153(XL), adopted during the 40th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held from 2 - 3 February 2022, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and **INVITES** those Member States that have not yet done so, to take steps to appoint their National Focal Points.
5. **NOTES WITH CONCERN** that more than two decades after its adoption, only thirty-four (34) Member States of the African Union have ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (hereinafter referred to as the Protocol), and only eight (8) of the 34 State Parties, have deposited the Declaration required under Article 34 (6) thereof, allowing individuals and NGOs to bring cases directly to the Court.
6. **CONGRATULATES** the thirty-four (34) State Parties to the Protocol, namely; Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda, South Africa, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

7. **FURTHER CONGRATULATES** the eight (8) State Parties that have deposited the Declaration under Article 34(6) of the Protocol, namely: Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Malawi, Mali, Niger and Tunisia.
8. **INVITES** Member States that have not already done so, to accede to the Protocol, and to deposit the Declaration required under Article 34(6) of the Protocol.
9. **NOTES** with concern the low level of compliance with the decisions of the Court and **CALLS** for complete compliance with the Court's decisions by those Member States that have not done so.
10. **RECALLS** the recommendations made by the PRC during the Joint retreat between the PRC and the Court, held from 10 to 11 March 2022, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, requesting the Court, in collaboration with the AUC and relevant sub-committees of the PRC, to develop key performance indicators and targets regarding the protection of human rights on the continent for the next ten years of the Implementation of Agenda 2063, and to consider submitting, in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol, an amendment to Article 34(6) of the Protocol.
11. **CALLS** on the Commission, in collaboration with the Court and other relevant AU Organs and Institutions, to undertake a study on the state of compliance with decisions of AU human rights bodies, including in particular, the reasons for the low level of compliance, and make concrete recommendations to the Executive Council, on how to enhance Member States' compliance with such decisions.
12. **URGES** the Chairperson of the Commission, in conformity with previous Executive Council Decisions, that is, (EX.CL/Dec.973 (XXXI); (EX.CL/Dec.994 (XXXII); EX.CL/Dec.1044 (XXXIV); (EX.CL/Dec.1064 (XXXV); and (EX.CL/Dec.1079 (XXXVI)), to take all necessary measures to operationalize the Legal Aid Fund for AU Human Rights Organs, and to this end, **INVITES** and **ENCOURAGES** all Member States of the Union, as well as other relevant human rights stakeholders on the continent, to make generous voluntary contributions to the Fund to ensure its sustainability and success.
13. **COMMENDS** the United Republic of Tanzania for commencing the construction of the permanent premises of the Court.
14. **REQUESTS** the Court, in collaboration with the PRC and the AUC, to report at the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in June/July 2024, on the implementation of this Decision.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
COUNCIL (ECOSOCC)
Doc. EX.CL/1493 (XLIV)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Annual Activity Report; the revised Framework Document on the AU Harmonized Accreditation Mechanism and the draft Institutional Framework on Diaspora Representation in ECOSOCC.

ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF ECOSOCC;

2. **TAKES NOTE** of the Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of ECOSOCC in 2024 and the convening of the Second Session of the 4th Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC, scheduled for December 2024 as per Statutory Requirements;
3. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the non-allocation of budget resources for the convening of the statutory Second Ordinary Session of the 4th Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC in 2024; a period when the Organ will be commemorating the significant milestone of its 20th anniversary
4. **RECOGNIZES** the potential adverse implications of the non-convening of the Statutory General Assembly of the Organ, including a possible recurrence of the governance and legal challenges experienced by the previous General Assembly, requiring the intervention of the Executive Council.
5. **REQUESTS:**
 - (i) the Commission to work with ECOSOCC to implement a solution via supplementary budget or virement to enable ECOSOCC to convene the Second Ordinary Session of the 4th Permanent General Assembly; in line with statutory requirements;
 - (ii) the support of AU Member States to work collaboratively with ECOSOCC in the commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of ECOSOCC, to showcase the commitment and support of the AU on popular and transformative participation of citizens in the age of poly crisis.

**ON THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR EFFECTIVE CSO ENGAGEMENT
WITH THE AFRICAN UNION**

6. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress achieved in the institutional framework for the representation of diaspora CSOs in ECOSOCC and the AU Harmonized Mechanism for the Granting of Observer and Consultative status to Civil Society

Organizations and the amendments introduced by the Permanent Representatives Committee;

7. **URGES** ECOSOCC to continue consultations with Member States and report back to the Executive Council Session of February 2025.

**DECISION ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY
BOARD AGAINST CORRUPTION (AUABC)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the activity Report of the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption (AUABC);
2. **URGES** Member States that are not parties to the Convention to take the necessary steps to sign and accede to the Convention;
3. **CALLS UPON** States Parties that have not yet been reviewed to accept requests from the Board for review missions to enable the Board evaluate the status of implementation of the Convention and finalize States' reporting processes;
4. **NOTES** the successful completion of the review of the Arab Republic of Egypt and requests national authorities to implement the recommendations contained in the State Review Report once the report is finalized and adopted;
5. **CALLS UPON** State Parties that are yet to submit their baseline reports to do so;
6. **ENDORSES** the theme of the African Anti-Corruption Day and the African Anti-Corruption Dialogue of 2024, namely "An Effective Whistle-blowers Protection Mechanism: A Critical Tool for the Fight against Corruption in Africa";
7. **REQUESTS** the Tanzanian authorities to finalize the architectural drawings of the proposed permanent structure and submit same to the Board for review and approval by the AU Commission;

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
2. **ADOPTS** the Report and commends the Committee for the work done in monitoring the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
3. **ENCOURAGES** Member States which have not yet ratified the African Children's Charter, to expedite the ratification of the Charter; and **ENCOURAGES** State Parties that have entered reservation on the provisions of the African Children's Charter to consider withdrawing the same;
4. **CONGRATULATES** State Parties which have submitted their reports on the implementation of the African Children's Charter, and **URGES** State Parties which have not yet reported to the Committee to comply with their reporting obligations;
5. **DIRECTS** ACERWC to undertake a comprehensive study on child soldiers in Africa and present a report to the Policy Organs for consideration;
6. **ENCOURAGES** the concerned State Parties to fully comply with the Concluding Observations and Recommendations of the ACERWC;
7. **REITERATES** the importance of the Communications procedure of the ACERWC established according to Article 44 of the African Children's Charter and call on the concerned Member States to comply with their obligations under the Charter by responding to the Committee's requests and implementing the Committee's decisions;
8. **CALLS ON** Member States of the African Union to take measures to protect children from substance use, **ENHANCES** the capacity and accountability of law enforcement agencies to enforce existing laws and regulations on substance use, to curb drug abuse and trafficking and **REQUESTS** the ACERWC to conduct an in-depth study and report to the Policy Organs;
9. **CALLS ON** Member States to adopt measures to protect children from sexual abuse and sexual predators and to **STRENGTHEN** the responsibility and capacity of law enforcement agencies to enforce existing laws and regulations in this regard and **REQUESTS** ACERWC to carry out an in-depth study on this subject and to report back to the AU's Policy Organs.

