

AFRICAN UNION

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**DECISIONS, DECLARATIONS
AND RESOLUTION**



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**DECISION ON THE DOMESTICATION OF THE FIRST TEN-YEAR
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF AGENDA 2063
Doc. EX.CL/931(XXVIII)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Domestication of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP) of Agenda 2063 and **REITERATES** that it is a common continental framework for socio-economic development;
2. **COMMENDS** the Member States that have integrated Agenda 2063 in their National Development Frameworks;
3. **WELCOMES** the continued collaboration with the United Nations (UN) Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) in the operationalization of Agenda 2063, and the development of:
 - i) Indicators for the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP), and their convergence with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
 - ii) A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework;
 - iii) A Capacity Assessment Study and its Plan.
4. **CALLS UPON** the UN Secretary General to expeditiously establish a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data through Intergovernmental Process as captured in the latter's Synthesis Report – *the Road to Dignity*;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to;
 - i) Facilitate, in collaboration with UNECA and AfDB, statistical reforms in countries, including legislative reforms, human resources development and financial resources in the context of implementation of Agenda 2063 FTYIP and the SDGs;
 - ii) Finalise the Draft Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Agenda 2063 and expedite its institutionalisation, and report at the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council, in July 2016;
 - iii) Develop detailed proposals of the Flagship Projects, their implementation arrangements and their financial implications;

- iv) Ensure continuous popularization and awareness raising of Agenda 2063 through all available platforms.

6. ALSO REQUESTS as follows:

- i) All African Union (AU) Organs to internalise and align their respective programmes with FTYIP of Agenda 2063;
- ii) The Pan African Parliament (PAP) to work with National and Regional Parliaments and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) to mobilize its constituency to ensure the alignment of their agenda with Agenda 2063.

7. URGES Member States, the RECs, the Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), in partnership with UNECA, AfDB, and ACBF to validate and integrate the recommendations of the:

- i) Domestic Resource Mobilisation Strategy into the National Financing mechanisms/frameworks;
- ii) Capacity Assessment Study into the curricula (education systems) at different levels to make education system responsive to the National, Regional and Continental needs;

8. REQUESTS the Commission to report on the implementation of this decision regularly to the Assembly, through the Executive Council.



DECISION ON THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Reports of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) and the recommendations of the Executive Council thereto;

A. *On the First Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice And Legal Affairs -Doc. EX.CL/935(XXVIII)*

2. **ADOPTS** the following Legal Instruments:

- i) Road Safety Charter;
- ii) Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons;
- iii) Model Law on Medicine Regulation;
- iv) Statute of the Africa Sports Council;
- v) Statute of the African Minerals Development Centre;
- vi) Statute on the Establishment of Legal Aid Fund for the African Union Human Rights Organs;
- vii) Statute of the African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (African CDC) and its Framework of Operation;
- viii) Statute of the African Science Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC);
- ix) Statute of the African Observatory in Science Technology and Innovation (AOSTI);
- x) Statute of the Pan African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO);
- xi) Rules of Procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Health Population and Drug Control;
- xii) Rules of Procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralisation;
- xiii) Rules of Procedure of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC);
- xiv) Rules of Procedure of the African Governance Platform;
- xv) Rules of Procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment;
- xvi) Rules of Procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Youth Culture and Sport;
- xvii) Rules of Procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Education Science and Technology;
- xviii) Rules of Procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT);
- xix) Rules of Procedure of the African Union Commission on the International Law;
- xx) Amended Statute of the Pan African University.

3. **CALLS ON** Member States to sign and ratify the said Legal Instruments, where applicable, to enable them to enter into force;

4. **DECIDES** that the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs will meet annually in ordinary session and that an appropriate budget be allocated in this regard;

B. On the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST 1)-Doc. EX.CL/934(XXVIII)

5. **ADOPTS** the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 2016-2025) as the framework for transformative education and training system;

6. **CALLS UPON** Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Partners, the Private Sector , and the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) to:

- i) Popularize and raise awareness on CESA 2016-2025 and develop implementation plans as well as mobilize domestic resources for its implementation;
- ii) Collaborate with the Commission towards the implementation of the CESA.

7. **ADOPTS** the validated Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF).

8. **URGES** Member States to ratify the Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States (the 2014 Addis Ababa Convention), and expedite the establishment of the informal working group for its implementation and designate focal points for follow up.

9. **REQUESTS:**

- i) The Commission in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to coordinate educational partnership and support for the implementation of the process of harmonization of education in Africa;
- ii) Member States and partners to promote alignment of TVET Skills Portability initiatives with on-going work on harmonization and quality assurance in higher education;

10. **ADOPTS** the Africa Space Policy and the Africa Space Strategy to formalize an African Outer space Programme, as articulated in Agenda 2063;

11. **URGES** Member States, RECs, Partners and the Commission to popularize space science and technology in socio-economic development , mobilize domestic resources and implement the Space policy and strategy;

- 12. REQUESTS** the African Union (AU) Space Working Group to develop the following:
- i) The framework for the implementation of the African Space Policy and Strategy;
 - ii) The Governance Framework that covers the relevant legal requirements and protocols for an operational African Outer-Space Programme;
- 13. RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.565(XXIV) on the Report of the Commission on Development of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Report of the Ministerial Follow-Up Committee on the Bahir Dar Retreat adopted by the Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2015 and the offer by Egypt to host the proposed African Space Agency as well as to allocate United States Dollars (USD) ten (10) million to implement the project, and **REQUESTS** the Commission and the Arab Republic of Egypt to carry out consultations with a view to evaluating the legal, structural and financial implications and report to the Assembly through the relevant structures;
- 14. RECOGNIZES** the immense value of Home Grown School Feeding programmes to enhancing retention and performance of children in schools, and in boosting income generation and entrepreneurship in local communities;
- 15. REQUESTS** the Commission to:
- i) Establish a multidisciplinary technical committee of African experts under the chairmanship of the Commission and the support of institutions such as the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Centre of Excellence against Hunger to undertake a general study on the relevance and impact of school feeding in the Member States;
 - ii) Implement the Assembly decision to institute the *African Day of School Feeding* on 1 March of every year beginning 2016;
 - iii) Elaborate modalities for the celebration of the *African Day of School Feeding*, in consultation with Member States and relevant partners;
- 16. ENCOURAGES** Member States which have school feeding programs, to continue their efforts; and **INVITES** other Member States to learn and adapt lessons from those running school feeding programmes to enhance access and retention of children in school.
- 17. REQUESTS** the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this decision to the Assembly, through the Executive Council.

C. On the Specialized Technical Committee on Defense, Safety and Security – Doc. EX.CL/944(XXVI)

18. **18. WELCOMES** the conduct of the African Standby Force AMANI AFRICA-II Field Training Exercise (AA-II FTX) held in November 2015 in two (2) locations, namely, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the South African Army Combat Training Centre, Lohatla, South Africa and **COMMENDS** the Ministers of Defence for ensuring that the Exercise was successful;
19. **19. EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to Member States, the Commission and Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) in conducting the AA-II FTX. In this regard, **COMMENDS** the progress made by the East African Standby Force (EASF), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in operationalizing their respective standby forces; and **ACKNOWLEDGES** the efforts of the North Africa Regional Capability (NARC) towards operationalizing its standby force;
20. **TAKES NOTE** of the Declaration of the 2nd Extraordinary Meeting of the Specialised Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 15 January 2016;
21. **COMMENDS** the following:
- i) The progress made to date in the operationalization of an African Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL);
 - ii) The efforts undertaken by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in setting-up the Headquarters of AFRIPOL;
22. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take all necessary measures to expeditiously fully operationalize AFRIPOL;
23. **DECIDES** that the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC), will continue its mandate pending the AMANI AFRICA II Field Training Exercise After Action Review scheduled for Maputo, Mozambique in March 2016 and the Evaluation Mission to be undertaken by the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms to the Regional Economic Communities to verify the state of readiness of Regional Standby Forces.
24. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report through the Executive Council, on progress made in the implementation of this decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2016.

