

AFRICAN UNION

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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Forty-Second Ordinary Session
15 - 16 February 2023
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**EX.CL/Dec.1189-1216(XLII)
EX.CL/Decl.1(XLII)
Original: English/French**

DECISIONS

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

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the PRC recommendations on the Reports of its Sub-Committees, taking into account observations expressed by Member States;

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

A. Decision on 2022 supplementary budget

2. **TAKES NOTE** of the reports of the PRC and Joint Sitting of its Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters, Sub-Committee of Programs and Conferences and the F15's Technical Experts;

3. **APPROVES** a total Supplementary budget of **US\$31,716,255** for the year 2022 broken down as follows:

- a) US\$10,266,422 for Operational budget,
- b) US\$21,182,823 for Programs, and
- c) US\$267,010 for Peace Support Operations,

with the below breakdown on funding sources;

- i) US\$12,626,478 to be funded from the Reserves Funds
- ii) US\$3,642,354 to be funded from Member States voluntary contributions
- iii) US\$330,746 to be funded from Administrative Fund, and
- iv) US\$15,116,677 to be funded from International Partners

Organs	Reserve Fund			Voluntary Contributions	Administrative Cost			Partners	Total		
	Operational	Programs	Total	Programs	Operational	Program	Total	Program	Operational	Programs	Total
AUC	8,646,642	2,345,930	10,992,572			53,280	53,280	9,839,409	8,646,642	12,238,619	20,885,261
PAP	664,645		664,645				-		664,645	-	664,645
AfCHR (The Court)			-		30,360		30,360		30,360	-	30,360
ECOSSOC		24,582	24,582				-		-	24,582	24,582
AUDA-NEPAD	502,630		502,630	1,517,937	247,106		247,106		749,736	1,517,937	2,267,673
ACERWC	125,039		125,039				-	71,750	125,039	71,750	196,789

APRM			-	1,697,290			-		-	1,697,290	1,697,290
AfCFTA			-				-	3,174,831	-	3,174,831	3,174,831
AFREC			-				-	50,160	-	50,160	50,160
AfCDC			-				-	1,670,057	-	1,670,057	1,670,057
STATAFRIC			-				-	310,470	-	310,470	310,470
IPED	50,000		50,000				-		50,000	-	50,000
PAU			-	427,127			-		-	427,127	427,127
PSOs - AU CLB		267,010	267,010				-		-	267,010	267,010
Grand Total	9,988,956	2,637,522	12,626,478	3,642,354	277,466	53,280	330,746	15,116,677	10,266,422	21,449,833	31,716,255

4. **ALSO APPROVES** an amount of **US\$1,774,275** for APRM and Pan African Parliament (PAP), to be funded from reallocation of internal-savings;
5. **FURTHER APPROVES** an amount of **US\$ 917,475** from the investment interest of the Peace Fund to pay the management fees of the Peace Fund Manager, within the approved 2022 budget line of the Peace Fund's Secretariat;
6. **DECIDES** to ensure the funding of an initial amount of **US\$447,900** for the response to the Ebola outbreak to be drawn from the approved AfCDC fund under the 2022 operational budget of the Commission.

B. Decision on Budget Carry forward from 2022 to 2023

7. **APPROVES** the budget carry over requests from 2022 to 2023 as follows:

- i) Africa CDC US\$ 2,541,726.01
- ii) Transition Plan - HRM US\$ 9,713,016
- iii) Institutional Reforms project US\$ 1,301,351.56
 - For salaries – US\$656,220.56
 - Payment for recruited firms US\$ 645,131
- iv) Construction of DCP residence US\$1,494,761.46
- v) Renovation of Building A US\$ 2,047,712.72

8. **INSTRUCTS** the Commission to ensure:

- Budget for Transition Plan project to be utilized by 31st July 2023, thereafter, the balance to be channeled to the relevant fund as per the AU Financial Rules.
- Strict adherence to the timelines of the transitional plan and institutional reform programmes and ensure that no cost will be incurred for the implementation of the envisaged programmes beyond the approved amounts.

- A report be provided on institutional reforms project analyzing the expenditures for the consideration of the Joint Sitting
- The budget for the construction of DCP residence to be utilized by end of July 2023 and a comprehensive report analysing the expenditure presented to the Joint Sitting for consideration with no additional request for funds
- The budget for the renovation of Building A to be utilized by end of July 2023.
- Full conformity with the requisite provisions of the AU Financial Rules and desist from the submission of requests that violate compliance with the established financial rules.

9. **REMINDS** the Commission not to use the budget carryover in (7) above to set a precedence for future consideration as this was made due to importance of the matters under consideration.
10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to complete the Institutional Reforms project utilizing the available funds by.

C. Decision on 2023 Additional budget

11. **APPROVES** an Additional budget of US\$19,011,400 for 2023 broken down as follows:
- i) US\$15,200,000 for Africa CDC from the Master Card Foundation
 - ii) US\$3,322,000 for Women and Youth Development Directorate from the Master Card Foundation
 - iii) US\$177,400 for the Medical & Health Services Directorate from the Kuwait Fund
 - iv) US\$312,000 Legal Associates program from World Bank Fund

D. Decision on the Staff Regulations and Rules Review Report

12. **RECALLS** Executive Council Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI)** which **CALLED UPON** the Commission to urgently complete the review exercise, as envisaged in Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1144(XL)**, of the proposals relating to certain entitlements in the draft revised SRR.
13. **DECIDES** to adopt the African Union Staff Regulations and Rules as endorsed by 6th Extraordinary Session of the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs and, **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the PRC to examine the financial, legal and structural implications of pending issues and report to the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2023.

E. Decision on the Preferential Rate Report

14. **RECALLS** Executive Council Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI)** in which the PRC through its Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters was instructed to address the preferential rate payments by September 2022, for all offices of the Union, in particular, the Union's representational offices in Geneva and Brussels, and report back to Executive Council in February 2023.
15. **ADOPTS** the Commission's current proposal to close the gap between what was paid to staff and the minimum wage requirement in Geneva and Brussels as stop gap measure pending the completion of the study on AU Staff Compensation and Benefits.
16. **FURTHER ADOPTS** a 5-percentage increase above the minimum wage threshold to be paid to staff in Geneva and Brussels in the interim arrangement until the overall compensation and benefits review is conducted.

F. Decision on the Crisis Reserve Facility (CRF)

17. **RECALLS** Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI) in which the PRC, through its Sub-Committee of GSCBFAM working jointly with the F15 Technical experts were instructed to finalize a mechanism for the replenishment of the CRF and report back to Executive Council in February 2023, including on the utilization of interest accruing from the investment of the Peace Fund.
18. **ADOPTS** the following sources of funding for replenishment of the CRF fund:
 - Option 1:** Member States' voluntary contribution;
 - Option 2:** Interest generated from the CRF investment;
 - Option 3:** Contributions and donations from the Africa private sector entities.

II. THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON AUDIT MATTERS

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

ON THE REPORT ON FULL LIST OF OUTSTANDING COMMITMENTS/DEBTS ON IPED AND THE OLC LEGAL OPINION ON THE DEBTS

20. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **COMMENDS** the Commission for providing detailed information and legal opinion on the outstanding IPED Debts.
21. **DIRECTS** the Commission to contact the 11 State Parties with arrears owed to IPED and agree on individual modalities for paying the contribution arrears of USD3,595,040.00 and submit the proposal to the Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters

for consideration, in order to allow for the settlements of outstanding payments before 2008 and taking into account the difficult financial circumstances facing some Member States.