10. **URGES** the Committee to take note of the Banjul conclusions emanating from the Peace and Security Council Ministerial and High Level Open session on the promotion and protection of rights and welfare of children in situations of conflict in Africa, on the need for the ACERWC under its promotion mandate, to continue building the capacity of Member States and RECs/RMs on mainstreaming of protection of children in conflict situations and in collaboration with the AU Commission to strengthen the already existing AU roster of child protection experts. Thus **ENCOURAGES** the Committee to work with the African Platform on Children Affected by Armed Conflict and the Peace and Security Council on this matter.
11. **APPRECIATES** Member States for the measures they have undertaken in commemorating the Day of the African Child for the Year 2023 on the theme- “The rights of the child in the digital environment” and encourage Member States to implement the recommendations of the Committee and report on the same;
12. **ADOPTS** the theme for the Day of the African Child for the year 2024 to be “**Education for all children in Africa: the time is now**” and the theme for Day of the African Child for the year 2025 to be ‘**Planning and Budgeting for Children’s Rights: Progress since 2010**’.
13. **WELCOMES** the development and adoption of the following documents and **CALLS ON** Member States to make use of the content of the documents in ensuring the rights and welfare of children in their respective territories and comply with their obligations under the African Children’s Charter;
 - Study on the Status of Implementation of Decisions of the ACERWC
 - Study on Children’s Rights and Business in Africa
 - Study on the Status of Children with Disabilities in Africa
 - Joint General Comment on FGM by the ACERWC and the ACHPR
 - ACERWC Guidelines on Children’s Rights During Election
 - The Study on Climate Change and Children’s Rights
 - The Guidelines on Violence Against Children
14. **CONGRATULATES** the Kingdom of Lesotho for ensuring the smooth operations of the Secretariat of the ACERWC; and **ENCOURAGES** the host country to continue providing the required according to the host agreement, including the timely construction of the permanent office premises;
15. **REITERATES** the Decision of the Executive Council where it requested the Commission to expedite the finalisation recruitment of the ACERWC Secretariat’s staff and guide the possibility of allowing the ACERWC to recruit its staff.

**DECISION ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN RISK CAPACITY
AGENCY (ARC)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the ARC Group and the recommendations made therein.
2. **COMMENDS** the Member States that joined this year including the Republic of Cabo Verde, the Republic of Cameroon, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and South Sudan, as new ARC members.
3. **COMMENDS** the ARC Group for working to scale up its operations and to increase its reach and impact on the continent and particularly on the launch of the flood product thereby advancing multi-hazard disaster response for Member States.
4. **CALLS UPON** Member States that have not yet signed and ratified the Agreement for the Establishment of the ARC Agency to accelerate their processes of signing and ratifying of the Agreement in order to fully enjoy the benefit accorded to countries under the Agreement.

DECISION ON THE INTERIM REPORT ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF AFRICA CDC

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report on the second phase operationalisation of the Africa CDC, particularly the full functionality of its governing structure, including the Committee of Heads of State and Government, to provide oversight of the institution.
2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the pivotal role played by Africa CDC in safeguarding Africa's public health by providing strategic direction, building the capacity and capabilities of public health institutions, supporting Member States with training, and deploying healthcare workers in preparedness and response to disease threats and health outbreaks.
3. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.835(XXXV) on the operationalization of the Africa Epidemics Fund (AfEF) considering that Africa's effective emergency preparedness and response to future Epidemics requires an innovative and robust funding mechanisms that ensures timely outreach at regional and national level through appropriate technical and financial resources.
4. **CONGRATULATES** Africa CDC for continuous efforts to mobilize funds from various partners to support Member States to respond to different outbreaks.
5. **TAKES NOTE** of the increased number of new outbreaks like cholera in Southern Africa and Dengue in Western Africa that can lead for African-made pandemics if not appropriately managed due to lack of sufficient human and financial resources.
6. **REQUESTS** Africa CDC supported by the Commission to fast-track the recruitment of outstanding positions in line with AU Rules and Regulations.
7. **ALSO REQUESTS** Africa CDC and the Commission to work with relevant Subcommittees to fast track the operationalisation of the Africa Epidemics Fund (AfEF).
8. **FURTHER REQUESTS** Africa CDC and the Commission to prepare and submit the Framework of governance and management of the AfEF to the Executive Council in July 2024.
9. **DECIDES** to remain seized of the matter.

**DECISION ON THE STRATEGY AND DRAFT POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR AU
PARTNERSHIPS**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Progress Report presented by the PRC on the finalisation of the Draft AU Partnerships Policy and Strategic Framework;
2. **REQUESTS** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission, to continue the consideration of the Draft AU Partnerships Policy and Strategic Framework and to report back in July 2024.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN
CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA) COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR TRADE**

The Executive Council,

- 1. TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the Reports of the 12th and 13th Sessions of the AfCFTA Council of Minister responsible for Trade.
- 2. RECOMMENDS** the adoption of the reports of the 12th and 13th Sessions of the AfCFTA Council of Ministers responsible for Trade and their content by the Assembly.

**DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASSEMBLY DECISION ON
“BUILDING A UNITED FRONT TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE AND
THE PAYMENT OF REPARATIONS TO AFRICANS”**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress report submitted by the Commission on the implementation of this decision to the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February 2024;
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the item proposed by the Republic of Ghana and **RECOMMENDS** the draft Decision for consideration and adoption by the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

**DECISION ON THE PAN-AFRICAN FORUM FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND
NON-VIOLENCE "LUANDA BIENNIAL"**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report submitted by the Republic of Angola on the 3rd Edition of the Pan-African Forum on the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence "Luanda Biennial", held in Luanda from 22 to 24 November 2023.
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the item proposed by Angola and **RECOMMENDS** the draft Decision for consideration and adoption by the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

**DECISION ON THE
REPORT ON THE MODALITIES OF PARTICIPATION AND PRIORITIES OF THE
AFRICAN UNION IN THE GROUP OF 20 (G20)**

The Executive Council,

RECALLING Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.845(XXXVI) that the Chairperson of the African Union assisted by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission shall represent the African Union in the G20;

WELCOMING WITH APPRECIATION, the Decision of the New Delhi 2023 G20 Leaders' Summit to make the African Union a permanent member of the G20;

REAFFIRMING readiness to leverage Africa's position in the world economy as well as contribute to meetings of the G20, in tackling the emerging global challenges;

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the PRC and **ENDORSES** the following as modalities for the participation and preliminary priorities to be pursued by the African Union in the G20.