**DECISION ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
Doc. EX.CL/952(XXVIII)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the implementation of the Decisions on the International Criminal Court (ICC);
2. **REITERATES** the following:
 - i) The commitment of the African Union and its Member States to the fight against impunity in accordance with the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
 - ii) Its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.547(XXIV) on the progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Previous Decisions on the International Criminal Court (ICC) adopted by the Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2015, and in particular paragraph 17 (d) that requested the ICC to terminate or suspend the proceedings against Deputy President William Samoei Ruto of Kenya until the African concerns and proposals for amendments of the Rome Statutes of the ICC are considered; and
 - iii) Paragraph 17(e) that requested the suspension of proceedings against President Omar Al Bashir of The Sudan and **URGES** the United Nations (UN) Security Council to withdraw the referral case in The Sudan.
 - iv) Its requests to the Peace and Security Council (PSC) to examine the Draft ICC Action Plan on Arrest Strategies that is currently under consideration by the ICC and make appropriate recommendations thereon to the next ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council, in July 2016 to enable adoption of a Common African Position on same.
3. **COMMENDS** the Republic of South Africa for complying with the Decisions of the Assembly on non-cooperation with the arrest and surrender of President Omar Al Bashir of The Sudan and **DECIDES** that by receiving President Bashir, the Republic of South Africa was implementing various AU Assembly Decisions on the warrants of arrest issued by the ICC against President Bashir and that South Africa was consistent with its obligations under international law;
4. **REITERATES** its decision on the need for all Member States to comply with the Assembly Decisions on the warrants of arrest issued by the ICC against President Al Bashir of The Sudan pursuant to Article 23 (2) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and Article 98 of the Rome Statute of the ICC;
5. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN** regarding the wisdom of the continued prosecution of the case of Deputy President William Ruto of the Republic of

Kenya and **CALLS ON** the ICC to terminate the case without further delay as any continued prosecution is without foundation given the unambiguous absence of any incriminatory evidence capable of belief;

6. **COMMENDS** the Members of the Open ended Committee of Foreign Ministers (“*Open ended Ministerial Committee*”) under the chairpersonship of H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the work done and **REITERATES** its previous decision that the Open Ended Ministerial Committee should meet with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to engage on all issues that have been consistently raised by the African Union;
7. **TAKES NOTE** of the conclusions of the 14th Assembly of the States Parties of the ICC (ASP) in which the ASP reaffirmed its understanding on the non-retroactive application of Rule 68 to situations commenced before November 2013 (with regard to the Kenyan agenda) and expressed its “*willingness to consider, within the framework of the appropriate subsidiary body of the Assembly, proposals to develop procedures for the implementation of Articles 97, 27 and 98*” with regard to the issues raised by South Africa in its statements during the 28th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly respectively in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2016 and **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the President of ASP, H.E. Sidiki Kaba from Senegal for ensuring that in spite of perceived resistance by some State Parties, the issues and concerns of the AU and its member states were allowed to be articulated at the 14th ASP;
8. **EXPRESSES** its deep grievance at the failure of the UNSC to respond to the requests of the AU for deferral of The Sudan and Kenyan cases for the past five (5) years;
9. **TAKES NOTE WITH CONCERN** of:
 - i) The obstinacy of the ICC by the so-called “*Principals of the Court*” comprising the Prosecutor, the Registrar and the President of the ICC, which continues to privilege the views of civil society over clearly held positions of African Member States parties to the Rome Statute;
 - ii) The disturbing public dismissive disregard of the decisions of the 14th ASP by the Prosecution in relation to the pending Rule 68 Appeal against Kenya’s Deputy President;
10. **DECIDES** as follows:
 - i) The Bureau of the Open-Ended Ministerial Committee be expanded to ensure equitable regional representation **AND REQUESTS** the Overall Dean and the Regional Deans in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to urgently

undertake consultations with a view to submitting their respective representatives to serve on the Bureau;

- ii) The Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) be mandated to approve and provide the adequate resources to the Commission, through the Office of the Legal Counsel, to support the work of the Open ended Ministerial Committee in pursuing all political, legal, and strategic avenues in addressing AU's concerns before the United Nations, the ICC and the International Court of Justice (ICJ);
- iii) The Open-ended Ministerial Committee will review the ICC's interpretation of its power pursuant to Article 93 of the Rome Statute that allows the latter to oblige State Parties to forcibly compel unwilling witnesses to testify before the ICC, with a view to rejecting witness compulsion *in toto* and inform the ICC and the next ASP accordingly;
- iv) The Open-ended Ministerial Committee's mandate will include the urgent development of a comprehensive strategy including collective withdrawal from the ICC to inform the next action of AU Member States that are also parties to the Rome Statute, and to submit such strategy to an extraordinary session of the Executive Council which is mandated to take such decision;
- v) The Commission will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders within the ICC on issues raised in the various Decisions of the AU Policy Organs on the ICC;
- vi) The Commission, through the AU Mission in Brussels, Belgium, will serve as the secretariat to the Open-ended Ministerial Committee and provide institutional support to the African Group in The Hague, Netherlands to ensure effective coordination of its activities;

11. REITERATES:

- i) The imperative need for all African States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC to continue to ensure that they adhere and articulate common agreed positions in line with their obligations under the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
- ii) Its call on all AU Member States to sign and ratify, as soon as possible, the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol of the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights;

12. REQUESTS the Commission in collaboration with all stakeholders to follow-up on this matter to ensure that the African proposals and concerns are addressed and to report to the ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council scheduled for January 2017.

DECISION ON THE ITEMS PROPOSED BY MEMBER STATES

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the items proposed by Member States and **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained therein as follows;

A. ON AN AFRICAN ARCHITECTURE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

2. **AGREES** in principle to support the idea and emphasizes the relevance and opportunity for the African Union (AU) to have an architecture for risk reduction in Africa at national, regional and continental levels;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to:

- i) Submit, in collaboration with Cameroon, , a roadmap for the creation of the Centre of Excellence for Disaster Risk Research, Prevention and Management;
- ii) Work with partners with respect to providing resources to Member States to mitigate disasters.

B. ON PROPOSED 2017 THEME OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON “HARNESSING THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN THE YOUTH

4. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.363(XVII) on the Theme “*Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development*” and Declaration **Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XVII)** on *Declaration on Creating Employment for Accelerating Youth Development and Empowerment* adopted in Malabo in July 2011 to accelerate youth development and empowerment and the pleas made by young people through AU Intergenerational Dialogues with Heads of State and Government for the prioritization of the demographic dividend agenda at the highest levels of decision-making in Africa;

5. **STRESSES** that:

- i) The youth are Africa’s greatest asset which, if properly harnessed, will play a vital role in determining the continent’s development trajectory for the next fifty (50) years and drive Agenda 2063;
- ii) Harnessing the demographic dividend is not guaranteed but can be achieved through economic reforms that create jobs, investments in human capital and efficient governance;

iii) In order to derive maximum benefits from the youth bulge at national level there is need for a coordinated approach and response at the continental level.

6. **ADOPTS** the theme of *“Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth”* for the 28th and 29th Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly scheduled for January and June/July 2017 respectively;

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the United Nations (UN) Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Coordination and Planning Agency as well as other partners such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other United Nations and Development agencies to:

i) Expedite the implementation of a continental initiative on Demographic Dividend for Africa;

ii) Develop a roadmap with key deliverables and milestones to be submitted to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled for July 2016 through the Executive Council, to guide Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on concrete actions to be undertaken in 2017 and beyond.

C. ON THE BID TO HOST THE SECRETARIAT OF ECOSOCC

8. **WELCOMES** and **FULLY SUPPORTS** the offer by Zambia to host ECOSOCC;

9. **URGES** Zambia working with the Commission to expedite the processes regarding legal, structural and financial implications;

10. **REQUESTS** the Commission to undertake the appropriate evaluation mission and submit a detailed report to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly through the Executive Council scheduled for July 2016;

D. ON THE 2015 AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) FOR EMERGING AFRICA

11. **UNDERLINES** the following:

i) The importance of Intellectual Property (IP) in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the need to have a continental architecture dealing with the matter; and **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that the existing structures dealing with IP on the continent do not overlap;

ii) That the legal instrument establishing the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO) will have to be ratified by Member States as recommended by the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs.

12. **CALLS UPON** the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to strengthen its partnership with the African Union and its Member States and the Regional Economic Communities to address the challenges of IP for African development and in particular, to enhance its technical assistance; and in this regard **WELCOMES** the decision taken by WIPO at its 55th Session, held in October 2015, to open two external offices in Africa, and with context of enhancing the cooperation between the African Union and WIPO, invites the African Group in Geneva to expedite the process of identifying the two Member States of the AU to host the above-mentioned WIPO external offices;

13. **REQUESTS** the Commission to work out the legal, financial and structural implications of establishing an Expert Working Group to develop a program of action for the implementation of the Dakar Declaration on Intellectual Property for Africa, in collaboration with WIPO;

E. ON THE CONVENING OF ANOTHER WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM

14. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the Islamic Republic of The Gambia and partners to work on the practical modalities for convening this Conference;

15. **REQUESTS** the Commission and the African Group in New York to:

- i) Reflect on the practical modalities of convening such a world conference and to work collaboratively to pursue the tabling of the proposal: *“Convening of Another World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance”* at the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, and to provide a feedback on the outcome of their efforts at the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly through the Executive Council, in July 2016;
- ii) Pursue the tabling of a United Nations General Assembly *Resolution on Slavery, Colonialism, Occupation, Reparations and Restitution* including the convening of an international conference to discuss these specific issues as well as measures and strategies to address their lasting negative impact on the continent.