22. **RECALLS** Decisions EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI) paragraph 100 instructing the Commission to expeditiously settle all audited liabilities due to Member States from the administrative costs and savings from the 2021 and 2022 budgets, and **DIRECTS** the Commission to settle its liabilities to Amadou Hamady DIOP of USD135,376 from the period of 2008 to 2011 when IPED was under the budget of the African Union; **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to settle the remaining certified amount of USD181,379 for the period of 2001 to 2008 as soon as any arrears of IPED States parties are recovered, in line with the Legal Opinion provided by the OLC.
23. **DIRECTS** the Commission to submit all the IPED outstanding balances including staff salary arrears and vendor balances to Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) for certification on individual balances level, and further **DIRECTS** that Any payment should be verified by the relevant departments of AUC and to be submitted for consideration and approval by the PRC Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters.
24. **RECALLS** Executive Council Decision 1143 paragraph 14(x) and **DIRECTS** that the transformation or absorption of Institutions into the AU should be done and processed after following thorough due diligence processes to avoid duplication of mandates and, negative legal, structural, and financial implications on the outstanding obligations.

ON THE OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT (OIO) REPORT ON AUC MID-YEAR BUDGET PERFORMANCE JAN-JUN 2022

25. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **DIRECTS** the Commission to implement fully the recommendations contained in the Internal Audit Report on Budget Performance for the mid-year January to June 2022.
26. **COMMENDS** the Commission on the improvement noted in the overall execution rate in comparison with the previous years and **URGES** the departments with low execution rates to work on improving their performance.
27. **DIRECTS** that the budget ceilings should be cut for AUC Departments, AU Organs and Institutions with low execution rates.
28. **REQUESTS** the Commission to prepare a comprehensive report on Partners' Reporting Formats and Joint Financing Arrangements and submit it to the Sub-Committee on Audit Matters by 31st May 2023.

29. **RECALLS** paragraphs 36 and 38 of decision *EX.CL/Dec.1168 (XLI)* and **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue engaging with Partners to address their concerns that affect the level of disbursements of Partners' funds and report back to the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in June/July 2023.
30. **INSTRUCTS** the Commission to develop a Cash Flow Management System and link the allocation of funds to the quarterly departmental plans according to the size of the activities and programs as per Decision EX.CL/Dec.1143(XL) paragraph 18 (IV), and release funds on time to enable departments implement programmes as planned.

ON THE OIO REPORT ON AU RESERVE FUND AS AT 31 JULY 2022

31. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **DIRECTS** as follows: -
- i) The Commission should implement the recommendations contained in the report and the comments of the Sub-Committee.
 - ii) The Commission should prepare a report on the AU dormant assets like the building in New York, Brussels and Lagos and submit it to the PRC Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters, to decide on the way forward in dealing with those assets
 - iii) The Commission should be providing information and required support to the OIO to enable audit reviews of the reserve fund in a timely manner.
32. **EXPRESSES GREAT CONCERN** about the low level of reserve fund available balance and **URGES** the Commission to engage Member States with outstanding assessed contributions for payments.

ON THE RETREAT FOR THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON AUDIT MATTERS

33. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **COMMENDS** the Sub-Committee on Audit Matters for holding a successful retreat in implementation of the Executive Council Decisions EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI) paragraph 8 and EX.CL/Dec.1097(XXXVII) paragraph 70.
34. **COMMENDS** the PRC Sub-Committee on Audit Matters and the OIO for developing the First Edition (2022) of the Working Booklet to serve as a guiding tool for Members of the Sub-Committee.
35. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcomes of the retreat and **DIRECTS** as follows: -
- i) The Commission to conduct an Orientation Retreat / Training for all Member States on the issues of budgets and planning, before the 2024 budget session.
 - ii) The Commission to conduct some trainings for all focal persons on audit

- matters including the Directors as part of pre-empting audit queries/audit findings.
- iii) The Commission to initiate and implement an AU wide Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (AU-IFMIS) starting with the 2024 budget, with a Consolidated Dashboard to ensure prudent and effective use of the resources, and put in place a comprehensive automation system on the processes of African Union activities to enhance Planning, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation of Internal, External and Forensic Audits and a result-based performance system, on a multi-year basis, by having proper tools and expertise.
 - iv) The Commission to ensure that together with other Organs, align their capacity to implement in terms of financial and human resources, as well as timelines in line with their respective plans/budgets.
 - v) The Commission to take as a matter of urgency the operationalization of the risk management function for the Union in line with the approved structure for this function.
 - vi) The Commission to ensure that AUC departments commit and adhere to the upcoming service level agreements being proposed by OSSD so as to improve the ticket management processes and safe funds for the Union, as well as identifying duties and responsibilities, for better consequence management application
 - vii) The Commission to set up a formal framework for monitoring effective implementation of the audit conclusions and recommendations, and this formal monitoring framework could meet at least once a quarter to evaluate the implementation status.
36. **DIRECTS** that there should be periodic meetings between members of the Board of External Auditors (BoEA) and members of Sub-Committee on Audit Matters with the view to align audit strategies/plans/priority.
37. **ENCOURAGES** the PRC Sub-Committee on Audit Matters to conduct self-assessment exercise periodically in line with the requirement of International Standards as a technical oversight function body.
38. **REQUESTS** the PRC in consultation with Regional Deans to ensure continuity of membership on the composition of Sub-Committees to address the challenges on continuity that hinders transfer of knowledge among members especially on Sub-Committees with technical functions, in particular, the PRC Sub-Committee on Audit Matters as per revised TORs.
39. **REQUESTS** the PRC to adopt the amendments made to the Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee on Audit Matters to address the membership continuity issues and new mandate as per revised AUFR and SRR.

ON THE UPDATE BY THE OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL ON THE WORK DONE ON ISSUES OF HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENTS, GOVERNANCE

ISSUES OF AUABC AND ACHPR AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FRAMEWORK ON RECOVERY OF MONEYS FROM FORMER STAFF AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

40. **TAKES NOTE** of the Update and **RAISES CONCERNS** that the issues of Host Country Agreements, Governance issues in AUABAC and ACHPR, and the framework of recovery of Union funds, have been outstanding for a long time.
41. **DIRECTS** the Commission to work on the outstanding issues (*the framework report on Recovery of Moneys from AU former Staff and Elected Officials and governance and legal issues*) and submit the report to the Sub-Committee on Audit Matters, latest by 31st May 2023.
42. **STRESSES** that the funds to convene the meeting with the two Organs i.e AUABC and ACHPR on the governance and legal issues, in particular, to come up with a report on the financial, structural and legal implications of the proposal of granting full-time positions to the Chairs of both Organs in order to allow them to execute financial and administrative duties, should be solicited and approved by the PRC Sub- Committee on General Supervision.
43. **URGES** the PRC through its relevant Sub-Committee to finalize latest by 31st July 2023 the issues of Host Agreements in the concerned Member States so as to give legalstatus of hosting AU Organs and Offices.
44. **RECALLS** Executive Council decision *EX.CL/Dec.1126(XXXIX)* and **RAISES CONCERNS** on the delayed implementation of this decision and **DIRECTS** the Commission to ensure that the detailed list of staff who have left with moneys owed to the organization is finalized and submitted to the relevant AUC department for urgent action.

ON THE REPORT ON HOW THE UNION TACKLES ISSUES OF REPORTING

45. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **COMMENDS** the Commission for the comprehensive report given.
46. **DIRECTS** the Commission to speed up the integration of AMERT into SAP as well as rolling it over to other AUC Offices, all AU Organs and provide the required trainings.
47. **RECALLS** Executive Council decisions *EX.CL/Dec.1143(XL)* paragraph 18 (i) and *EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI)* paragraph 31 and **EXPRESSES** concerns on the recurring nature of non-adherence to AMERT reporting requirements and **REITERATES** that sanctions should be imposed on non-compliance in line with prior decisions of the Policy Organs; further **REQUESTS** the Commission to provide Capacity buildingon the use of AMERT so as to improve and enhance reporting in line with

decision EX.CL/Dec.1168 (XLI) paragraphs 35, and that focal persons should be attached to each department for continuous support in both planning and reporting.