I. African Union Knowledge Partners

2. **DECIDES** on the following as the knowledge partners at the level of the African Union on the G20 work programme:

- AUDA-NEPAD;
- African Development Bank Group;
- African Export Import Bank;
- African Finance Corporation;
- African Trade and Investment Development Insurance
- Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa;
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa;
- The 8 Regional Economic Communities recognised by the African Union;
- African Capacity Building Foundation;
- African Peer Review Mechanism;
- African private sector represented through the African Business Council;
- African Union Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC).
- AUFIs (whenever they become operational)

3. **REQUESTS** the African Union Knowledge Partners to undertake research on strategic issues that the African Union Commission will develop into draft policy positions for adoption by AU policy organs to be tabled in the G20 meetings by African Union representatives.

II. Building System-wide Knowledge on the G20

4. **ENDORSES** the recommendation of the Permanent Representative Committee to organise a retreat involving Member States, the Commission and potential Knowledge Partners to come up with issues the African Union will take to the G20;

5. **RECOMMENDS** that the AUC develops a G20 draft policy document that highlights the priorities of the African Union and what it is taking to the G20, for use in the Retreat which should take place before the July 2024 session of the Executive Council,
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to come up with an assessment in 2025 of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats encountered in the first year of the African Union's participation in the G20 and identify measures on how to leverage the opportunities and meet the challenges.
7. **ALSO ENDORSES** the recommendation of the Permanent Representatives Committee that the South African Sherpa offers lessons of experience to the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Commission by March, 2024;
8. **FURTHER ENDORSES** the recommendation of the Permanent Representatives Committee to organize a Retreat involving Member States, the Commission and potential knowledge partners to define the issues the African Union would submit to the G20 and the **INVITED** South African Sherpa to present lessons learned from their experience in line with recommendations of the Permanent Representatives Committee;
9. **INSTRUCTS** the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Commission to submit a report to the July 2024 Executive Council on the insights gained in engagements with South African participants in the G20.

III. Collaboration and Coordination with African Union Member States Participating in the G20

10. **URGES** for collaboration and coordination among South Africa as the only African Permanent Member of the G20 and the African countries that have been invited to participate in the G20 as guest countries and the African Union in order to uphold the principle of Africa speaking with one voice in the G20.

IV. Role of the Permanent Representatives Committee in the G20

11. **DIRECTS** the Commission to submit regular briefings on the participation of African Union representatives in the G20 meetings;
12. **DECIDES** that in the interim the PRC-SC of the Whole on Economic and Trade Matters handles the issues related to the G20.
13. **ALSO DIRECTS** the Permanent Representatives Committee to deal with the participation of the African Union in the G20 and work with the relevant Sub-Committees according to their different mandates on the issues under consideration.

V. Annual Directory of African Union Representatives in the G20

14. **INSTRUCTS** the Commission through the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare an annual directory containing names, positions and contact details of the African Union Representatives in the G20 meetings.

VI. Increasing the voice and influence of the African Union in the G20

15. **ACKNOWLEDGES** Africa's important role in advancing G20 agenda and that the African Union will significantly contribute and advocate to address challenges in the global governance through G20.
16. **URGES** Member States to institute policies and programmes that will increase levels of inclusive growth, sustainable development and export diversification of their economies in line with the aspirations, programmes and projects of the African Union Agenda 2063 for effective participation in the G20.
17. **URGES** Member States to provide self-financing mechanisms that will sustain the participation of the African Union in G20 meetings, thereby creating a lever that will increase the voice and influence of the African Union in G20 meetings.
18. **COMMITTS** to enhancing economic policy harmonization through deeper continental economic integration to facilitate harmonization on positions in the G20 in line with the aspirations, programmes and projects of the African Union Agenda 2063, to ensure effective macroeconomic policy coordination and harmonization positions of the G20.

VII. Africa's Preliminary Priorities to be Pursued in the G20

19. **TAKES NOTE** of the following priorities of the Brazilian G20 Presidency:
- b) Social inclusion and the fight against hunger and poverty;
 - c) Energy transition and the promotion of sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions; and
 - d) Reform of global governance institutions.
20. **ADOPTS** the following preliminary priorities to be pursued by the African Union in the G20:

VIII. Achieving the Agenda 2063 and its Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan and the UN Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030

21. **INSTRUCTS** the African Union to mobilize international efforts to accelerate the pace of implementation of the UN Agenda 2030, and AU Agenda 2063 in line with paragraph 76 of the New Delhi 2023 G20 Leader's Declaration which states, inter-alia, "*We commit to strengthen our ties and support the African Union realize the aspirations under Agenda 2063. We also reiterate strong support to Africa, including through the G20 Compact with Africa and G20 Initiative on supporting industrialization in Africa and LDCs.*"

IX. Reform of the International Financial Architecture

22. **REQUESTS** the African Union to contribute in the reform of the global financial architecture drawing on the work of the AU-UNECA High Level Working Group on the Reform of the Global Financial Architecture.
23. **ALSO REQUESTS** the African Union to participate pro-actively in the G20 Common Framework on Debt Treatments to deliver transparent, timely and effective debt restructurings, and to constructively engage in G20 discussions to establish comprehensive and efficient mechanisms beyond the Common framework to manage debt distress in both low-income, and middle-income countries in a sustainable manner.
24. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the African Union to continue supporting African Ambassadors at the United Nations in the reform of the international tax system to build on the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) and to also lobby the G20 to join this effort, and to capitalize on progress achieved by the UN General Assembly Resolution adopted on 22 December 2023 for promoting inclusive and effective international tax cooperation that pave the way for a future UN Convention in this regard.
25. **RECOMMENDS** that the African Union lobbies the rest of the G20 membership to operationalize debt for nature swaps and avail adequate resources to the loss and damage fund which is critical to enhancing the just green transition.

X. International Food Security and Agriculture

26. **URGES** the African Union to fully support the Brazilian G20 Presidency in achieving the priority of social inclusion and the fight against hunger and poverty and **REQUESTS** the African Union to mobilize Member States to contribute to the work of the Task Force on Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty established by the Brazilian G20 Presidency.

XI. Just Energy Transition (Electricity, and Renewable Energy)

27. **URGES** the African Union to fully contribute to the achievement of the second priority of the Brazilian G20 Presidency on energy transition and **REQUESTS** the African Union to mobilize Member States to contribute to the Task Force on Global Mobilization against Climate Change established by the Brazilian G20 Presidency.