**DECISION ON GOVERNANCE, CONSTITUTIONALISM
AND ELECTIONS IN AFRICA
Doc. Assembly/AU/9(XXVI)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on Governance, Constitutionalism and Elections in Africa and the recommendations contained therein;
2. **RECALLS** the previous decisions of the Assembly adopting the Common African Position on Post-2015 Development Agenda and Agenda 2063 both of which commit Member States to creating democratic developmental states anchored on participatory democratic governance, sustainable peace, and political stability on the continent;
3. **CALLS UPON** Member States to :
 - i) Accelerate the signing, ratification and domestication as well as implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) in order to entrench a culture of democracy, constitutionalism and peace in the respective countries;
 - ii) Also accelerate the signing, ratification, domestication and implementation of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development adopted in 2014;
 - iii) Prioritize the continued operationalization of the AU High Council of Local Authorities (AU-HCLA);
 - iv) In collaboration with the Commission, the development and adoption of the Common African Position on Habitat III. The AU-STC No. 8, its subcommittees, and other related bodies, such as the High Council of Local Authorities and the Habitat III Bureau, will be important institutions for future action in areas of effective local and urban governance and should be fully operationalized and empowered to work within their respective domains;
 - v) Make deliberate efforts to ensure professionalization and depoliticisation of the security establishment by building constructive civil-military relations. This should entail ensuring accountability of the security establishment through the relevant portfolio committee of parliament;
 - vi) Address the growing trend of the formation and use of youth/militia arms of political parties by taking measures to discourage this trend as it undermines democratisation and peace-building as well as immediate steps to

discourage political parties from establishing such groups and disband them where they already exist;

- vii) In line with the ACDEG, to maintain zero-tolerance on military coups and other methods of unconstitutional changes of government (UCG) by strengthening tough measures against perpetrators of UCG, including asset freeze and travel ban;
- viii) Ensure that constitutional amendments are done in accordance with the provisions of the ACDEG, as a baseline, and the active participation of their citizens;
- ix) Establish permanent, impartial and independent national Constitutional Review Commissions;
- x) Continue to provide technical support to Election Management Boards (EMBs) and other stakeholders, especially political parties, the media, judicial institutions and law enforcement bodies as well as the civil society to boost their institutional and human resource capacities to enhance effective and efficient management of electoral and democratic processes;
- xi) Ensure that they fulfil their financial and other obligations to the AU, especially by contributing to the Democracy and Electoral Assistance Fund;
- xii) Integrate women and youth in national and regional politics, in recognition of the need to be gender sensitive and the important role that women and youth play in political processes;
- xiii) Pay particular attention to the timing of elections for those emerging from protracted violent conflicts and in the process of transition to democracy and peace.

4. REQUESTS the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this decision to the Assembly, through the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE EXTRAORDINARY AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT ON MARITIME
SECURITY AND SAFETY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** its Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.583(XXV) on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa adopted in Johannesburg, and in particular , paragraph 22 relating to the extraordinary African Union Summit on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa to be held in Lome, Togo, adopted at its Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2015; relating to;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the postponement of the Extraordinary Summit scheduled for Lome, Togo to ensure adequate preparations;
3. **DECIDES** to hold the said Summit on **15 October 2016** in Lome, Togo, to be preceded by the preparatory session of the Permanent Representatives Committee and of the Executive Council;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to expedite the preparations, in collaboration with government experts and relevant Specialized Technical Committees (STCs), including the review of relevant documents with a view to ensuring the development, adoption and signing of an African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development at the said Summit;
5. **WELCOMES**, in this regard, the offer by the Government of Togo to host a preparatory meeting of one of the relevant Specialized Technical Committee;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report on the implementation of this decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council, in July 2017.



**DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF THE FIFTEEN (15) MEMBERS OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION
Doc. EX.CL/954(XXVIII)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election of the fifteen (15) Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (PSC) by the Executive Council;

2. **APPOINTS** the following five (5) Members of the PSC for a three (3)-year term as of 1 April 2016:

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- A map of the African continent is centered on the page, overlaid with a circular emblem. The emblem features a green laurel wreath and a brown base. The map is divided into five regions, each corresponding to one of the five members listed below. The regions are: Central Region, Eastern Region, Northern Region, Southern Region, and Western Region.
1. **Congo (Rep.)** Central Region
 2. **Kenya** Eastern Region
 3. **Egypt** Northern Region
 4. **Zambia** Southern Region
 5. **Nigeria** Western Region


3. **ALSO APPOINTS** the following ten (10) Members of the PSC for a two (2)-year term as of 1 April 2016:

1. **Burundi** Central Region
2. **Chad** Central Region
3. **Rwanda** Eastern Region
4. **Uganda** Eastern Region
5. **Algeria** Northern Region
6. **Botswana** Southern Region
7. **South Africa** Southern Region
8. **Niger** Western Region
9. **Sierra Leone** Western Region
10. **Togo** Western Region

**DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF ONE (1) MEMBER OF THE AFRICAN
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND
WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACEWRC)
Doc. EX.CL/955(XXVIII)**

The Assembly,

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



Name	Country
Mr. Mohamed Ould Ahmedou dit H'Meyada	Mauritania

**DECISION ON THE DATES AND VENUE OF THE 27th ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN JULY 2016**

The Assembly,

1. **REITERATES** its appreciation to the Republic of Rwanda for its offer to host the Twenty-Seventh (27th) Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in July 2015;
2. **DECIDES** that the dates of the Twenty-Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Kigali, Rwanda, shall be the following:
 - i) Thirty-Second (32nd) Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC): from 10 to 12 July 2016;
 - ii) Twenty-Ninth (29th) Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: from 13 to 15 July 2016;
 - iii) Twenty-Seventh (27th) Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 17 and 18 July 2016.
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission in close consultation with the Republic of Rwanda to make all the necessary arrangements for the successful holding of the 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly and the preparatory meetings.



**DECISION ON STREAMLINING OF THE AFRICAN UNION SUMMITS AND
THE WORKING METHODS OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

The Assembly,

1. TAKES NOTE of

- i) the Report of the Commission on the Comparative Study on the Working Methods of the African Union (AU) and the Streamlining of the AU Summits and **REQUESTS** Member States and the Commission to implement the recommendations agreed to by the Assembly; as well as
- ii) the outcomes of the Retreat of the Executive Council held in Mekelle, Ethiopia on 24 and 25 January 2016 on the implementation of Agenda 2063;

2. DECIDES to:

- i) Revise and review the Constitutive Act of the African Union for it to be an effective legal instrument to accelerate, facilitate and deepen the efficiency and the integration process on the continent;
- ii) Call on all Member States to expedite signature and ratification of the Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union relating to the Pan-African Parliament and the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights, to further deepen integration on the continent;
- iii) Subject the items proposed by Member States to due process of prior analysis of policy, legal, financial and structural implications by the Commission before being submitted to Policy Organs and they should only relate to the Theme of the Year. The Commission should continue to exercise its responsibility to initiate the Agenda of the Policy Organs in particular taking into consideration the related legal, structural and financial implications;
- iv) Dissolve the Ministerial Drafting Committee as currently constituted in view of the fact that the AU has since improved its decision making process with the Commission proposing draft decisions which are considered by the PRC, before submission to the Assembly through the Executive Council;
- v) Expedite the work of the PRC Subcommittee on Rules, Standards and Credentials to incorporate into the revised Rules of Procedure the decisions of the Assembly on the Streamlining of Summits and Working Methods of the African Union ;

- vi) Request the Commission to elaborate a roadmap on the implementation of the Decisions of AU Summits, including using the Scorecard approach on the implementation of decisions to be presented to the Assembly through the Executive Council;
- vii) Empower individuals, through these reforms, to directly petition the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) on the implementation or otherwise of the Decisions taken by the Policy Organs as long as individual comes from a Member State, Party to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and has accepted the jurisdiction of AfCHPR to receive such cases in conformity with Article 36 of the Protocol.

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Decision to the Assembly through the Executive Council.