ON THE BRIEFING ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE AUC DIRECTORS' RETREAT IN NAIROBI

48. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **COMMENDS** the Commission for effective measures put in place, including the three Key Performance Indicators on Budget Execution, Budget Performance, and Implementation of audit recommendations developed.
49. **URGES** the Commission to have continuity of such effective measures, which should include all managers within the AU Organs.

ON THE REPORT ON HOW TRAVEL POLICY WILL ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF TICKETING AND UNUSED TICKETS IN AUC

50. **TAKES NOTE** of the comprehensive Report presented by the Commission.
51. **RAISES CONCERNS** on the continued loss of funds through unused tickets and **URGES** the Commission to expedite the operationalization of the approved Service Level Agreement (SLA) and strictly enforce it to avoid the re-occurrence of losses due to unused tickets and to effect consequence management with regard to the unused tickets and non-adherence to AU travel related policies.
52. **DIRECTS** that Travel Policy be reviewed after the adoption of SRR to reflect the concerns of Member States and address the root causes of the lacunas in the current travel policy.
53. **DIRECTS** the Commission to establish an Internal Event Coordination Committee, where necessary, that will overlook and coordinate all important activities for conferences and meetings, as well as to provide training and capacity building programs for staff members on project and event management.

ON THE UPDATED MATRIX OF IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISIONS ON AUDIT MATTERS AS AT 15th NOVEMBER 2022

54. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **COMMENDS** the Sub-Committee on Audit Matters for following up the implementation of the Executive Council decisions emanating from its work.
55. **DIRECTS** the Commission and the Other AU Organs to ensure expeditious implementation of the Decisions across the Union, taking into consideration the budgetary implications of non-implementation of Audit decisions and

recommendations as per previous Executive Council decisions linking budget allocation/release to the implementation of audit recommendations and decisions.

ON THE MATRIX ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2022

56. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **STRESSES** that the implementation of internal audit recommendations should be stepped up and improved to ensure enhanced internal controls within the Union.
57. **URGES** the Commission to continue with the periodic follow-up and report back accordingly.
58. **DIRECTS** that the implementation matrix report to also include a summary on the nature or categories of the recommendations that have been implemented for a better understanding and appreciation of the issues that have been implemented.

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

59. **TAKES NOTE** of Report of the Joint Sitting of PRC Sub-Committee on Audit Matters and Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary Financial and Administrative Matters, and Experts of the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15), and **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained therein;

ON THE INDEPENDENT FORENSIC AND PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE SIX AU ORGANS (APRM, AUDA – NEPAD, PAP, AU-ABC, AfCHPR, ACHPR)

60. **RECALLS** Executive Council decision *EX.CL/Dec.1107(XXXVIII)* **COMMENDS** the Consultants, Lochan and Company for the work done on the Forensic and Performance Audit of Other AU Organs (APRM, AUDA – NEPAD, PAP, AU-ABC, AfCHPR, ACHPR).
61. **DIRECTS** that an Independent Forensic and Performance Audit also be extended to the newly established AU Organs (ACERWC, AfCFTA, ECOSOCC, Africa CDC, AUCIL, etc.), covering the period 2020 to 2022 by the Consultant, Lochan and Company and the extension of the previous contract should be negotiated in line with the required procurement processes; the budget estimate should be submitted to the Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary

Financial and Administrative Matters, and Experts of the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15), for consideration and recommendation to PRC.

62. **EXPRESSES CONCERNS** on the issues raised in the forensic reports under each Organ and **DIRECTS** the concerned Organs to implement the recommendations of the Auditors and report back on the implementation to the PRC Sub-Committee on Audit Matters before the next Executive Council July 2023.
63. **DIRECTS** staff who do not want to proceed on leave when due to explain their decision with proper justification to be approved by the AUC senior management with copies to the Deputy Chairperson of the AUC, and **STRESSES** that annual leave should be mandatory for all Union staff.
64. **RECALLS** paragraph 24 of Executive Council decision *EX.CL/Dec.1031(XXXIV)* on the moratorium on hiring short term staff and **DIRECTS** that this should be applied to all AU Organs on recruitment of Short, Fixed Term and Special Service Contracts staff and **REQUESTS** the Organs to handle exceptions on a case by case basis by obtaining approval from the Chairperson of the Commission and **URGES** all Organs to concentrate on filling their regular structures.
65. **DIRECTS** the Commission to stop using the administrative costs meant for other Organs, put mechanisms in place and guidelines to ensure that all Partners are charged administrative costs in all AU Organs. Further, **DIRECTS** that during the 2024 budget processes, the issue of administrative costs among Organs should be clarified in order to have them spread among all concerned Organs as appropriate.
66. **DIRECTS** the Commission to establish a taskforce to look at VAT refunds from respective host countries for all AU Organs, and how the controls can be improved to avoid losses. Further, **STRESSES** that accountability should be placed on officials who are administratively responsible for unclaimed VAT Payments.
67. **DIRECTS** the Commission to appropriately address the challenges of staff career path development in order to resolve the limitations impeding the career progression of some staff. Further, **INSTRUCTS** the AUC to develop career development policy for the AU Organs.
68. **DIRECTS** the Commission to issue a circular to all AU Staff on the management of education allowance, including required limits for items such as laptop costs and other related auxiliaries.
69. **DIRECTS** the Commission to submit to the PRC, through its relevant Sub-Committee, a framework for the payments of the Education allowances to staff.
70. **FURTHER DIRECTS** the concerned AU Organs to address issues raised in their respective reports and implement all recommendations as follows: -

i) African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

71. **DIRECTS** APRM management to take the audit findings and recommendations seriously and implement them fully.

ii) African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)

72. **COMMENDS** the Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD for the actions undertaken to effectively address 75% of the forensic Audit Report findings.
73. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** AUDA-NEPAD's actions to institute systems to process all payments to suppliers using electronic bank transfer.

iii) Pan–African Parliament (PAP)

74. **DIRECTS** PAP management to take the audit findings and recommendations into account and implement them fully.
75. **DIRECTS** PAP management to ensure that late retirement of imprest is tied to the concerned staff's salary for immediate recovery, as per the FRR.
76. **FURTHER REQUESTS** PAP, as an AU Organ, to be guided by the rules, regulations and policies, to enforce same, as well as apply consequence management measures to offenders.
77. **ALSO DIRECTS** PAP management to ensure that all allowances paid to staff are those approved under AU Rules and Regulations and are applicable across the Union.

iv) African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption (AU-ABC)

78. **DIRECTS** AU-ABAC management to take the audit findings and recommendations into account and implement them fully.
79. **INSTRUCTS** the AU-ABC, in line with the ongoing AU Reform processes, to submit a proposal for the establishment of Procurement and Human Resource (HR) functions to the PRC through its relevant Sub-Committee and further **DIRECTS** HRM at the AUC, to expedite the staffing of AUABC.
80. **URGES** AU-ABC to address the issue of unclaimed VAT with the Host Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

v) African Court on Human and People's Rights (AfCHPR)

81. **DIRECTS** AfCHPR management to take the audit findings and recommendations seriously and implement them fully.

vi) African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

82. **DIRECTS** ACHPR management to take the audit findings and recommendations into account and implement them fully.
83. **INSTRUCTS** the AUC to ensure that there are no gaps in contracts renewals for staff especially for the Heads of the Organs/Offices; this would enhance accountability of the staff as they hold higher responsibilities.