XII. Trade and Investment

28. **RECOMMENDS** the African Union to participate in the G20 Working Group on Trade and investment with priority focus on improving Africa's credit ratings to spur investment as well as strengthening of the multilateral trading system;

29. **HIGHLIGHTS** the importance of facilitating trade and removing restrictions imposed on exports to reduce disruptions to global supply chains and price volatility, as well as increasing transparency, confronting unfair trade practices and ensuring abstention from any unilateral measures that may hinder the competitiveness of African countries' exports, or their ability to attract foreign direct investment.
30. **EMPHASIZES** the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures in international trade, that contradict the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

XIII. Health and Vaccine Manufacturing

31. **URGES** the African Union to contribute to the work of the G20 Joint Task Force on Finance and Health with a focus on building capacities for vaccine manufacturing in Africa.

XIV. Review of Preliminary Priorities

32. **REQUESTS** the African Union to review its preliminary priorities after one year of participating in the G20.

XV. African Union Commission Internal Task Force on the G20

33. **TAKES NOTE** of the establishment of the African Union Internal Task Force by the Senior Leadership of the African Union Commission;
34. **URGES** the Chairperson of the Commission to ensure that the AUC Internal Task Force works closely with the African Union Policy Organs to facilitate effective participation of the African Union system in the G20;
35. **FURTHER URGES** the Chairperson of the Commission to share the Terms of Reference with the Permanent Representatives Committee.

**DECISION ON THE INAUGURAL ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF TEN (10)
MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN SPACE COUNCIL**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Election and Appointment of Ten (10) Members of the African Space Council;
2. **ELECTS AND APPOINTS** the following as Members of the African Space Council for a term of **four (4) years**:

NO.	NAME	GENDER	COUNTRY	REGION
1.	Eliane UBALIJORO	Female	Rwanda	Eastern
2.	Aboubaker HASSAN ALI	Male	Djibouti	Eastern
3.	Amal LAYACHI	Female	Morocco	Northern
4.	Amin MESTAR	Male	Algeria	Northern
5.	Thandikile Patience MBVUNDULA	Female	Malawi	Southern
6.	Lisho Christoh MUNDIA	Male	Namibia	Southern
7.	Rakiya Addullahi BABAMAAJI	Female	Nigeria	Western
8.	Tidiane OUATTARA	Male	Côte d'Ivoire	Western

3. **DECIDES** to postpone the election and appointment of female and male Members from the Central Region to the 45th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2024.
4. **ELECTS and APPOINTS** the following Members as President and Vice President of the African Space Council and congratulates them on their appointment

NO.	NAME	GENDER	COUNTRY	REGION	POSITION
1.	Tidiane OUATTARA	Male	Côte d'Ivoire	Western	PRESIDENT
2.	Thandikile Patience MBVUNDULA	Female	Malawi	Southern	VICE PRESIDENT

DECISION ON ELECTION OF TEN (10) MEMBERS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION EX.CL/1511(XLIV)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Election of Ten (10) Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;
2. **ELECTS** the following members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union for a term of **two (2) years**:

NO.	COUNTRY	REGION
1.	Democratic Republic of Congo	Central
2.	Equatorial Guinea	Central
3.	Tanzania	Eastern
4.	Uganda	Eastern
5.	Egypt	Northern
6.	Angola	Southern
7.	Botswana	Southern
8.	Côte d'Ivoire	Western
9.	Sierra Leone	Western
10.	The Gambia	Western

3. **RECOMMENDS** the elected members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to the Thirty Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly, for appointment.

**DECISION ON ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF ONE (1) MEMBER OF THE
AFRICAN UNION COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD
(ACERWC)
DOC. EX.CL/1513(XLIV)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Election and Appointment of One (1) Member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC);
2. **ELECTS AND APPOINTS** the following member of the ACERWC for a term of **five (5) years**:

NO.	NAME	COUNTRY	REGION	GENDER
1	Hermine Kembo Takam Gatsing	Cameroon	Central	Female

**DECISION ON THE ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF ONE (1) MEMBER OF
THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW (AUCIL)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Election and Appointment of One (1) member of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL);
2. **ELECTS and APPOINTS** the following member of the AUCIL for a term of **five (5) years:**

NO.	NAME	GENDER	COUNTRY	REGION
1	Tomassa Bisia Ela Nchama	Female	Equatorial Guinea	Central

**DECISION
OF THE MINISTERIAL FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE ON AGENDA 2063
ON THE SPECIAL PROJECT AND THE LAUNCH OF THE STYIP**

The Executive Council,

1. **RECALLS** the Executive Council Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1164(XL)** which called upon the African Union Commission (AUC), and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) to lead the process of evaluation of Agenda 2063 FTYIP (2014 – 2023) and the development of the STYIP (2024-2033), also referred to as “the Special Project”.
2. **APPLAUDS** the Technical Working Group (AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, APRM, ACBF, UNECA and UNICEF) for the successful implementation of “the Special Project”, recognizing the unwavering support of Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the technical team of the Champion of Agenda 2063, other AU Organs, UNDP, and other UN Agencies, Africa Development Bank and other Development partners for the technical and financial contributions towards the successful delivery of the Special Project.
3. **ADOPTS** the Evaluation Report on the First Ten Year Implementation Plan (2014 – 2023) of Agenda 2063 and the recommendations contained therein.
4. **ENDORSES** the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) of Agenda 2063 and **RECOMMENDS** that the Plan is launched as Africa’s blueprint to accelerate sustainable development over the next decade (2024 - 2033).
5. **RECOMMENDS** that an Extraordinary Summit to provide greater awareness of Agenda 2063 STYIP be held by December 2024 to deepen understanding and increase visibility of the Agenda at all levels of implementation and should be hosted by the Champion of Agenda 2063, H.E the President of Cote d’Ivoire
6. **REQUESTS** the African Union Commission (AUC) to strengthen the overall coordination of internal and external AU structures; Member States, Regional Economic Communities, AU Organs, African Technical and Development Partners, African Financial Institutions and other International cooperating partners for effective implementation of Agenda 2063 STYIP.
7. **REQUESTS** for the extension of the Special Project for the AUC in collaboration with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) to domesticate, build capacity, monitor and coordinate performance and reporting on Agenda 2063. Furthermore, **DIRECTS** the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD, in collaboration with relevant African institutions with the mandate to secure funding for Agenda 2063, to finalize the work of Agenda 2063 development fund and present it for consideration by Ministerial Committee on Agenda 2063 among other structures.
8. **CALLS UPON** the Union to commit sufficient resources for effective coordination, awareness creation, domestication and capacity building of Member States on Agenda 2063 STYIP.