**DECISION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
AND THE STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA
Doc. Assembly/AU/2(XXVI)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa;
2. **NOTES WITH CONCERN** that, despite the tireless efforts that Africa continues to make for the promotion of peace, security and stability, violent conflicts, terrorism and other destabilizing factors, including disease outbreaks and climate change, continue to pose a serious threat to the socio-economic and political equilibrium of our continent;
3. **STRESSES ONCE AGAIN** the need for a more resolute preventive action to better protect African civilians against the destructive humanitarian consequences from violence of all kinds, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the Constitutive Act of the AU;
4. **WELCOMES** the new advances recorded in Côte d'Ivoire with the successful holding of presidential elections on 25 October 2015, and **ENCOURAGES** the Ivorian authorities to continue their efforts to deepen the reconciliation process,, in order to sustainably consolidate peace in the country. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the successful holding of elections in Guinea, as well as the declared readiness of President Alpha Conde to work with all political actors, in a spirit of national cohesion. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the declaration of the end of the Ebola epidemic in Guinea, after Liberia and Sierra Leone, which thus marks a crucial stage in combating this scourge. The Assembly **PAYS TRIBUTE** to all those who contributed to this important victory against the Ebola epidemic, especially to the Chairperson of the Commission, for her personal commitment in this fight. The Assembly **CALLS UPON** the international community to increase its support to countries affected in their efforts towards socio-economic recovery;
5. **CONGRATULATES** the people, the political actors and the civil society of Burkina Faso on the exemplary nature of the Transition in their country, despite the many challenges encountered throughout the process. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the new authorities, especially the new President of Faso, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré. The Assembly **PAYS A DESERVED TRIBUTE** to the President of the Transition, Michel Kafando, and Prime Minister Yacouba Isaac Zida, for the many sacrifices made and the resilience they have shown. The Assembly **URGENTLY APPEALS** to Member States and the international community to mobilize adequate emergency assistance for Burkina Faso and its long-term stability, thus contributing to the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law. The Assembly **REQUESTS** the Commission, in consultation with ECOWAS and the United Nations, to consider, within the framework of the

International Follow-up and Support Group for the Transition in Burkina Faso (GISAT-BF), the modalities for increased support from the international community to Burkina Faso and to agree on the most appropriate mechanism for this purpose;

6. **WELCOMES** the positive developments in the political situation in Madagascar, and **URGES** the Malagasy political actors to continue to work for the consolidation of the gains and enhancement of the on-going efforts in the socioeconomic and governance fields. The Assembly **APPEALS** to the international community to actively participate in the Roundtable scheduled in June 2016 and to **CONTINUE** to support the efforts of the Malagasy Government to strengthen political stability and revive the development of the country. The Assembly **URGES** all the Comorian actors to work for the smooth organisation of the elections scheduled for 2016, in compliance with the Constitution, in order to consolidate the significant gains made by the Union of the Comoros on the path to reconciliation and stability, and **REITERATES** the commitment of the AU, on the basis of its relevant instruments, particularly the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, to contribute to the success of the electoral process. The Assembly **APPEALS** to the International community to help mobilize the necessary resources for this purpose, and for the long-term development of The Comoros;
7. **ALSO WELCOMES** the progress made in Somalia towards the realization of Vision 2016, and **UNDERLINES** the imperative for all Somali political stakeholders to demonstrate the required political will and unity of purpose, in order to consolidate the progress made and successfully conclude the on-going process that will culminate in the holding of elections. The Assembly **PAYS TRIBUTE** to all the AMISOM uniformed and civilian personnel, as well as to the T/PCCs for their continued commitment and the sacrifices made thus far, and **APPEALS** for the mobilization of adequate support for the Mission to enable it fully discharge its mandate. The Assembly **REITERATES** the imperative of enhanced command and control for AMISOM, in line with the relevant provisions of the revised harmonized CONOPS, as a critical factor in ensuring the effectiveness of the Mission. The Assembly **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the international community and **URGES** its members to continue to provide the necessary support to the Federal Government of Somalia and its institutions. The Assembly **REITERATES ITS DEEP CONCERN** at the prevailing humanitarian situation, and **CALLS FOR** a scaled-up humanitarian response;
8. **REITERATES ITS CONCERN** at the continued impasse in the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to take the required initiatives to assist the parties to overcome the challenges at hand. The Assembly **CALLS FOR** continued efforts to facilitate the normalization of the relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea, in line with the relevant provisions of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.583(XXV);

9. **REITERATES ITS SUPPORT** to the efforts of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on Sudan and South Sudan (AUHIP) aimed at facilitating an inclusive National Dialogue, as well as at achieving cessation of hostilities in Darfur and the two states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile. The Assembly **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the readiness expressed by the parties to overcome their differences and **URGES** them to continue to fully cooperate with the AUHIP and demonstrate the required political will. The Assembly **CALLS for** renewed efforts towards addressing the challenges at hand in the Darfur region and **REITERATES ITS SUPPORT** to United Nations/African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in discharging its mandate;
10. **COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and the other leaders of the region, as well as the Team of IGAD Special Envoys, for their sustained efforts in facilitating the signing of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the AU High Representative for South Sudan, the members of the AU High-Level ad hoc Committee on South Sudan and international partners that are members of the IGAD-Plus Mechanism, for their contribution to the finalization and signing of the Agreement. The Assembly **FURTHER COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) for his efforts in support of the South Sudanese stakeholders towards the full implementation of the Agreement. The Assembly **REITERATES** the AU's full support to the Agreement, and the President of JEMEC and **CALLS ON** all the South Sudanese parties to abide scrupulously by its terms. The Assembly **CONGRATULATES** the members of the AUCISS for the commitment shown in discharging their mandate, and **EXPRESSES ITS FULL SUPPORT** for the implementation of the communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.1(DXXVII) adopted by the PSC at its meeting of 26 September 2015. The Assembly **APPEALS** for enhanced humanitarian support to alleviate the suffering of the affected populations;
11. **WELCOMES** the positive rapprochement between The Sudan and South Sudan. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the two countries to make renewed efforts towards the effective implementation of the Cooperation Agreement, in particular with respect to border and security issues, and to fully take advantage of the facilitation role of the AUHIP. The Assembly **UNDERLINES** the need for the parties to live-up to their commitments under the June 2011 Agreement on Abyei, as well as to give a new impetus to efforts aimed at addressing the final status of the Area. The Assembly **REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to the international community to provide the required support to the Joint Approach, in order to help Sudan and South Sudan achieve their shared vision of two viable states living side-by-side in peace and working together on issues of common concern, The Assembly **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** the AUHIP to continue its exemplary efforts in support of both countries to achieve their shared vision for a peaceful and secure region;

12. **REITERATES** its support to the on-going efforts to promote a regional and holistic approach to the challenges of peace, security, stability and development in the Horn of Africa, in support of IGAD, and **ENCOURAGES** the AU High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) to expedite its efforts in this respect;
13. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN** about the continuing political impasse in Burundi, and the level of insecurity and violence which resulted in an acute humanitarian and economic crisis, including internal displacement of people and refugee flows into the neighbouring countries. The Assembly **STRESSES** that there is a deep rooted problem in Burundi and the Government of Burundi should not deny this reality, as such a denial will neither help this country nor the region. The Assembly **ALSO STRESSES** the imperative need for an inclusive Inter-Burundian Dialogue and **URGES** the Government and all Burundian stakeholders to respond without delay, to the call of the Mediator for the continuation of the Dialogue in Arusha, Tanzania. The Assembly **TAKES NOTE** of the request expressed to the AU Commission by the Government of Burundi on the security challenges that Burundi is facing on its borders, as well as its concern about illegal circulation and trafficking of arms, the militias and armed groups in the country that should be disarmed and disbanded, as part of the efforts to restore security in the country; and in this regard, the Assembly **DECIDES** to dispatch a high-level delegation of Heads of State and Government of the Assembly to Burundi to consult with the Government as well as other Burundian actors on the inclusive dialogue and the contribution of the AU to the stabilization and resolution of the crisis in Burundi. The Assembly **REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary measures to facilitate the visit of the high level delegation;
14. **REITERATES** the importance of the effective implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for DRC and the Region and **WELCOMES** the progress made, including through the revitalisation of its governance structures, especially as the Region continues to face serious challenges to peace and security. The Assembly **ALSO WELCOMES** the approval by the 6th meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the recommendations made to this effect by the Ministerial Retreat in Nairobi. The Assembly **REITERATES** the urgent need, with the support of MONUSCO, to neutralise the negative forces in Eastern DRC, including the FDLR and the terrorist group ADF. The Assembly **URGES** all the parties concerned to accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration, particularly in view of the delays in the granting of amnesty to the former combatants of M23 and their repatriation to the DRC, bearing in mind that many of them have been already amnestied. The Assembly **EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT** to the Conference on Investment by the private sector in the Great Lakes Region scheduled in Kinshasa in February 2016, as a crucial element for the sustainable promotion of peace and security in this region;
15. **WELCOMES** the successful holding of the constitutional referendum and the presidential election held in December 2015, in the Central African Republic. The Assembly **URGES** the Central African actors to endeavour resolutely for the successful conclusion of the Transition on 31 March 2016, as agreed during the