ON THE AU AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

84. **TAKES NOTE** of Report of the Joint Siting of PRC Sub-Committee on Audit Matters and Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters, and Experts of the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15), and **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained therein;
85. **COMMENDS** the Board of External Auditors for the work done and its commitment to review the financial statements and performance of the Organs of the Union.
86. **RECALLS** the Executive Council decision **EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI) paragraph 124**, and **COMMENDS** the Joint Sitting of the two Sub-Committees and the F15 Experts for considering in detail the 2021 Audited Financial Statements.
87. **EXPRESSES CONCERNS** on the recurring nature of the audit findings and **URGES** all AU Organs to ensure full adherence to the AU Rules and Regulations.
88. **NOTING** systemic weaknesses cutting across AU Organs, **DIRECTS** as follows:
- (i) All AU Organs, Departments/Directorates and Offices should strictly adhere to the provisions of the AU Rules and Regulations and prudently utilize the scarce resources of the Union.
 - (ii) An AU wide Integrated Financial Management System should be operationalized among all Organs to ensure prudent use of resources.
 - (iii) A Centralized Procurement System should be introduced to ensure fairness, value for money and enhanced procurement processes across the Union as well as even distribution of procurements across the Continent.

- (iv) All Organs should adopt and implement the AU-wide Merit Based Recruitment System to ensure transparency, fairness and effective recruitment.
- (v) The Commission to put in place a proper and effective Promotion and Performance Appraisal System to be used across all Organs to ensure career progression for all staff of the Union.
- (vi) **RECALLS** paragraph 32 of Decision *EX.CL/Dec.1031 (XXXIV)* and paragraph 41 (ii) *EX.CL/Dec.1126(XXXIX)* and **REITERATES** that a sanction regime should be reinforced and appropriate stringent sanctions be applied to address violation of AU FR and SRR to deter further recurrence and abuse, and also bring discipline to the organisation. Further **REQUESTS** that Internal Committees in the AUC handling consequence management, disciplinary and sanction issues should be enhanced to ensure effectiveness and accountability, and should be reporting regularly to the relevant PRC Sub-Committees.
- (vii) **RECALLS** paragraph 9 of decision *EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI)* and decision *EX.CL/Dec.1144(XL)*, and **EXPRESSES CONCERNS** on the continued delays in finalizing the review of Staff Regulations and Rules which has the required provisions for sanctions and **REQUEST** the AUC to ensure its adoption during the February 2023 summit.
- (viii) **RECALLS** paragraph 41 of decision *EX.CL/Dec.1126(XXXIX)* and **REITERATES** that internal controls should be strengthened particularly in Finance, Human Resources and Procurement processes to effectively manage the resources of the Union.
- (ix) **CALLS UPON** all AU Organs to put in place effective systems and platforms to enable Member States track implementation of audit recommendations.
- (x) **RECALLS** paragraph 18 (iv) of decision *EX.CL/Dec.1143(XL)* and **REITERATES** that the use of AMERT should be enhanced and all Organs should use AMERT and SAP in the execution of the budget, and all budget performance reports should be produced through the AMERT systems.
- (xi) **REQUESTS** all AU Organs to ensure that contract extensions and renewals should be done in line with AU Staff Regulations and Rules, without automatic renewals and no staff should be allowed to work without valid contract and any staff who violates this should be accountable for his/her action when the sanction regime is applied.
- (xii) **FURTHER DIRECTS** that all AU Organs should ensure that all funds or contributions in kind received are in the approved budgeted, recorded and

reported in the books of accounts for transparency and accountability in line with the provision of the AU Financial Rules and Regulations.

- (xiii) **DIRECTS** All AU Organs to strictly adhere to the guidelines of AU administrative policy on travel, and to limit the hosting of meetings outside of duty-station cities and the AU HQ in general in the context of the severe austerity budget measures that the Union finds itself operating within. Alternatively, favorable consideration could be given to offers by Member States to cover reasonable costs associated with such meetings convened externally. Sensitization workshops should be done using other less costly means like the national radios and other social media;
 - (xiv) **DIRECTS** that no supplementary budget request be approved for any Organ that has not exhausted at least 80% of its approved budget by the 3rd quarter of the financial year;
 - (xv) **STRESSES** the need for improved execution of programmes and **REQUESTS** the PRC through its relevant Sub-Committee to come up with the reasonable rate to increase the existing rate of 5% for reallocation by the Chairperson of the AUC.
89. **FURTHER DIRECTS** the AU Commission and Other AU Organs to address issues raised in their respective Organs as follows: -
- 1.1. African Union Commission (AUC)**
- i) AUC should expedite the implementation of previous years' audit recommendations and the linking of performance of Directorates to implementation of audit recommendations under their departments should be evaluated every quarter to enhance accountability by leveraging the use of the Audit Recommendation Tracking System (ARTS).
 - ii) AUC should take administrative measures and ensure proper and timely reconciliation of bank accounts so as to enable detection of any possible fraud, and an amount of USD 8.89 million long outstanding unreconciled items noted in AUC accounts for the year 2021 should be cleared to avoid loss of funds to the Union.
 - iii) **RECALLS** paragraph 43 (1.1) decision *EX.CL/Dec.1126(XXXIX)* and **REITERATES** that the AUC should address urgently the issue of the long outstanding advance payments to suppliers with an amount of USD 36,429,450 as at 31 December 2021 of which some have been un-cleared for a period ranging from one to thirteen years.
 - iv) **RECALLS** paragraph 72 (a) of decision *EX.CL/Dec.1107(XXXVIII)* and **REITERATES** that all remaining dormant accounts should be reconciled

and cleared and un used funds on finished projects should be returned to Partners as appropriate, and that all subsequent funding should be reconciled immediately upon closure of projects in line with the provisions of the revised FR should be enhanced to address matters related to dormant and unreturned Partners' funds.

- v) The AUC should ensure that the number of AUC bank accounts are reduced and migrated from outside the continent in adherence to the Executive Council Decision *EX.CL/Dec.1057*, and urges speedy and fair distribution of banks accounts and investments amongst the five AU regions.
- vi) **RECALLS** paragraph 19 of decision *EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI)* and *paragraph 25 of decision 1185* and **REITERATES** that the Commission should finalize the Treasury and Investment policy and present it for consideration by PRC through its relevant Sub-Committees and F15 technical experts to ensure better and efficient management and investment of the Union's resources.
- vii) **RECALLS** paragraph 41. a(iv) of decision *EX.CL/Dec.1057(XXXV)* and **REITERATES** that all outstanding matters on recovery of advances, loans, imprest and travel advances on the agendas of the Sub-Committees on Audit Matters and General Supervision and Coordination should be finalized without any further delays.
- viii) AUC should address IT matters and ensure adequate segregation of duties on SAP, remove former staff members from active access to the system and do regular backup restoration tests for integrity and soundness of the business of the AUC.
- ix) The AUC should ensure that management of information relating to death and disabilities of troops is robust, with up-to-date records; anomalies in ATMIS (formerly AMISOM) payrolls are removed; and payment of troop allowances is done in a prompt and timely manner not exceeding three months for verified death and disability claims, and monthly for other allowances.
- x) AUC should ensure that all benefits both monetary and in-kind relating to Africa CDC implementing Partners are recognized in the books of accounts to ensure transparency and accountability in the management of resources of the Union.
- xi) AUC should also ensure that medical donations from Partners are distributed well in advance of expiration dates so as to reach the intended beneficiaries in the Continent.

- xii) The AUC should enhance planning for effective and realistic budgeting and the procurement processes should be enhancing to ensure effective procurement and enhancement of budget execution.
- xiii) The AUC is requested to follow up with the Federal Republic of Nigeria to resolve the issue of AU properties in Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria.

1.2. AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM)

- i) APRM management should ensure that issues related to accounting errors are corrected and preventive measures should be taken to avoid future errors;
- ii) APRM management should ensure that AUSRR are followed in recruitments so as to give contracts to competent and qualified personnel, contracts are renewed as required and stop issuing contracts to consultants to carry out routine work;
- iii) The OIO should carry a comprehensive investigation on all contracts issued to consultants carrying out routine work.