9. **DIRECTS** all AU organs, in line with their mandates and statutes, to implement past decisions related to Agenda 2063 and to accelerate implementation of the second decade of Agenda 2063.
10. **RECALLS** the mandate of the Ministerial follow-up committee on the implementation of Agenda 2063 **Ex.CL/Dec.807(XXIV)** to provide an overarching strategic orientation of the thematic programs to align and implement towards the second decade of Agenda 2063 goals and priorities. The committee should also provide oversight on monitoring and periodic reporting.
11. **DIRECTS** the Commission to coordinate with the Regional Economic Committees (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) to include implementation of Agenda 2063 in their report to the Mid-Year Coordination Summit.
12. **RECOMMENDS** that Member States should consider ratifying for establishing Financial Institutions, most particularly the African Investment Bank, as a major component towards funding Agenda 2063.
13. **CALLS UPON** AU Organs, Member States, RECs and RMs to align their development plans to the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) of Agenda 2063.
14. **CALLS UPON** Development Partners – including United Nations entities to align their strategies, engagement and supportive cooperation with Africa to the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) of Agenda 2063.

DECISION ON THE 2023 INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE FAIR (IATF)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Brief on the 2023 IATF Event that was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 09 to 15 November 2023;
2. **COMMENDS** H.E Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Government and People of the Arab Republic of Egypt for their hospitality and immense support in making this event a national, regional and global success;
3. **COMMENDS** African Export Import Bank for providing substantial financial contribution and technical support, and leading the coordination and successful organization of the IATF including the recently concluded IATF2023"
4. **CONGRATULATES** the Heads of State and Government of Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe and the Member States who participated at the IATF2023;
5. **ALSO CONGRATULATES** the Heads of State and Government from, Malawi, Nigeria, Peoples United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe who attended the IATF2021;
6. **WELCOMES** the impact of IATF on African Trade and the agreements signed between Member States in various sectors;
7. **ENCOURAGES** the Advisory Council to finalise a feasibility study to ensure IATF self-finances;
8. **ALSO COMMENDS** the stakeholders that have actively participated in making the IATF a success such as Afreximbank, AUC, AfCFTA, African Development Bank (AfDB), International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC), African Association of Automotive Manufacturers (AAAM), Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI), the Afro-Champions Initiative, World Trade Centre Miami (WTCM), AeTrade Group, IATF2021 Host (KwaZulu-Natal), Government of Cote d'Ivoire and Professional Trade Fair Organisers;
9. **CONGRATULATES** The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for having been selected to host the next edition of IATF scheduled to take place in 2025;
10. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to participate in IATF 2025 as well as mobilize their respective private sectors to also participate in IATF 2025;
11. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** Member States to support the creative industries such as fashion, music, film, arts and crafts, sports, gastronomy and culinary arts to accelerate economic growth and job creation;

12. **COMMENDS** the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the facilitation provided in visa issuance to exhibitors and other participants and **CALLS ON** Member States who will be hosting the IATF editions to continue to ease visa issuance to exhibitors and other participants.

**DECISION ON THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC ON EDUCATION,
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY HELD VIRTUALLY
FROM 18TH TO 19TH OCTOBER 2023**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Extraordinary Session of the STC EST4, related to the review and endorsement of the concept note and roadmap pertaining the AU Theme of the Year 2024
2. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.864(XXXVI) of February 2023, designating Education as the African Union Theme of the Year 2024, and requesting the Commission in collaboration with Member States, RECs and Partners to prepare a comprehensive Concept note and Roadmap for the theme.
3. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** the multi-stakeholder approach by the Commission and partners in the development of the Roadmap and the commitments and dedication of key development partners in their ongoing support to the transformation of Education in Africa.
4. **WELCOMES** and **ENDORSES** the Road Map on the AU theme for 2024 “Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa.
5. **CALLS FOR** voluntary contributions to be made available for the implementation of the Theme of the Year 2024.
6. **AUTHORIZES** the PRC, through its Joint Sitting Subcommittee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative matters and the Committee of F15 Technical Experts to expeditiously consider the supplementary budget request to be submitted by the AU Commission for the implementation of activities of the Theme of the Year 2024, and mandates the PRC to adopt this specific supplementary budget after its consideration.
7. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** Member States to participate in implementation of the AU theme for 2024.
8. **CALLS UPON** the African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities, United Nations organizations, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, the Youth and all other stakeholders to continue strengthening their support to Member States by facilitating the implementation of the roadmap.
9. **URGES** Member States RECs and Regional Mechanisms to report on their actions and activities on the implementation of the AU theme for 2024 for experience sharing and peer-learning to accelerate the transformation of education systems in Africa;

10. **REQUESTS** the African Union Commission to report on progress made in the implementation of the roadmap during the upcoming Mid-Year Summit and to submit a final report to the 46th Session of the Executive Council of February 2025

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE JOINT SITTING OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON SCALE OF ASSESSMENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS AND THE COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN MINISTERS OF FINANCE (F15)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Joint Sitting of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions and the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15) held on the 9th of February 2024.
 - a. **On the Status of Member States contributions to the Regular Budget and Peace Fund:**
2. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.802(XXXIV) of February 2021 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, through which the Assembly decided to delegate its powers to the Executive Council, 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.
3. **COMMENDS** Member States for contributing **US\$181,210,996.23**, equivalent to **88%** of the **US\$205,000,000** assessed contribution for the 2023 Regular Budget.
4. **ALSO COMMENDS** Member States for contributing since 2017, **US\$338,876,684.56** towards the AU Peace Fund, demonstrating a high level of commitment by the Union to fully operationalize the Fund.
5. **FURTHER COMMENDS** Member States that have made full contributions on their 2024 assessments and **REQUESTS** Member States to pay their assessed contributions in compliance with Rule 23(1) of the AU Financial Rules, taking into consideration the differences in financial years of Member States.
6. **DECIDES** to impose sanctions on the following Member States that have fallen back on the payment of their assessed contributions:
 - a. **Cautionary sanctions:** Guinea Bissau, Mali
 - b. **Intermediate sanctions:** Central African Republic
 - c. **Comprehensive sanctions:** Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe
- b. **On Member States experiencing force majeure circumstances making them temporarily unable to pay their assessed contributions**
7. **RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.1071(XXXV) of July 2019 which considered the security and political situation of Somalia and Libya and withheld the imposition of sanctions for non-payment of contributions, and which requested the Commission to consult with the two countries to agree on a payment plan to clear the arrears within four (4) years from the adoption of the Decision.

8. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.752(XXXIII) of February 2020 which took note of the requests from the Republic of Burundi and the challenges the country faced in meeting its annual contributions to the Union, and the request to the Commission to engage with Member States facing difficulties paying their contributions to the Union and those in arrears for two (2) or more years in order to agree on the payment plan for clearing their arrears.
9. **ALSO RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.1119(XXXVIII) of February 2021 which took note of the request from the Republic of Sudan on the need to review its assessed contribution and requested the Commission to consult with the Republic of Sudan based on the current Scale of Assessment to agree on a Payment plan to clear the arrears as soon as possible, within four (4) years from the adoption of the Decision.
10. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.802(XXXIV) of February 2021 which endorsed the payment plans for the Republic of Somalia and Republic of Burundi to clear their arrears.
11. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.838(XXXV) of February 2022 which decided exceptionally and given the well-known long-standing complex situation in Libya that upon full payment by the State of Libya of 50% of their arrears, the Commission shall write-off the 50% of the contributions to the regular budget due to the organization.
12. **ALSO RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/ Dec.1223(XLIII) of July 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, which urged the State of Libya to intensify efforts to settle balances on the 50% for the Commission to effect the necessary write-off of the remaining 50% of its arrears, and as well agree on a payment plan with the Commission on payment of accumulated arrears for subsequent years since the adoption of the Decision. Further, the Decision noted with concern the non-adherence by the Republic of Burundi and the Republic of Somalia to the remittance schedules to clear their arrears, and strongly encouraged both Member States to comply with the agreed payment plans. Also, the Decision stressed on the need for the Commission and the Republic of the Sudan to urgently agree on a payment plan and report back to the Executive Council in February 2024.
13. **CONGRATULATES** the State of Libya for clearing all its arrears and paying its 2023 assessed contributions in full, including all outstanding contributions to the Peace Fund, which demonstrates ownership and commitment on financing the African Union sustainably.
14. **COMMENDS** the Republic of Burundi for the efforts made to comply with the agreed payment plan.
15. **NOTES WITH CONCERN** the nonadherence by the Republic of Somalia to the remittance schedules to clear their arrears and encourages the Member State to intensify its efforts to pay its outstanding contributions.

16. **REITERATES** the need for the Commission and the Republic of the Sudan to continue consultations with the aim to agree on a payment plan and report back to the Executive Council in July 2024.

c. On the matter of assessments to the Peace Fund for the six Member States from the Northern Region with reservations:

17. **RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.1213(XLII) of February 2023 which took note of the outcome of the regional consultations undertaken by the Commission on the matter of assessing Member States to the Peace Fund and endorsed the recommendation to assess contributions to the Peace Fund, for Member States with reservations, in accordance with their proposal as noted by the Executive Council through its Decision EX.CL/Dec.1162(XL) of February 2022 and further requested the Commission and the six (6) countries of the Northern Region to expeditiously agree on the payment plans for the outstanding contributions to the Peace Fund and submit the outcome report to the Executive Council in July 2023, following due process.
18. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.1223(XLIII) of July 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya which requested the Commission to expedite the conclusion of payment plans and report back to the Executive Council in February 2024.
19. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the efforts made by the countries of the Northern region to pay their outstanding contributions to the Peace Fund and **CONGRATULATES** the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the State of Libya, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic for paying in full their outstanding contributions to the Peace Fund. **FURTHER CONGRATULATES** the Arab Republic of Egypt and Republic of Tunisia for paying their contributions to the Peace Fund in line with the payment plans agreed with the Commission.

DECISION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

The Executive Council;

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System;
2. **FURTHER NOTES** the Council's decisions requesting the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of South Africa to consult and agree on one African candidate for the post of the President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA);
3. **COMMENDS** the withdrawal of the **Republic of South Africa** (Southern Africa Region) for adhering to the spirit of African solidarity and shared values in favor of the candidacy of the Republic of Cameroon (Central Africa Region) which was announced at the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures Meeting
4. **ENDORSES** the candidature of the Republic of Cameroon as the African candidate for the post of the President of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly.
5. **RECALLS** that the Southern African Region should produce the President of the UN General Assembly for the 84th Session in the spirit of regional equity; **FURTHER RECALLS** Executive Council Decision EX.CL/DEC.1225(XLIII) which recognised that there is no clear, time-tested rotation plan existing within the African bloc for the Post of the President of the UNGA, and **CONSEQUENTLY RECOMMENDS** a rotational plan to be implemented subsequent to the 84th Session of the UNGA which shall follow English alphabetical order as below:
 - a. Central Africa Region
 - b. Eastern Africa Region
 - c. Northern Africa Region
 - d. Southern Africa Region, and
 - e. Western Africa Region.
6. **ENDORSES NEW CANDIDATURES OF GOVERNMENTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES:**
 - A. For the election for the Post of **Vice-President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for the period 2024-2025**, to be held in June 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
 - **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria** (Northern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Madagascar** (Eastern Africa region)
 - **Republic of Ghana** (Western Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Senegal** (Western Africa Region)

- **Pending** (Southern Africa Region)
- B. For the election for the Post of a **Member of the Executive Board of ILO for the period 2025-2027**, to be held in June 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland, the candidature of:
- **Republic of Benin** (Western Africa Region)
- C. For the election for the Post of a **Member for the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee of Cultural Heritage for the period 2025-2028**, to be held in June 2024 in Paris, France, the candidature of:
- **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria** (ELECTED for the Northern Africa Region)
- D. For the election for the Post of a **Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2025-2026**, to be held in June 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **Federal Republic of Somalia** (Eastern Africa Region)
- E. For the election for the Post of a **Member of the United Nations Economic, Cultural and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the period 2025-2027**, to be held in June 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria** (ELECTED for the Northern Africa Region)
 - **United Republic of Tanzania** (Eastern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of South Africa** (Southern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Côte d'Ivoire** (Western Africa Region)
- F. For election for the Post of **Member of Council of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for the period 2025-2028**, for the election to be held in July 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **United Republic of Tanzania** (Eastern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of the Gambia – Under Group E** (Western Africa Region)
- G. For election for the Post of the **Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Coordinating Board for the period 2025-2028**, for the election to be held in October 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **Kingdom of Lesotho** (Southern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Senegal** (Western Africa Region)
- H. For election for the Post of **Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for the period 2025-2027**, for the election to be held in October 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **Republic of Equatorial Guinea** (Central Africa Region)

- **State of Eritrea** (Eastern Africa Region)
 - **Islamic Republic of Mauritania** (Northern Africa Region)
 - **Federal Republic of Nigeria** (Western Africa Region)
 - **Pending** (Southern Africa Region)
- I. For election for the Post of **Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services for the period 2025-2027**, for the election to be held in October 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **Republic of Chad** (Central Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Madagascar** (Eastern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Mozambique** (Southern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Zambia** (Southern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Côte d'Ivoire** (Western Africa Region)
- J. For election for the Post of **Executive Board on UN-Women for the period 2025-2027**, for the election to be held in October 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **Republic of Equatorial Guinea** (Central Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Uganda** (Eastern Africa Region)
 - **Islamic Republic of Mauritania** (Northern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of South Africa** (Southern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Liberia** (Western Africa Region)
- K. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Commission on UN Peace Building for the period 2025-2026**, for the election held in December 2024 in New York, the candidatures of:
- **Republic of Uganda** (Eastern Africa Region)
 - **Arab Republic of Egypt** (Northern Africa Region)
 - **Kingdom of Morocco** (Northern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Kenya** (Eastern Africa Region)
- L. For election for the Post of the **Committee for the United Nations Population Award for the period 2025-2027**, for the election to be held in October 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **Republic of Burundi** (Central Africa Region)
 - **Republic of the Gambia** (**ELECTED** for the Western Africa Region)
 - **Pending** (Eastern Africa Region)
- M. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Commission for Social Development for the period 2025-2029**, for the election to be held in October 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **Republic of Kenya** (Eastern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of South Africa** (Southern Africa Region)