ECCAS Summit held on 25 November 2015 in Libreville. The Assembly **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the countries of the region and international partners for their continued commitment and multifaceted assistance to the RCA, and **APPEALS** for the mobilisation of the resources necessary to enable the newly elected government to take up the challenges related to the humanitarian situation and the functioning of the State, particularly in the provision of basic services. The Assembly **CONGRATULATES** the AU Special Representative, Head of MISAC, on the initiatives and activities carried out in support to the efforts of the authorities of the Transition for the restoration of the constitutional order and the stabilisation of the CAR;

16. **ALSO WELCOMES** the progress made to date in the fight against the Lord Resistance Army (LRA), thanks to the efforts deployed within the framework of the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the LRA (RCI-LRA), and **NOTES** that the LRA continues to pose a serious threat to civilian populations. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to the Regional Task Force (RTF) for their efforts and **URGES** them to sustain their efforts, and fulfill their pledges in terms of strengthening the troops to be deployed. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the consultations undertaken with international stakeholders to enhance coordination in the counter-LRA operations and **CALL ON** all partners to pursue and enhance their support to the AU-led efforts aimed at eliminating the threat posed by this group;
17. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the progress made in the operationalization of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), as well as in the fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the countries of the region to persevere in their efforts and to enhance their cooperation within the framework of the MNJTF. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the Commission for the steps taken, in support of the operationalization of the MNJTF, including the upcoming donors' Conference, scheduled for 1 February 2016. The Assembly **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to African States and the international partners for the support provided to the MNJTF, and **APPEALS** for intensified international mobilization to degrade and defeat Boko Haram terrorist group and to assist the populations affected by the attacks by this group and the countries hosting refugees fleeing the atrocities committed by this terrorist group. The Assembly **STRESSES**, once again, the need to complement the military and security operations against the Boko Haram terrorist group by sustained national and regional efforts, to improve livelihoods, promote education and job creation, as well as ensure the protection of human rights, particularly those of women and girls;
18. **URGES** the Head of State and the Guinea Bissau politicians to find a definitive solution to the institutional crisis, to enable the country embark on the priority area of socio-economic recovery and peace building through the implementation of the necessary reforms concerning the fight against impunity and national reconciliation, particularly the reform of the Defence and Security Sectors. The Assembly **STRESSES** the importance of respecting the Constitution and,

EXPRESSES its support for a revision of the Constitution, as that would make it possible to clarify the Articles that were the sources of divergent interpretations. The Assembly **SUPPORTS** the development of a Stability Pact and the process of organising a conference on national reconciliation;

19. **WELCOMES** the dynamics emerging from the signing and early implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, while underscoring the need for a lasting peace for the entire Sahel region. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the Malian parties to pursue, with determination and in good faith, their efforts for the implementation of the Agreement within the framework of the Agreement Monitoring Committee, which, during its High-Level Meeting held in Algiers on 17 and 18 January 2016, welcomed the progress made. The Assembly **URGES** the international community to continue and intensify its support, including financial, to the on-going efforts. The Assembly **REITERATES** its firm condemnation of the terrorist attacks against Mali, welcoming the Assessment Mission planned in relation to the proposed establishment of an Intervention Force in northern Mali, as decided by the Meeting of Ministers of Defence of the countries participating to the Nouakchott Process held in Bamako, from 2 to 4 September 2015. The Assembly **REITERATES** its support to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and to its Troop Contributing Countries. The Assembly **UNDERSCORES** the imperative to further pool the regional efforts in order to face the global threat of terrorism by accelerating the implementation and coordination of initiatives underway within the context of the Nouakchott Process and the G5 Sahel, particularly the establishment of a rapid intervention force to enhance the fight against terrorism in North Mali and the Sahel in general. The Assembly **REQUESTS** the Commission to fully support the G5 Sahel within the framework of the realization of its objectives. The Assembly **URGENTLY APPEALS** to the international partners to further increase their support to the countries of the Sahel which continue to face serious threats to peace and security and socio-economic consequences of the degradation of the environment. In this regard, the Assembly **REQUESTS** the Commission to conduct the necessary consultations with a view to the holding of an International Conference on Peace and Development in the Sahel, to be held under the joint auspices of the AU, the UN and ECOWAS;
20. **REITERATES** the AU's call for the early resolution of the four-decade long conflict in Western Sahara, in full respect of the international legality. The Assembly **APPEALS** to the UN Security Council to fully assume its responsibility in this respect, with the view to achieving a fair, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in the context of arrangements consistent with the UN principles and purposes. The Assembly **REITERATES ITS CALL** to the UN General Assembly regarding the determination of a date for the holding of the self-determination referendum for the people of Western Sahara and protection of the integrity of the Western Sahara as a non-self-governing Territory from any act, which may undermine it, including protection of its natural resources, as well as

addressing the situation of human rights in the occupied territories and the camps. The Assembly **CONDEMNS** the delaying of the visit of the UN Secretary General to the territory and **CALLS** for early accomplishment of the visit of Ban Ki-Moon in the region to expedite a peaceful solution to the conflict. The Assembly **REITERATES** the declaration adopted at its 24th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, from 30 to 31 January 2015, regarding the convening by the Crans Montana Forum, a Switzerland-based organization, of a meeting in the occupied city of Dakhla, in Western Sahara. In view of the intention of this entity to convene a similar event in the Territory, in 2016, the Assembly **CALLS ON** Crans Montana to desist from this activity and **APPEALS** to all Member States, African civil society organizations and other relevant actors to boycott any such event¹;

21. **WELCOMES** the signing of the Libyan Political Agreement and **CALLS ON** the international community to provide the necessary technical, security, and counter-terrorism assistance to the new Government of National Accord. The Assembly **ALSO CALLS UPON** all Libyan stakeholders, who have yet to endorse the Agreement, to do so expeditiously. The Assembly **STRESSES** its deep concern at the prevailing humanitarian and security situation in the country, **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** all acts of violence and **REITERATES** that there is no military solution to the current crisis. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the ICG-L and the neighbouring countries for their sustained efforts and positive contribution to the signing of the Libyan Political Agreement. The Assembly **DECIDES** to establish the High Level Committee of Heads of State and Government, as agreed in the Communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of 23 September 2014 to enable the AU support more effectively the efforts of peace and reconstruction in Libya and consolidate the outcome of the initiatives of the neighbouring countries aimed at ending the hostilities and bringing about national reconciliation. The Committee is composed as follows, and includes the High Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Libya as a member of the Committee: the President of the Republic of South Africa, the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the President of the Republic of Gabon, the President of the Republic of Niger and the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; The Assembly **REQUESTS** the Commission to provide all the necessary support to the High Level Committee to enable it fulfil its mandate and to report on the implementation of this decision through the PSC at the next ordinary session of the Assembly scheduled for July 2016.
22. **ALSO WELCOMES** the Report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) and the subsequent report of the UN Secretary-General, and **EXPRESSES FULL SUPPORT** for the communiqué adopted by the PSC at its 547th meeting, held in New York. The Assembly **FURTHER WELCOMES** the consultations undertaken by the Commission with the UN Secretariat and members of the UN Security Council, and **UNDERLINES** the urgency of finalizing

¹ Reservations entered by Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal

the AU-UN framework for an enhanced partnership in the area of peace and security. The Assembly **REITERATES** the AU's commitment to implement the decision made at the 25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly that AU Member States should contribute 25% of the cost of AU efforts on peace and security, including AU-led peace operations. Furthermore, the Assembly **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to formally write to the UN Secretary general to outline the parameters of the types of support the AU would seek from the UN, including the types of operations the AU plans to seek financing for from the UN, as well as other relevant issues, including interaction, both at strategic and operation levels, between the AU and the UN, in the context of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, building both on the PSC communiqué of 26 September 2015 and the consultations held with the UN and members of the UN Security Council. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the appointment, by the Chairperson of the Commission, of Dr. Donald Kaberuka as her High Representative for AU Peace Fund, and **LOOKS FORWARD** its interaction with member States, the UN and other relevant partners. The Assembly **REITERATES ITS CALL** to all Member States to support this initiative within the relevant UN organs, and **URGES** AU partners to do the same, as part of the overall efforts to advance collective security;

23. **COMMENDS** the efforts undertaken by the Commission, Member States, RECs and the international partners to advance the implementation of the regional and international regimes against illicit SALW and WMD. The Assembly **STRESSES UPON** Member States the need to renew efforts and commit the required human and financial resources to ensure sustainable action. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the PSC to pay particular attention to the threat posed by illicit SALW within the wider context of conflict prevention and management, and **STRESSES** the need for a development-oriented approach of the implementation of the regional and international WMD regimes, including through the convening of an open session of the PSC to generate the required momentum and start a dialogue towards this end;
24. **RECALLS** Article 7 (3) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the PSC, which affirms that "Member States agree to accept and implement the decisions of the Peace and Security Council, in accordance with the Constitutive Act". In this regard, the Assembly **REITERATES** that the African Members of the UN Security Council have special responsibility to ensure that the decisions of the PSC are well reflected in the decision making process of the UNSC on peace and security issues of concern to Africa. In light of the above,, the Assembly **REQUESTS** the African members of the United Nations Security Council (A3), working with the Commission, including the AU Permanent Mission to the UN, to present reports through the PSC to Assembly, on their efforts within the Security Council and the extent to which they managed to promote African positions as articulated by the PSC. The Assembly **FURTHER REQUESTS** the PSC to provide timely guidance to the African members of the UNSC to facilitate consistency in the promotion and defense of African positions on issues of concern to the continent. In this regard, the Assembly **APPROVES** the conclusions of the third edition of the High-level Seminar on Peace and Security

in Africa, held in Oran (Algeria) from 20 to 22 December 2015 and **CONGRATULATES** the Government of Algeria, in collaboration with the AU Commission, for its continued efforts to facilitate the holding of this Oran annual Forum, as a framework aiming at contributing to the objective of promoting and defending the African Union decisions and positions within the United Nations decision-making process.