1.3. AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (AUDA - NEPAD)

- i) **COMMENDS** the Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD for the actions undertaken to effectively address the external Audit findings for the year 2021, namely:
 - the AU pension Fund: The Agency proceeds to monthly and timely transfers to the AU pension fund bank account in full compliance with its obligations as per the decision of the Member States for the AUC to manage the AU pension fund Centrally.
 - Financial information disclosure and incorrect information: the unintentional omission has been corrected by the financial institution of the Agency and the corrected information was finally disclosed.
 - The AUDA-NEPAD official nomination is now used in all financing agreement with Development partners as well as the Agency's bank accounts.
 - VAT: The Agency continues to submit VAT claims to relevant authorities of the Host Country and is engaging effectively on this matter.
 - the Agency fully applies AU rules on DSA and currently awaiting the Legal Counsel's opinion for the specific concerned case in order to take further action.
- ii) **REQUESTS** the Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD to report to PRC and Executive Council on the full status of implementation of the Audit report findings by July 2023.

1.4. PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP)

- i) The Commission should carry out an investigation on the cash management issues identified in the 2021 BOEA report so as to examine the transaction trend and inconsistencies since 2018;
- ii) PAP is directed to comply with the rules related to cash management in relation to the “petty cash” account;
- iii) PAP management should undertake fixed assets physical verification in accordance with the AU accounting policy, and values on the Host Government donated assets should be obtained and recorded in the books in line with previous Executive Council Decisions.

1.5. AU ADVISORY BOARD ON Against CORRUPTION (AU-ABC)

- i) AU-ABC management should put more efforts in following up the VAT issues with the Government of Tanzania to avoid financial losses to the Union;
- ii) The OLC should follow up all outstanding issues on Host Agreements and submit them to the PRC Sub-Committee on Headquarters and Host Country Agreements which is seized with all matters related to Host Country Agreements;

1.6. AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (AfCHPR)

- i) **REQUESTS** the Court (AfCHPR) to carry out risk assessment and provide relevant trainings to its staff;
- ii) **REQUESTS** the Court (AfCHPR) should adhere to AUFR in carrying out procurements; and bids should be conducted in compliance with the relevant rules, procedures and manuals;

1.7. AFRICAN COMMISSION ON PEOPLES' AND HUMAN RIGHTS (ACHPR)

- i) The extension of contracts should be done in line with provisions of the SRR to avoid litigations especially relating to the contracts of short-term staff.
- ii) The filling of positions at all levels including the Executive Secretary should be done according to the AUSRR following the normal recruitment processes and any deserving internal candidate (staff) can get the position.

- iii) The OIO should ensure that full investigation is carried out on the alleged IT fraud.

1.8. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL & CULTURAL COUNCIL (ECOSOCC)

- i) Meetings should be held within the duty station city to avoid incurring costs on staff tickets and accommodation and save funds by ECOSOCC and all other AU Organs;
- ii) Meetings that are held outside of the duty stationed must be approved in the AMERT and cost-efficient.
- iii) HRM at AUC should expedite the recruitment and staffing of ECOSOCC Secretariat.

1.9. AFRICA CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)

- i) The AfCFTA should continue to work with the Government of Ghana on issues relating to the implementation of the host country agreement;
- ii) The AfCFTA should ensure that the requirements of IPSAS are followed fully in financial, human and asset management and reporting;

1.10. AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC)

The ACERWC management should implement all the recommendations in the BOEA report and ensure adherence to AU Rules and Regulations.

IV. SUB-COMMITTEE ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

- 90. TAKES NOTE** with satisfaction the report of the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation;

A. On the AU Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework

- 91. TAKES NOTE** with satisfaction the preparation of the draft of the AU Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework;
- 92. OBSERVES** the lack of consensus on the issues of classification and participation; and
- 93. REQUESTS** the PRC, working in close collaboration with the Commission, to continue with the consideration of the document and to report to the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

B. AU – EU Partnership

94. **ENDORSES** the full participation of all AU Member States in the AU-EU Partnership Ministerial Follow-up Committee;
95. **REQUESTS** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission and the European Union to convene as soon as possible in 2023, the first Meeting of the AU-EU Ministerial Follow-up Committee, to formalize its structure, adopt its working methods and documents.

C. Africa – Arab Partnership

96. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal by the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Host country of the 5th Africa - Arab Summit) to hold the 5th Africa – Arab Summit either during the first semester of 2023 or during the last quarter of 2023;
97. **APPROVES** the holding of the 5th Africa – Arab Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in November 2023, and **REQUEST** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission to finalize the dates for the Summit and to coordinate with the League of Arab States and the host country, the preparatory process for the said Summit.

D. Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

98. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the Government and people of the Republic of Tunisia, for the successful hosting of the TICAD 8 Summit held in Tunis on 27 – 28 August 2022;
99. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly to endorse the Declaration of the TICAD 8 Summit;
100. **REQUESTS** the PRC in collaboration with the Commission, to follow-up with Japan on the implementation of the outcomes of the TICAD 8 Summit;

E. Africa – Korea Partnership

101. **REITERATES** its request to the PRC, the Commission and Korea to follow-up on the implementation of the commitments made during the 5th Korea-Africa Ministerial Forum through the convening of the Annual Policy Consultation Meeting.

F. Africa – India Partnership

102. **REQUESTS** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission to undertake consultations with Member States to identify a host country for the 4th Africa – India

Summit to be held in May 2023, in Africa, failure of which the Summit will be hosted at the Headquarters of the African Union, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

103. **REQUESTS ALSO** the PRC and the Commission to agree on the exact dates for the holding of the 4th Africa – India Summit in May 2023, and to start the preparatory process as soon as possible.

V. SUB-COMMITTEE ON HEADQUARTERS AND HOST AGREEMENTS

104. **TAKES NOTE** of the consideration of the draft model Host country agreements and the revised Criteria for hosting AU Organs, Institutions, Entities and Specialized Agencies;
105. **REQUESTS** the Commission to organize a Joint Sitting of Sub- Committees on Headquarters and Host Country Agreements and the Sub-Committee on Rules Standards and Credentials to finalize the aforementioned documents and report to the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
106. **REQUESTS** the Commission to organize a Joint Sitting of Sub- Committee on Headquarters and Host Country Agreements and the Sub- Committee on Rules Standards and Credentials to finalise the Model Host Country Agreements and the revised Criteria for hosting AU Organs, Institutions, Entities and Specialised Agencies before the forthy third Ordinary Session of Executive Council of 2023.
107. **WELCOMES** the actions undertaken by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to implement **the** decision **EX.CL/Dec.1031(XXXIV), para 40**, including the establishment of a High Level Committee to deal with restitution of seized assets and **ENCOURAGES** its full implementation;
108. **COMMENDS** the efforts made by the United Republic of Tanzania to address the issue of the Seat of the African Court on Human and Peoples 'Rights and the refund of VAT to the Court and the Staff Members of the Court and **ENCOURAGE** the same to be done to the African Union Board Against Corruption (AU-ABC)
109. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the effort made by the Government of the Republic of the Gambia to address the issue of the Headquarters of the Banjul Commission and **REQUESTS** the African Union Commission to extend the necessary support and follow up.
110. **FINALLY COMMENDS** the commitment of the Government of the Republic of South Africa to finalise the Host Country Agreements with the Africa Union and **REQUESTS** the Office of the Legal Counsel to do the necessary follow up and report back through the Sub-Committee on Headquarters and Host Agreements before July 2023.