- **Republic of Senegal** (Western Africa Region)
 - **Pending** (Eastern Africa Region)
- N. For election for the Post of a **Commission on Population and Development for the period 2025-2029**, for the election to be held in October 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **Republic of Malawi** (Southern Africa Region)
 - **Pending** (Eastern Africa Region)
 - **Pending** (Eastern Africa Region)
- O. For election for the Post of a **Commission on the Status of Women for the period 2025-2029**, for the election to be held in October 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **Federal Republic of Ethiopia** (Eastern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of South Africa** (Southern Africa Region)
 - **Federal Republic of Nigeria** (Western Africa Region)
- P. For election for the Post of a **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for the period 2025-2027**, for the election to be held in October 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **Republic of Tunisia** (Northern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of the Gambia** (**ELECTED** for the Western Africa Region)
 - **Federal Republic of Nigeria** (Western Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Togo** (Western Africa Region)
- Q. For election for the Post of a **Commission on Science and Technology for Development for the period 2025-2028**, for the election to be held in October 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **Republic of Cameroon** (Central Africa Region)
 - **Democratic Republic of Congo** (Central Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Zambia** (Southern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Gambia** (Western Africa Region)
- R. For election for the Post of a **Committee for Programme and Coordination for the period 2025-2027**, for the election to be held in October 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **Republic of Kenya** (Eastern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Botswana** (Southern Africa Region)
- S. For the election for the Post of a **Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2026-2027**, to be held in June 2025, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **Democratic Republic of Congo** (Central African Region)

- **Republic of Liberia** (Western Africa Region)
- T. For the election for the Post of a **Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2027-2028**, to be held in June 2026, in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Republic of Zimbabwe** (Southern Africa Region)

7. TAKES NOTE OF NEW CANDIDATURES OF GOVERNMENTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES:

- A. For the election for the Post of a **Member of the Human Rights Council for the period 2025-2027**, to be held in October 2024 in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia** (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Republic of Kenya** (Eastern Africa Region)
- **United Republic of Tanzania** (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Republic of Benin** (Western Africa Region)
- **Republic of Cabo Verde** (Western Africa Region)
- **Republic of the Gambia (ELECTED for the Western Africa Region)**
- **Republic of Niger** (Western Africa Region)
- **Federal Republic of Nigeria** (Western Africa Region)
- **Democratic Republic of Congo** (Central Africa Region)

NB: Only Five (05) seats are available for Africa. Ongoing consultations in the Eastern and Western Africa regions to identify the two candidates allocated to each of the two regions.

- B. For the election for the Post of a **Member of the Governing Council of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the period 2025-2026**, to be held in September 2024 in Vienna, Austria, the candidature of:

- **Kingdom of Morocco** (Northern Africa Region)

- C. For the election for the Post of a **Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2028-2029**, to be held in June 2027, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Federal Republic of Nigeria** (Western Africa Region)
- **Kingdom of Morocco** (Northern Africa Region)
- **State of Libya** (Northern Africa Region)

NB: The Northern Africa Region is requested to consult and agree on one candidate. The African Group in New York is requested to advise on the way forward.

- D. For the election for the Post of a **Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2032-2033**, to be held in June 2031, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Islamic Republic of Mauritania** (Northern Africa Region)
- E. For the election for the Post of a **Membership of the UNESCO Executive Board for the period 2025-2029**, to be held in November 2024 in Paris, France, the candidature of:
- **Kingdom of Morocco** (Northern Africa Region)
 - **Togolese Republic** (Western Africa Region)
8. **ENDORSES NEW CANDIDATURES OF INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES:**
- A. For the election for the Post of the Regional Director for Africa of the World Health **Organization (WHO) for the period 2025-2028**, to be held in June 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland, the candidatures of:
- **Dr. Ibrahima Soce Fall** of the Republic of Senegal (Western Africa Region)
- B. For the election for the Post of a **Member of the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for the period 2025-2027**, to be held in June 2024 in New York, USA, the candidatures of
- **Mrs. Eunice Njonana** of the Republic of Zimbabwe (Southern Africa Region)
 - **Ms. Donatienne Girukwishaka** of the Republic of Burundi (Central Africa Region)
- NB: The African Group in New York is requested to advise on the way forward.**
- C. For the election for the Post of a **Member of the Committee Against Torture (CAT) for the period 2025-2027**, to be held in June 2024 in New York, USA, the candidature of:
- **Dr. Akouavi Ines Laurenda Hadonou Toffoun** of the Republic of Benin (Western Africa Region)
- D. For the election for the Post of a **Member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) for the period 2025-2028**, to be held in April 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:
- **Dr. Christopher Nwanoro** of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Western Africa Region)
 - **Mr. Abdelmajid Makni** of the Kingdom of Morocco (Northern Africa Region)

NB: There is no geographical distribution allocated to this treaty body.

E. For the election for the Post of a **Member of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for the period 2025-2030**, to be held in April 2024 in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Mr. Jallal Toufiq** of the Kingdom of Morocco (Northern Africa Region)
- **Ms. Meriem Hebidel** of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria (Northern Africa Region)

NB: There is no geographical distribution allocated to this treaty body.

F. For the election for the Post of a **Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for the period 2025-2027**, to be held in June 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Prof. Cephas Lumina** of the Republic of Zambia (Southern Africa Region)
- **Prof. Biniam Dawit Mezmur** of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (Eastern Africa Region) - Re-election
- **Mr. Joseph Ndayisenga** of the Republic of Burundi (Central Africa Region)
- **Ms. Zainabu Altalib Moussa** of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (Northern Africa Region)
- **Mr. Timothy Philip Tembete Ekesa** of the Republic of Kenya (Eastern Africa Region)

NB: There is no geographical distribution allocated to this treaty body.

G. For the election for the Post of a **Member of the Human Rights Committee for the States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for the period 2025-2028**, to be held in June 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Amb. Wafaa Bassim** of the Arab Republic of Egypt (Northern Africa Region)
- **Mr. Imeru Tamerat Yigezu** of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Mr. Mahjoub El-Haiba** of the Kingdom of Morocco (Northern Africa Region)
- **Ms. Kpatcha-Tchamdja Kobauyah** of the Togolese Republic (Western Africa Region) **Re-election**
- **Prof. Pacifique Manirakiza** of the Republic of Burundi (Central Africa Region)

NB: There is no geographical distribution allocated to this treaty body.