**DECISION ON THE REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
Doc. Assembly/AU/4(XXVI)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Seventeenth Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council;
2. **RECALLS** its previous Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.564(XXIV), Assembly/AU/Dec.573(XXIII), Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1(IV), Assembly/AU/Dec.430 (XIX), Assembly/AU/Dec.485 (XXI) and Assembly/AU/Dec.574(XXV) on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC);
3. **TAKES NOTE** of the Committee of Ten Heads of State Consultative Summit held in Windhoek, Republic of Namibia on 15 January 2016 and the on-going high-level outreach consultations with other interest groups;
4. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the progress made at both the intergovernmental negotiations and outreach with Member States of the United Nations in garnering support for the Common African Position as articulated in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 2005 Sirte Declaration;
5. **WELCOMES** the support that the Common African Position continues to garner on UNSC reform;
6. **FURTHER WELCOMES** UN General Assembly Decision 69/560 adopted by consensus to immediately continue with the intergovernmental negotiations in informal plenary during the 70th session building on the gains made as well as the informal meetings held during the 69th session;
7. **REAFFIRMS:**
 - i) That the Common African Position, as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 2005 Sirte Declaration, shall continue to serve as the only viable option that reflects Africa's legitimate right and aspiration to rectify, inter alia, the historical injustice endured by the Continent;
 - ii) Its unanimous and unequivocal adhesion to the Common African Position contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 2005 Sirte Declaration consisting of the claim of two (2) additional non-permanent seats and two (2) seats in the permanent category with same rights, privileges and obligations accorded to the current permanent members, including the right to veto.
8. **RESERVES** the right to determine the criteria for the selection of the two (2) Member States to represent Africa in UNSC as Permanent Members;

9. **UNDERTAKES** to defend, canvass and promote the African Union Common Position at the on-going intergovernmental negotiations on the reform of UNSC;

10. **URGES** all Member States as follows:

- i) Continue to speak with one voice on all aspects of *“the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the UN Security Council and related matters”*;
- ii) The need not to adhere to other negotiating groups or special interests, as it is not in keeping with the spirit of the Common African Position;
- iii) Those that have not done so to include the issue of the UNSC reform among their foreign policy priorities in their engagements with non-African partners; in particular, the need to correct without further delay, the historical injustice that the African continent continues to suffer.

11. **DECIDES** to include the following:

- i) An allocation in the Commission’s Budget for the purpose of funding the activities of the Committee of Ten and **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives’ Committee (PRC) to make adequate proposals in this regard to the Assembly through the Executive Council starting from the 2017 Budget
- ii) On the agenda of its closed session, on the margins of the 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled for July 2016, an item on UNSC reform.

12. **REITERATES** that the Committee of Ten remains seized of its mandate until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of UNSC.



DECISION ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
Doc. Assembly/AU/6(XXVI)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the final Report of H.E Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia and Chairperson of the High Level Committee (HLC) on the Post 2015 Development Agenda;
2. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.475(XXI) adopted by the Thirty-First Ordinary Session of the Assembly in May 2013 that requested for the establishment of a High Level Committee (HLC) of Heads of State and Government to sensitize and coordinate the activities of African Leaders and members of the High Level Panel, and build regional and inter-continental alliances on the Common African Position on the post 2015 Development Agenda;
3. **COMMENDS** the leadership role of H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the other members of the HLC as well as their respective Sherpas for the level of enthusiasm, responsiveness and commitment to the Post-2015 Development process;
4. **ALSO COMMENDS** the coordinating role of the Commission, and the technical support of the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the entire process of the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
5. **WELCOMES** the adoption of the new development agenda, titled: *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)*, which significantly captures Africa's priority areas and are compatible with Agenda 2063;
6. **ALSO WELCOMES** compatibility of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with Agenda 2063 First Ten Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP) and the synergies that will emanate from their implementation;
7. **COMMENDS** African Statisticians for their active participation in the quantification and costing of Agenda 2063 and SDGs indicators to enable credible monitoring and evaluation process;
8. **ENDORSES** the on-going formulation of accountability framework by the Commission, in collaboration with NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), UNECA and AfDB, in consultation with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), which will cater for both Agenda 2063 and the SDGs concurrently;

9. **ALSO ENDORSES** the required capacity building and technical support for Member States during the domestication and implementation process of Agenda 2063, which incorporates global Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.



**DECISION ON THE 2017 THEME
“HARNESSING DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND THROUGH
INVESTMENTS IN THE YOUTH”**

The Assembly,

1. **WELCOMES** the proposal by the Republic of Malawi to declare 2017 the year of **“HARNESSING DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN THE YOUTH”**;
2. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take necessary measures to launch in January 2017 the theme of the year.



DECISION ON THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FINANCING THE AFRICAN UNION

The Assembly,

1. **ENDORSES** the report of the Executive Council on the scale of assessment and implementation of the alternative sources of financing the African Union and the recommendations thereto;
2. **REQUESTS** the Executive Council through its Committee on Contributions and Scale of Assessment to continue to develop modalities for the implementation of the Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union and report on progress to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2016;
3. **WELCOMES:**
 - i) The initiative of Angola to be assessed at eight per cent (8%);
 - ii) The decision of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire to increase its assessed contribution to three per cent (3%);
 - iii) The decision of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to increase its assessed contribution to four per cent (4%);
 - iv) The decision of Republic of Kenya to increase its assessed contribution to four point one per cent (4.1%);
 - v) The decision of the Republic of Chad to increase its assessed contribution to United States Dollars (US\$) 1.6 Million.
4. **DECIDES** that:
 - i) All the other Member States will be assessed as per Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.578(XXV) adopted by the 25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Johannesburg, South Africa in June 2015; and that;
 - ii) The attached table on the revised Scale of Assessment will form an integral part of this decision.
5. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to Member States that have volunteered to share the four per cent (4%) gap of the Scale of Assessment in a spirit of African solidarity and **ENCOURAGES** Member States to pay their contributions to the Union budget in a timely manner;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to organise a Retreat of Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Finance to examine the

financing of the Union before the July 2016 Summit to be held in N'Djamena, Chad;

7. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to Report on the implementation of this decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in July 2016.



SCALE OF ASSESSMENT			
Member State	2016 - 2018		Assessed Contribution 2016
	Scale of Assessment %	Scale of Assessment as agreed by Heads of States 31-01-2016 (2016-2018)	
Nigeria	12.000	12.000	20,391,922.68
South Africa	12.000	12.000	20,391,922.68
Egypt	12.000	12.000	20,391,922.68
Algeria	12.000	12.000	20,391,922.68
Total 1st Tier	48.0000	48.000	81,567,690.72
Angola	8.0000	8.000	13,594,615.12
Kenya	2.8186	4.100	6,967,240.25
Ethiopia	2.3706	4.000	6,797,307.56
Sudan	3.4036	3.322	5,645,163.93
Libya	3.3416	3.260	5,539,805.66
Côte d'Ivoire	1.6776	3.000	5,097,980.67
Ghana	2.4616	2.380	4,044,398.00
Tunisia	2.4206	2.339	3,974,725.60
U.R. of Tanzania	1.7376	1.656	2,814,085.33
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	1.5696	1.488	2,528,598.41
Cameroon	1.5386	1.457	2,475,919.28
Zambia	1.4166	1.335	2,268,601.40
Uganda	1.2226	1.141	1,938,931.98
Total 2nd Tier	33.9796	37.478	63,687,373.18
Gabon	1.1766	1.095	1,860,762.94
Chad	0.8446	0.942	1,600,000.00
Equatorial Guinea	0.9686	0.887	1,507,302.95
Mozambique	0.9526	0.871	1,480,113.72
Botswana	0.9236	0.842	1,430,833.24
Senegal	0.9226	0.841	1,429,133.91
South Sudan	0.8796	0.798	1,356,062.86
Congo	0.8476	0.766	1,301,684.40
Zimbabwe	0.8326	0.751	1,276,194.49
Namibia	0.7786	0.697	1,184,430.84
Burkina Faso	0.7666	0.685	1,164,038.92