VI. SUB-COMMITTEE ON RULES, STANDARDS AND CREDENTIALS

111. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Sub-Committee and **COMMENDS** the Sub-Committee and the Commission for the work done;

112. REQUESTS the Commission:

- i) in collaboration with the PRC to regularly update the matrix of recommendations for all PRC-AUC retreats;
- ii) to expedite the study on the categorization of decisions and to present the said study to the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council through the PRC;
- iii) to regularly update the African Union Portal to improve access to information by Member States and African citizens;
- iv) to operationalize the Official Journal of the African Union and to publish a compendium of AU Legal Instruments, Decisions and relevant International Treaties and Conventions.

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST EIGHT RETREATS BETWEEN THE PRC AND THE COMMISSION

113. TAKES NOTE of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the first eight retreats between the PRC and the Commission and **REQUESTS** the PRC and the Commission to regularly update the Matrix of recommendations and report at each ordinary session of the Executive Council;

114. RECALLS Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) on the holding of one ordinary summit per year;

115. REQUESTS the Commission to:

- (i) Streamline access to documents and make the AU portal more user friendly;
- (ii) Indicate a timeframe for the implementation of the decisions to be adopted by the Policy Organs;
- (iii) Assume overall coordination and reporting on the implementation of the decisions of the Policy Organs through the relevant department of the Commission;
- (iv) Communicate country's quotas consumption to Member States as well as positions open for application on a monthly basis;

- (v) Provide induction training for new diplomats assigned to the Permanent Missions upon assumption of duty;
- (vi) Ensure quality assurance of the translation of documents;
- (vii) Expedite the testing of the new tool developed for proper time management during meetings;
- (viii) Update the email addresses of the Permanent Missions every month upon information on change of email address/change of staff to be provided by the latter;
- (ix) Circulate to Member States on a bi-annual basis the list of MoUs signed by the Commission on behalf of the Union as well as key areas of cooperation;
- (x) Compile and share with Member States the ToR of all the PRC Sub-Committees and develop ToR for Sub-Committees that do not have;
- (xi) Expedite the updating of the AU Handbook to be circulated to Member States at the beginning of each year;
- (xii) Report on implementation in June/July 2023.

B. DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

- 116. RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.687(XXX) on the proper categorization and enhancement of the drafting of the decisions of the Policy Organs;
- 117. REQUESTS** the PRC and the Commission to refine the drafting of the decisions of the Policy Organs;
- 118. FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to make the necessary arrangements to expedite the study on the categorization of decisions for consideration by the Executive Council in June/July 2023.**FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to make the necessary arrangements to expedite the study on the categorization of decisions for consideration by the Executive Council in June/July 2023.

VII. SUB-COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

The Executive Council,

- 119. TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Activities of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance (HRDG) for the period of January to December 2022;

120. **COMMENDS** the Sub-Committee for endorsing the development of the draft African Union Business and Human Rights Policy and **DIRECTS** the PRC through the relevant Sub-Committees to finalize the AU strategic action plan for the promotion and protection of Human and People's Rights and report to the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in June/July 2023.
121. **COMMENDS** the Sub-Committee for supporting the development of the African Governance Platform's African Governance Report 2023 led by APRM and the review of the AU PCRD Policy.
122. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the Sub-Committee for briefing the Peace and Security Council with the objective of harnessing the synergies between the PSC and the Sub-Committee and **WELCOMED** the institutionalization of the briefing of the Sub-Committee to the PSC, annually.
123. **REQUESTS** the PRC, through the Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary Financial and Administrative Matters, to consider the request by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) for budgetary and capacity support to meet the challenges of Children's right on the Continent;
124. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the PRC to continue its engagement with the AU Organs and Institutions with Human Rights and Governance mandate with a view to enhancing coordination and collaboration, especially in enhancing the synergy between the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA);
125. **DIRECTS** the PRC through the relevant Sub-Committee to finalize the guidelines on elections during the Pandemic as well as other health emergencies and the School Curriculum Strategy on the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG).

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

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Reports of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) and other Ministerial Meetings;
2. **RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.1032(XXXIV), adopted at the 34th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2019, regarding the moratorium on the creation of new bodies and offices;
3. **STRESSES** that the following Decisions should not bear any financial, legal and structural implications to the AU and **FURTHER CALLS UPON** the STCs and all technical ministerial councils and meetings to refrain from adopting any structures or budgets that were not considered by the AU policy Organs through due process.
4. **REQUESTS** that all STCs adopt their Reports at the end of their meetings.
- I. **THE 7TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (STC ON GEWE)**
 - A. **Outcome of the 2nd Conference on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Girls**
 5. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcomes of the 2nd Conference on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Girls and **RECOMMENDS** it to the Assembly for adoption;
 6. **COMMENDS** H.E Macky Sall and the Government of Senegal, for the successful organization of the 2nd AU Conference on Positive Masculinity held in November 2022, in Dakar, Senegal;
 7. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to expedite the implementation of the outcomes and recommendations of the 2nd Conference on Positive Masculinity, including mainstreaming in current GEWE work, while providing financing support for interventions, where possible;
 8. **TAKES NOTE** of the adoption of the outcomes and recommendations of the 2nd Conference on Positive Masculinity, "with the reservations expressed by Egypt and Algeria".¹

B. 2021 Reports on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa

22. ¹ Reservations expressed by Egypt and Algeria, who were not invited to the Conference, have to do with their non-participation.

9. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in implementing the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.
10. **RECOGNISES** the 43 Member States that have ratified the Maputo Protocol and **ENCOURAGES** the 12 Member States that have not yet ratified to take appropriate action at the national level and submit their instruments of ratification to the African Union Commission.
11. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** Member States that have not yet submitted their initial SDGEA reports to do so to the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate.

C. AU Women and Youth Financial Mechanisms

12. **TAKES NOTE** with concern the unfinished business of the Fund for African Women related to the outstanding reports and the backlog of disbursement for beneficiaries;
13. **RECALLS** Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1073(XXXVI) on the establishment, by the African Union Commission, of a “mechanism to properly manage the African Women Fund and submit credible Financial Report in February, 2021”;
14. **APPROVES** the additional accountability, governance and management mechanisms established to facilitate the disbursement of the FAW to 101 beneficiaries for the 2014 to 2020 African Women’s Decade themes, in line with existing AU Grant Management Procedures through AU Grant Manual and Sub-delegation Manual;
15. **ADOPTS** a decision to disburse grants to the 101 beneficiaries for the 2014 to 2020 African Women’s Decade themes, in line with existing AU Grant Management Procedures through AU Grant Manual and Sub-delegation Manual;
16. **ADOPTS** a decision to write off unaccounted funds and blacklist the 23 non-reporting beneficiaries for the 2011 to 2013 African Women’s Decade themes;
17. **ADOPTS** a decision to set aside two percent (2%) of the existing FAW funds as operational costs to support implementation of these decisions;
18. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take appropriate action to implement the decisions including, among others, engaging and submitting relevant documents to the PRC and other AU Policy Organs to facilitate decision-making.

Trust Fund for African Women (TFAW) and the AU Youth Fund

19. **RECALLS** the decision of this STC to transform the Fund for African Women, into a Trust Fund for African Women and align it to Agenda 2063;
20. **ALSO RECALLS** Executive Council Decision no EX.CL/Dec.921 on the establishment of the Youth Fund;
21. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in developing the Strategy for the new Trust Fund as well as achievements made thus far in developing the Africa Youth Fund;
22. **REQUESTS** the PRC and the Commission to consider the financial, Legal and structural implications of establishing the Trust Fund for African Women and Youth (TFAW);
23. **ADOPTS** a decision to harmonize the TFAW and AYF accountability, governance, management and operational mechanisms, while keeping the two funds separate

D. African Women's Decade on Financial and Economic Inclusion's Roadmap

24. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in implementing the Assembly decision of February 2020 declaring the period 2020-2030 as the 2nd African Women's Decade (AWD) on Financial and Economic Inclusion (FEI)
25. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to be involved in the implementation of the AWD Roadmap

E. Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion 2030 Initiative

26. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in implementing and operationalizing the Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion (WYFEI) 2030 Initiative.
27. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to be involved in the implementation of the WYFEI 2030 Initiative
28. **PROVIDES SUPPORT** towards the implementation of the WYFEI 2030 Initiative Country Acceleration Strategy (CAS).