H. For the election for the Post of the **Vice-Chair of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at the 79th Session**, to be held in June 2024, in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Mr. El-hadj Lehibib Mohamedou** of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (Northern Africa Region)

I. For election for the Post of the **Vice-Chair of the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at the 79th Session**, to be held in June 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Mr. Emmanuel Kingi** of the Republic of Kenya (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Mr. Ezekwesiri David Anyaegbu** of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Western Africa Region)
- **Mr. Assane Dioum** of the Republic of Senegal (Western Africa Region)

NB: One (1) seat is allocated for Africa. The African Group in New York is requested to advise on the way forward.

J. For the election for the Post of the **Chair of the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at the 79th Session**, to be held in June 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **H.E. Amb. Zephyrin Maniratanga** of the Republic of Burundi (Central Africa Region)

K. For election for the Post of the **Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at the 79th Session**, to be held in June 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Ms. Makarabo Moloeli** of the Kingdom of Lesotho (Southern Africa Region)
- **Mr. Abd-El Kader Y. Tchalare** of the Republic of Togo (Western Africa Region)

NB: One (1) seat is allocated for Africa. The two Member States are requested to consult and agree on one candidate. The African Group in New York is requested to advise on the way forward

L. For election for the Post of the **Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at the 79th Session**, to be held in June 2024, in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Elaye Djibril Yacin Abdillahi** of the Republic of Djibouti (Eastern Africa Region)

M. For the election for the Post of a **Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the period of 2025-2028**, to be held in April 2024, in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Ms. Charafat Afailal** of the Kingdom of Morocco (Northern Africa Region)

- **Mr. Bouzid Lazhari** of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria (Northern Africa Region)

NB: There is no geographical distribution allocated to this treat body.

N. For the election for the Post of a **Secretary General of INTERPOL, for the period of 2025-2029** for the election to be held in April 2024, in Glasgow, UK, the candidature of:

- **Mr. Mubita Nawa** of the Republic of Zambia (Southern Africa Region)

O. For the election for the Post of **Vice-President for Africa of the Executive Committee of INTERPOL, for the period of 2025-2029** for the election to be held in April 2024, in Glasgow, UK, the candidature of:

- **Mr. Mohammed Dkhissi** of the Kingdom of Morocco (Northern Africa Region)

P. For the election for the Post of **Executive Director for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), for the period of 2025-2029** for the election to be held in March 2024, in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Mr. Philippe Camille Akoa** of the Republic of Cameroon (Central Africa Region)

Q. For the election for the Post of the **Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the period 2026-2029**, to be held in the last quarter of 2025, in Paris, France, the candidature of:

- **Dr. Khaled El-Anany** of the Arab Republic of Egypt (Northern Africa Region)

R. For election as a Member of the **Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for the period 2025-2030**, scheduled for November 2024 in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Mr. Katlego Boase Mmalane** of the Republic of Botswana (Southern Africa Region)
- **Mr. Djo Paul Kpeye** of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (Western Africa Region)

S. For election for a Post of **Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) for the period 2025-2027**, during the election scheduled for April 2024 in New York, the candidatures of:

- **Mr. Diomède Rutumwako** of the Republic of Burundi (Central Africa Region)

- **Prof. Solomon T. Ngahu, PhD.** of the Republic of Kenya (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Ms. Dorothy Wakumelo** of the Republic of Zambia (Southern Africa Region)

T. For election as a Member of the **Committee on Contributions for the period 2025-2027**, scheduled for November 2024 in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Mr. René Michel Mizingou Nzaba** of the Republic of Congo (Central Africa Region)

U. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) for the period 2025-2030**, for the election to be held in November 2024, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Mr. Makiesse Kinkela Augusto** of the Republic of Angola (Southern Africa Region)
- **Mr. Tesfa Alem Seyoum** of the State of Eritrea (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Mr. Robert Nguei Mule** of the Republic of Kenya (Eastern Africa Region)

9. TAKES NOTE OF NEW CANDIDATURES OF INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES:

A. For the election for the Post of **Secretary General of the Commonwealth for the period 2025-2029**, for the election to be held in October 2024, in Apia, Samoa, the candidatures of:

- **Hon. Shirley Ayokor Botchwey** of the Republic of Ghana (Western Africa Region)
- **H.E. Dr. Mamadou Tangara**, Current Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Gambia (Western Africa Region)
- **Senator Joshua Phoho Setipa**, of the Kingdom of Lesotho (Southern Africa Region)

NB: Tanzania decided to withdraw its candidate for this post. Member States are requested to undertake further consultations in order to agree on one African candidate for this important post.

B. For the election for the Post of the **Chairperson of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) for the period 2026-2030**, to be held in June 2025, in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Mr. Ali Ayad Ali Kurer** of the State of Libya (Northern Africa Region)
- **Amb. Andrew Gbebay Bangali** of the Republic of Sierra Leone (Western Africa Region)

NB: The two Member States are requested to consult and agree on one candidate. The African Group in New York is requested to advise on the way forward.

C. For the election for the Post of a **Member of the Committee against Torture (CAT) for the period 2026-2029**, to be held in October 2025, in Geneva, Switzerland, the candidature of:

- **Mr. Abderrazak Rouwane** of the Kingdom of Morocco (Northern Africa Region)

D. For the election for the Post of a Member of the **Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for the period 2027-2029**, to be held in November 2026, in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Name to be Submitted** of the Republic of Djibouti (Eastern Africa Region)

10. ON OTHER ISSUES

The Council;

- A. **CALLS ON** AU Member States to continue to provide the necessary political support to the Committee with the overall objective of ensuring a strong African presence within the International System;
- B. **COMMENDS** the Commission for conducting training programmes on the **Revised Rules of Procedure** and the **E-Portal for African Candidatures within the International System in New York** and **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue with this initiative and to develop a training manual and for ongoing orientation programmes for focal persons of AU Member States at their capitals, in Addis Ababa and the African Group in Geneva;
- C. **REQUESTS** the African Groups in New York and Geneva to develop their internal guidelines in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Ministerial Committee on African Candidature for alignment and uniformity. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to provide the necessary technical support.
- D. **INSTRUCTS** the PRC to allocate adequate budget for these engagements and other activities of the Committee in support of campaigns for African candidatures in the international system with the overall objective of Africa being a strong united, resilient and influential player within International System.

E. NOTES the Western Region's objection to the revised composition of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures and its request to the Office of the Legal Counsel to clarify the procedure for revising the composition of a Ministerial Committee. **WELCOMES** the legal opinion provided by the Office of the Legal Counsel and **REQUESTS** further consultation on this matter.