Mauritius	0.7606	0.679	1,153,842.96
Mali	0.7006	0.619	1,051,883.34
Madagascar	0.6866	0.605	1,028,092.77
Benin	0.5546	0.473	803,781.62
Rwanda	0.5136	0.432	734,109.22
Niger	0.5036	0.422	717,115.95
Guinea	0.4356	0.354	601,561.72
Sierra Leone	0.3606	0.279	474,112.20
Togo	0.3286	0.247	419,733.74
Mauritania	0.3196	0.238	404,439.80
Malawi	0.2986	0.217	368,753.94
Swaziland	0.2976	0.216	367,054.61
Eritrea	0.2776	0.196	333,068.07
Burundi	0.2366	0.155	263,395.67
Lesotho	0.2106	0.129	219,213.17
Liberia	0.1926	0.111	188,625.28
Cape Verde	0.1876	0.106	180,128.65
Central African Republic	0.1686	0.087	147,841.44
Djibouti	0.1646	0.083	141,044.13
Seychelles	0.1606	0.079	134,246.82
Somalia	0.1576	0.076	129,148.84
Guinea-Bissau	0.1366	0.055	93,462.98
Gambia	0.1296	0.048	81,567.69
Saharawi Arab D.R.	0.1256	0.044	74,770.38
Comoros	0.1186	0.037	62,875.09
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.0986	0.017	28,888.56
Total 3rd Tier	18.0204	15.179	25,793,316.93
Total Assessed against budget	100.000	100.657	171,048,380.84

**DECISION ON AFRICA'S ENGAGEMENTS IN THE
GLOBAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS
Doc. Assembly/AU/7(XXVI)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. Abdel Fattah El Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt on climate change action in Africa and Africa's engagement in the global climate negotiations; and **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained therein;
2. **CONGRATULATES** France on hosting a successful Twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and for facilitating the adoption of the Paris Agreement that is binding on all Parties;
3. **WELCOMES** the adoption of the Paris Agreement by the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC at its Twenty-first session and **URGES** all Member States to participate in the High-level signature ceremony for the Agreement to be convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations on 22 April 2016 in New York, USA;
4. **CALLS ON** all Member States to ratify the Paris Agreement; and **ACKNOWLEDGES** the UNFCCC Decision to host the Twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22) on the African continent, in Marrakesh, the Kingdom of Morocco from 7 to 18 November 2016;
5. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) as well as the Commission, and the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) for representing the interests of Africa in the climate change negotiations and the constructive manner in which they have advanced the UNFCCC process; **URGES** AMCEN, the Commission and AGN to maintain the unity of the group and to continue to represent African interests in the UNFCCC process; and **CALLS ON** the AGN in collaboration with the Commission to continue to provide the necessary technical support and advice to CAHOSCC through AMCEN;
6. **COMMENDS** the Commission, the African Development Bank, and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), as well as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa for the establishment and effectiveness of the Africa Pavilion at COP21; **APPRECIATES** the space provided by the Pavilion for African countries and institutions to showcase Africa's response to climate change; **ACKNOWLEDGES** the support provided by France and Partners: ClimDev-Africa, Benin, GIZ, SOS Sahel, Norway, The World Bank and Islamic

Development Bank; and **CALLS ON** Member States to support the continued mounting of an Africa Pavilion at future COPs;

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to finalize the ClimDev-Africa proposal developed regarding strengthening the 3-tier negotiation structure and a strategy on how to maximize the benefits of the Paris Agreement for Africa, and an assessment of the needs of African countries for the implementation of their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the Paris Agreement, including in relation to means of implementation, and to present recommendations in advance of the Twenty-second conference of the Parties on ways and means for mobilizing adequate resources to support the implementation of the intended nationally determined contributions by African States;
8. **REAFFIRMS** the endorsement by the CAHOSSC at its meeting held on 25th September 2015 in New York, USA of African Adaptation Initiative (AAI) and the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), building up on the continental initiatives of the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) and the High Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCA) as work in progress; and **WELCOMES** the launching of the two (2) Initiatives by the Coordinator of the CAHOSSC during COP 21 in Paris, France; In this regard, **WELCOMES** the coordinating role played by H.E Professor Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea in the area of Renewable Energy at the level of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and **DECIDES** to extend the latter's role at continental level on Africa's commitments in the global negotiations on climate change;
9. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the Governance Framework proposed in the Document '*The Summary of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative Framework Document and Action Plan*'; and **AFFIRMS** the appointment of the African Development Bank (AfDB) as the Trustee for the AREI and the host of its Independent Delivery Unit as provided in the AREI Framework Document;
10. **RECALLS** the Assembly's Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.580(XXV) adopted by the 25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Johannesburg, South Africa in June 2015 which established a technical working group chaired by the President of AMCEN to develop the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), and which encouraged AMCEN to develop with the AGN a proposal for an African Adaptation Initiative; and **COMMENDS** the work by AMCEN, the AGN and the technical working group comprising the Commission, NPCA, AGN, AfDB, UNEP and IRENA in this regard;
11. **REQUESTS** AMCEN to establish a technical working group in collaboration with the Commission, NPCA, AGN, AfDB, UNECA, UNEP, UNDP, to carry on the work with regard to the African Adaptation Initiative, with the aim of increasing its visibility and ensuring mobilization of adequate resources needed for its operationalization and implementation;

12. **ENCOURAGES** developed countries to support the implementation of the African Adaptation Initiative, taking into consideration the reaffirmation of the Paris Agreement that adaptation is a global challenge, and of the importance of support for and international cooperation on adaptation efforts, taking into account the needs of developing countries; and **STRESSES** the importance of coordination and synergy between the technical working group and the African Risk Capacity (ARC), ClimDev-Africa as well as other relevant initiatives and efforts;
13. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** for the support by G7 and G20 for the AREI, as well as for the Joint Statement on Advancing the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative by Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Sweden, United States of America, United Kingdom and EU reiterating expressions of support for the initiative from G7 Leaders in June 2015 and G20 energy ministers in October 2015, and jointly committing to mobilize at least \$10 billion USD cumulatively from 2015 to 2020; **ALSO EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** for the support provided by the United Nations Secretary General to the Africa Adaptation Initiative;
14. **CALLS ON** AMCEN, the Commission, AfDB, to take appropriate measures, under the guidance of CAHOSCC, to ensure finalization of the African Adaptation Initiative (AAI) and the operationalization and implementation of the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI);
15. **REQUESTS** AfDB to take appropriate measures in consultation with AMCEN and the Commission to complete its work on the instrument establishing the AREI governance framework and related establishment documentation, which shall be adopted by the AREI Governing Board at its initial meeting convened by CAHOSCC;
16. **COMMENDS** the African leaders and host of COP 21 for the Special session held on the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative, and the Lake Chad Basin, and other African initiatives presented during COP 21 in Paris, France and **REQUESTS** the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, other UN Agencies and Development Partners to recognize the importance of Africa's special needs in addition to the Least Developing Countries (LDCs) in the implementation of the historic Paris Agreement as this remain key to the realization of Africa's green growth path;
17. **CALLS ON** Partners to continue to support Member States and the Commission in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change on the socio-economic development on the continent;
18. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report on the implementation of this decision to the Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled for January 2017.