F. AU Gender Observatory

29. **TAKES NOTE** of the development of the AU Gender Observatory
30. **RECOMMENDS** the extension of capacity building and training to all Member States on the usage of the AU Gender Observatory
31. **ADOPTS** the AU Gender Observatory as a reporting mechanism in implementing gender related instruments starting in 2023.

II. THE 4TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC ON EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (STC-EST 4)

32. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the 4th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST 4) held from 1st to September 2nd, 2022;
33. **COMMENDS** the outcomes of the STC-EST 4 on the need to rebuild more resilient and responsive education, science technology and innovation systems on the continent including on lessons learnt from the burden and disruptions caused by COVID-19;
34. **ENDORSES** the Ministerial Declaration on Education, Science, Technology and Innovation as a key milestone on revitalization of education, science, technology and innovation systems on the continent and calls upon all stakeholders to implement this declaration;
35. **UNDERScores** the importance of investing in education, science, technology and innovation and **WELCOMES** the progress made on the African Education Science Technology and Innovation Fund² and calls on Member States and Development Partners to commit to the Fund as a continental enabling mechanism for the advancement of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation;
36. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcomes of the Transforming Education Summit held at the margins of the UN General Assembly on September 19th 2022, and the September 20th 2022 Declaration of the African Heads of States and Governments on Transforming Education in Africa, and **REQUESTS** for the consideration by the Assembly to designate 'Education' as the theme of the year for 2024;
37. **CALLS UPON** Member States, RECs and Development Partners to implement the Declaration on Transforming Education in Africa.

III. THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS AND CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

38. **RECALLS** its Decision EX.CL/Dec.1137(XXXIX) of October 2021 on the Report of the 5th Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs (STC-JLA) held via videoconference from 27 May to 14 June 2021.
39. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the 8th Ordinary Session of the STC-JLA held in a hybrid format (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and video conference), from 05 to 11 December 2022; and the Report of the 7th Extraordinary Session of the STC-JLA

23. ² EX.CL/DEC.1074(XXXVI), February 2020,

held in a hybrid format (Accra, Ghana and video conference), from 16 to 23 January 2023.

40. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the following Draft Legal Instruments and **DECIDES** to recommend the same to the Assembly for consideration and adoption:
- i. *Draft Statute of the African Training Center for Statistics (PANSTAT);*
 - ii. *Draft Statute of the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC);*
 - iii. *Draft Statute of the African Humanitarian Agency;*
 - iv. *Draft Protocol to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Competition Policy;*
 - v. *Draft Protocol to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Investment;*
 - vi. *Draft Protocol to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR); and*
 - vii. *The Draft Revised AU Staff Regulations and Rules (SRR).*
41. **STRESSES** the challenges associated with the multiplicity of IPR institutions on the continent and **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly the rationalization of the institutional governance of the IPR on the continent in line with the Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.2(XVII) adopted by the Seventeenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly held in Niamey, Niger, in November 2022;
42. **FURTHER STRESSES** that the Draft Revised SRR are recommended to the Assembly for consideration as adopted by the 5th Extraordinary Session of the STC-JLA;
43. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly to request the Commission and the PRC to continue working on the proposals of the Commission relating to salary and benefits review, education allowance, accrued leave days as well as retirement age, and to report to the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2023.
44. **APPROVES** the *Draft Revised Rules of Procedure of the AU Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System;*
45. **FURTHER APPROVES** the proposal of the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs to hold an Extraordinary Session to consider the *Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights relating to the Specific Aspects of the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa;*
46. **AUTHORISES** the PRC, assisted by its relevant Sub-Committee, to consider a request for supplementary budget for convening of the extraordinary session of the STC and to identify the required budget;
47. **RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.1169(XLI) adopted during its 41st Ordinary Session held in July 2022, in Lusaka, Zambia, and **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly the

consideration and adoption of the Draft Statute of the African Inclusive Markets Excellence Centre (AIMEC).

IV. THE 14TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

48. **WELCOMES** the convening of the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 12 May 2022;
49. **ENDORSES** the Declaration of the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security and the outcomes contained therein, as well as the Policy on Child Protection in African Union Peace Support Operations **AND** the African Union Policy on Mainstreaming Child Protection into the African Peace and Security Architecture, as annexed. In this connection, requests the Commission to facilitate their implementation, including by AU-Led Peace Support Operations, and **ENCOURAGES** RECs/RMs and Member States to domesticate these adopted policies.
50. **REQUESTS** the Commission, working with Member States and with the Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Mechanisms, to follow up on the activities outlined in the Declaration.

V. THE 5TH STC ON FINANCE, MONETARY AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC PLANNING AND INTEGRATION, 21-22 JULY 2022

51. **TAKES NOTE** of the Reports and the Declarations of the Fifth (5th) Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration held on 21 and 22 July 2022 in Lusaka, Zambia, in a hybrid format;
52. **COMMENDS** the STC for the recommendations endorsed on the critical theme of “Improving Africa’s access to capital: debt management and the rising influence of credit rating agencies” in light of the current global economic environment and the urgent need to secure adequate financing for Africa’s inclusive growth and sustainable development;
53. **ADOPTS** the Reports and the Declarations of the 5th Ordinary Session of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning, and Integration;
54. **ALSO ADOPTS** the African Union Tax Strategy and the Strategy on curbing IFFs and **URGES** the African Union Commission and all relevant stakeholders to immediately commence implementing the two Strategies;
55. **FURTHER ADOPTS** the African Principles and Guidelines on the Corporate Governance and requests the African Peer Review Mechanism Secretariat and the African Union Commission to assist the Member States in their implementation;

56. **ENCOURAGES** the African Union Commission and African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA) to expedite the work toward integration of African stock Exchanges through the implementation of phase II of the African Exchanges Linkage Project (AELP);
57. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposals of the African Export Import Bank (Afreximbank) and the African Trade Insurance Agency (ATI) to be granted the status of Specialized Agencies of the AU and **REQUESTS** the Commission to provide clear criteria and framework for admitting institutions and specialized agencies of the Union and report back to the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council
58. **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a report on the establishment of an African Credit Rating Agency and other mechanisms mentioned in the report following due processes of the Union and report 43rd Session of the Executive Council;

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON SOCIAL AND
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFRICA (January – December 2022)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the African Union Commission on the Humanitarian Situation in Africa for the period January to December 2022, and the recommendations contained therein;
2. **EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN** on the urgency, magnitude, and complexity of the humanitarian situation in certain areas in Africa and more particularly in the Sahel and in Somalia, and remains deeply concerned about the socio-economic impact of this situation on the population of the concerned Member States;
3. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the countries that are contributing to the humanitarian response in the Sahel and in Somalia as well as to Member States that continue to grant asylum and extend humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Africa despite the limited resources at their disposal;
4. **WELCOMES** the formal launching of the AU Centre for PCRD in Cairo; and **REQUESTS** the Commission to mobilize all necessary resources to enable the Centre to effectively discharge its mandate, and **APPEALS** to Member States to make full use of the Centre.”
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to verify the figures of refugees and IDPs in the annual Humanitarian report, and obtain the information from the concerned Member States.”
6. **COMMENDS** Member States, the Commission, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), international organizations, partners as well as public and private sector for their active participation in the 15th AU Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and pledging conference held on 27 May 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea and for their contribution to the fund set up for the humanitarian response in Africa and for the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency;
7. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the initiatives taken so far by all stakeholders, including Member States, the Commission, and other relevant organs of the African Union, as well as partners in their efforts in communicating the outcome of the Humanitarian Summit and pledging conference and in monitoring the implementation of the outcome;
8. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and its people for having hosted the 15th AU Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and for the facilities put in place for its success.
9. **CALLS ON** all Member States, donors, and partners to provide increased

humanitarian support to the humanitarian emergency that faces Somalia and the Sahel;