**DECISION ON THE COMMON AFRICAN POSITION ON
HUMANITARIAN EFFECTIVENESS**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the First Session of the Specialised Technical Committee on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons and outcomes of regional consultations of a political process for the development of a ***Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness*** on the Theme: One Africa, One Voice, One Message at the World Humanitarian Summit to be presented at the first ever World Humanitarian Summit scheduled for Istanbul, Turkey on 23 and 24 May 2016 and **APPROVES** the recommendations therein;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcome of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) led Global Consultations for the World Humanitarian Summit, and the proposed Five (5) Action areas, namely (*Dignity; Safety; Resilience; Partnerships and Finance*) and the need to transform the global humanitarian architecture to make it more global, inclusive and effective;
3. **REAFFIRMS** the need for Africa to speak with one voice in international fora in accordance with Article (3) (d) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union which provides for the need “... *to promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples...*” and The 2013 50th Anniversary Declaration, Paragraph (5), which reiterated the collective “...*endeavour for Africa to take her rightful place in political, security, economic and social systems of global governance towards the realisation of its renaissance and establishing Africa as a leading continent...*”;
4. **NOTES WITH CONCERN** the rapidly changing humanitarian landscape and the growing complexity of humanitarian crises on the continent;
5. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** over the dire humanitarian situation of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea trying to cross over to Europe;
6. **WELCOMES** a Declaration on Humanitarian Effectiveness on the continent and the need for a ten (10) year action plan in line with the aspirations of Agenda 2063;
7. **WELCOMES** and **ENDORSES** the recommendation for the establishment of an African Humanitarian Agency (AHA), to streamline humanitarian action on the continent;
8. **RECALLS** the various Decisions of the Executive Council and the Assembly on Alternative Sources of Financing the AU, including the 2001 Lusaka Summit Decision **AHG/Dec. 1 (XXXVII)**, the June 2006 Banjul **Decision EX.CL/Dec.285 (IX)**, and the July 2007 Accra Declaration **Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (IX)** which highlighted the need to identify additional sources of financing the activities of the

African Union; **and REITERATES** the imperative need for predictable, reliable and sustainable resources to enable AU fulfil its mandate;

9. DECIDES TO:

- i) adopt the Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness to be submitted at the World Humanitarian Summit;
- ii) establish an African Humanitarian Agency which should be anchored on regional and national mechanisms and funded with Africa's own resources; and to request the Commission to embark on the process for the establishment of such an architecture anchored on principles of pan-Africanism and African shared values.

10. REQUESTS the Commission to report to the Ordinary Session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in January 2017.



**DECLARATION
ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
Doc. EX.CL/930(XXVIII)**

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, having met at our Twenty Sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Africa from 30 to 31 January 2016;

TAKING NOTE of the Report on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine, and **RECALLING** all resolutions and decisions of the Organization of African Unity/African Union on the Situation in Palestine towards achieving lasting peace and security in the Middle East;

REAFFIRMS our full support to the Palestinian people in their quest for the restoration of their legitimate rights to establish an independent State co-existing peacefully with the State of Israel;

REITERATING our wish for the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions; and **EXPRESSING** support for the two-state solution;

RENEWING our call for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides in order to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East;

COMMENDING the AU Member States as well as the UN Agencies that raised the Palestinian Flag in political support of the State of Palestine;

CONDEMNING the continued occupation of Palestinian lands and the Judaization campaign aimed at changing all Islamic and Christian features of the Holy City and reducing the Palestinian population to the fullest extent through the confiscation of their lands and the destruction of their homes, a sectarian concept which undermines the foundation of the peace process;

DENOUNCING the Israeli practices against the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, which are contrary to the international law and international humanitarian law, and **CALLING** on the Israeli government to release all Palestinian and Arab political prisoners and detainees in the Israeli jails;

EQUALLY DEMANDING that Israel refrains from using acts of terrorism against the Palestinian's civilian populations as well as arbitrary arrests of Palestinians including children and women which is an act of violation of international laws and human rights norms including the Geneva Convention on the Rights of Women and Children;

FURTHER CONDEMNING Israel for withholding Palestinian funds and tax revenues, which constitute a cornerstone of the Palestinian economy, and **CALLING** on the

international community to put pressure on Israel to release Palestinian tax funds that has withheld.

FURTHER CONDEMNING WE HEREBY:

1. **CALL ON** the international community to exert pressure on Israel to stop all settlement activities, release Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and support the efforts of the Palestinians for membership in international agencies and to join international conventions and protocols;
2. **REJECT** the land and sea blockage imposed on the Gaza Strip, which led to the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation, and **DEMANDS** an immediate lifting of all restrictions on the Gaza Strip;
3. **URGE** the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security, and to take the necessary steps to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects, to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region based on the principle of a two-state solution, according to the 1967 borders, and apply the provisions of relevant international law and previous decisions of the Council in this regard;
4. **REQUEST** Member States to boycott goods and products that are produced and exported from the settlements in the Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem;
5. **REQUEST** the United Nations and the Quartet to move immediately to shoulder their responsibilities and pressure Israel to commit to the process of serious peace process negotiations;
6. **FURTHER REQUEST** Member States to continue to support the Palestinian people in their struggle to establish a sovereign state over its national territory with Quds El-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital;
7. **REAFFIRM** the right of the Palestinian people to establish their own Palestinian Independent State with East Jerusalem as its capital on its borders of June 1967, and supports the Palestinian approach to obtain full membership of the State of Palestine at the United Nations;
8. **REITERATE** that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, demands a full withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories to the line of June 1967, including the Syrian Golan Heights and territories still occupied in southern Lebanon.

**DECLARATION ON THE LIFTING OF THE LONG-STANDING UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA'S UNILATERAL SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON THE SUDAN
Doc. EX.CL/945(XXVIII)Add.5**

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Twenty Six Ordinary Session, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:

GUIDED by the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted in 2000 at Lomé Summit (Togo) which provides that one of the objectives of the African Union shall be to achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the peoples of Africa ;

CONSIDERING the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and other relevant human rights instruments;

AFFIRMING the United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution No. A/HRC/27/L.2 on Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures adopted on 18 September 2014 , which created special procedures to assess the impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights;

URGING the Commission to develop modalities for the follow up mechanism for the implementation of the decision of the Assembly to call on the United States of America (USA) to lift the long-standing unilateral sanctions on The Sudan;

BEARING IN MIND the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Republic of Sudan by the United States of America since 1997, which has, inter alia, crippled the economy of the country, increased the inflation rates, restricted the imports and exports, hindered the country's strategy to achieve socio-economic development, interrupted the on-going plans to cope with Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals and affected the country's obligation towards its commitments to the African Union Agenda 2063;

RECOGNIZING that the unilateral coercive measures resulted in freezing and confiscation of private and governmental transfers and assets respectively, deprived the people of the Sudan of the use of open sources in the internet, economically discouraged foreign direct investments, lowered the per capita income and increased the percentage of population poverty;

CONCERNED by the harmful effect of the bank transfer embargo, which has forced the people dealing with Sudan to carry money in cash outside the banking system making it difficult for the authorities to fight money laundering thus encouraging cross boarder crimes. This has affected all socioeconomic aspects, especially in the health sector resulting into the increase in maternal and infant mortality due to the restrictions created on importing medical serums and equipment normally;

STRESSING that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are discouraged under international law, international humanitarian law, the UN Charter, Constitutive Act of the

African Union and the norms and principles governing peaceful resolutions among states;

EXPRESSING its deep concern at the designation of the Republic of The Sudan as a State sponsoring terrorism by the Department of State of the United States of America, since 1993, which has restrained Sudan from playing active role in combating terrorism, smuggling and trafficking in persons, transnational crimes and illegal immigration;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING The Sudan's tireless effort in peace-making through the multifaceted negotiations in Chad, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya, Eritrea, Egypt, Libya, Qatar and many other countries, including, the signing and implementation of several agreements mainly the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that led to the establishment of the sisterly Republic of South Sudan, as well as the initiation of on-going inclusive process of national dialogue to accommodate all the people of Sudan within national issues;

TAKING NOTE of The Sudan's initiative in the establishment of the Committee on Intelligence and Security Service in Africa (CISSA) in order to combat terrorism regionally and internationally;

REAFFIRMING that no state may use or encourage the use of any type of measures including but not limited to economic or political measures, to coerce another state in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind;

UNDERLINING that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their basic means of survival;

ALARMED by the disproportionate and indiscriminate human cost of the United States of America's unilateral sanctions and their negative effects on civilian population, in particular women and children of The Sudan;

1. **DECLARE** our full support of the Republic of The Sudan until the comprehensive lifting of all unjust United States of America's unilateral sanctions;
2. **CALL UPON** the United States of America to lift all its unilateral coercive measures, restrictions and sanctions imposed on the Republic of the Sudan as soon as possible to allow it to continue the peace building process;
3. **REGRET** the extraterritorial nature of the measures which, inter alia, impacts the payment of the financial contribution of The Sudan to the African Union, in addition to threatening the sovereignty of the country;
4. **CALL UPON** all states of the world not to recognize these measures or apply them, and to take effective administrative or legislative measures, as appropriate,

to counter the extraterritorial application or effects of unilateral coercive measures;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report on the mechanism for the implementation of the decision of the Assembly to call on the United States of America (USA) to lift the long-standing unilateral sanctions on The Sudan to the Ordinary Session of the Assembly through the Executive Council, scheduled for January 2017.



RESOLUTION ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CUBA-UNITED STATES OF AMERICA RELATIONS

The Assembly,

1. **WELCOMES** the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the Governments of the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America and the reopening of Embassies in the respective capital cities and other initiatives launched to make progress in bilateral ties;
2. **CALLS FOR** the lifting of the long-standing and unjust economic, commercial and financial blockade on Cuba;
3. **URGES** the President of the United States to take all the necessary measures within his wide executive powers to deal with all outstanding issues regarding the embargo.