10. **REMINDS** to all protagonists intervening in conflict zones in Africa and particularly in the Sahel and Somalia to respect the provisions of the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) and other relevant provisions of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) on humanitarian access and expressly calls for the removal of obstacles to the proper delivery of humanitarian aid in these areas.
11. **FURTHER RECALLS** the Malabo Declaration which expresses the concern of Member States over the rapidly changing humanitarian landscape in Africa due to climate change and conflict-induced disasters and calls for the search for durable solutions to the root causes of humanitarian emergencies and forced displacement in Africa.
12. **CALLS ON** all Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the 1969 OAU Convention and the 2009 Kampala Convention to do so, and those that have ratified these instruments are urged to fully incorporate them into their national laws and policies to enable their effective implementation at national and local levels.
13. **TAKES NOTE** of the 2023-2032 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Malabo Declaration resulting from the 15th Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and the pledging conference of 27 May 2022, and its roadmap and call for its adoption.
14. **URGES** Member States, RECs, International Development Partners, UN Agencies, and Civil Society Organizations to support the full implementation of the Malabo Declaration Action Plan and its roadmap.
15. **EXPRESSES** its appreciation to the appropriate STCs for the consideration and submission of the Statute of the African Humanitarian Agency and supports the decision to adopt the statute, as well as the financial and structural plans for the rapid operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency in 2023 following due processes.
16. **APPEALS** to the Member States, donors, international development partners, and actors from the public and private sector who made financial commitments during the Donors' Conference organized in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 27 May 2022, to kindly make their financial contributions available in order to strengthen the humanitarian response in Africa and give impetus to the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL
GOVERNANCE (SRR, TRANSITION PLAN, AUDIT AND BUDGET
FRAME WORK PAPER)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report the Commission on Administrative and financial governance and the recommendations thereto and;
2. **RECALLS** the imperative of good administrative and financial governance to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organs of the Union;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to work in close collaboration with the Experts of Fifteen Finance Ministers (F15) and the PRC to formulate recommendations on administrative and financial governance and report to the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
4. **DIRECTS** the Commission to strengthen the internal control mechanisms and the culture of accountability and transparency in the management of the Union's financial resources.

DECISION ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE HISSENE HABRE VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the operationalization of the Secretariat of the Trust Fund on reparations for the victims of Hissène Habré's crimes;
2. **WELCOMES** the efforts made towards the operationalization of the Secretariat of the Trust Fund;
3. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained in the Commission's progress report on the operationalization of the Secretariat of the Trust Fund on reparations for the victims of Hissène Habre's crimes;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission and the PRC to finalize the draft structure of the Secretariat of the Trust Fund following due processes;
5. **COMMENDS** the Government of the Republic of Chad for its voluntary contribution of ten billion (10,000,000,000) CFA and **ENCOURAGES** it in its efforts to support the effective operationalization of the Secretariat of the Fund;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission and the Government of the Republic of Chad to mobilize Member States and Partners to participate in the Donor's Conference;
7. **INSTRUCTS** the Commission to put at the disposal of the Fund the five million US dollars contribution from Member States agreed upon in 2019 following the adoption of the Statute of the Trust Fund on reparations for victims of Hissène Habré's crimes;
8. **APPROVES** the convening of a donors' conference as soon as possible, to complement the efforts of Member States, under the leadership of Chad and the Commission;
9. **INVITES**, in this regard, Member States, partners and other governmental and non-governmental organizations to make voluntary contributions towards the Trust Fund and to give their full support to the AU Commission in order to ensure the prompt, effective and full compensation of the victims, in accordance with the Decision of the Extraordinary African Chambers;
10. **DECIDES** to take up the matter and **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a report on the progress made in the implementation of the reparations for the victims to the next sessions of the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE JOINT RETREAT BETWEEN THE PRC AND
THE COMMISSION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AU DECISIONS AND
RATIONALIZATION OF WORK METHODS HELD IN DAKAR, DECEMBER 2022**

The Executive Council,

Recalling Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.582(XXV) of June 2015 on the streamlining of AU Summits and the Working Methods of the African Union with specific emphasis on the rationalization of the draft agenda of the annual summit, the reduction in the number of decisions, the determination of the legal, financial and structural implications of these decisions,

Recalling also Executive Council decision EX.CL/Dec.989(XXXII) of January 2018 requesting the Commission to include a detailed analysis on causes of the low implementation of decisions and the responsibilities of the Commission and Member States;

1. **WELCOMES** the holding and success of the 9th PRC/Commission retreat held in Dakar in December 2022;
2. **ALSO WELCOMES** the outcomes of this ninth PSC/Commission retreat;
3. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** about the challenges of implementing the decisions of the policy organs;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to prepare after each session of the policy organs a matrix for the implementation of the decisions of the said sessions and to present them to the PRC for follow-up on the implementation;
5. **DIRECTS** the AU Commission and the organs to accompany each draft decision with a presentation note that clearly indicates its added value, financial, legal and structural implications, and who is responsible for its implementation;
6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission and the Organs to streamline the preparation of reports by focusing on strategic issues with a holistic and analytical approach to the issues addressed
7. **DIRECTS** the Commission to streamline side events according to the following criteria:
 - a) Any side event must be sponsored by a Head of State or Government;
 - b) Any side event must be related to the theme of the year;
 - c) No department or agency may propose more than two side events.
8. **ADOPTS** the recommendations of the Dakar Retreat (appended to the Retreat report); and

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to consider the financial implications for the full implementation of this decision.

**DECISION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SECOND REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS OF
THE REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Executive Council,

1. **RECALLS** the Assembly Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.823 (XXXV)] which in its paragraph 4 “**TAKES NOTE** of the concern of the Member States from the North African region regarding regional representation in the membership of the Peace and Security Council, and **DIRECTS** the Commission, in full consultation with AU Member States, to present a comprehensive report to the upcoming Executive Council, **with concrete consensual proposals** to amend Article 5(1) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council”;
2. **ALSO RECALLS** its decision EX.CL/Dec.1173(XLI), adopted in July 2022, in Lusaka, Zambia, which “ **OBSERVES** the lack of consensus on the amendment of Article 5(1) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council in accordance with paragraph 4 of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.823(XXXV) and **TAKES NOTE** of the desire to continue consultations and **DIRECTS** the Commission to facilitate the said consultations and to submit a final report to the 42nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in February 2023”;
3. **FURTHER RECALLS** the mandate it received from the Assembly was on the amendment of Article 5(1) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council, “The Peace and Security Council shall be composed of fifteen Member States elected on the basis of equal rights, in the following manner:
 - a. ten members elected for a term of two years; and
 - b. five members elected for a term of three years in order to ensure continuity
4. **NOTES** once again of the lack of consensus on the amendment of Article 5(1) on the membership of the PSC at the end of the second round of consultations;
5. **RECALLS** Article 22 paragraph 6 of the PSC Protocol with regard to the legal process on amendment or revision of the PSC Protocol which shall be in accordance with the provisions of Article 32 of the Constitutive Act.
6. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly to determine the way forward.

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

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the combined Fifty-first (51st) and Fifty-second (52nd) Activity Reports of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR);
2. **EXPRESSES** its appreciation for the efforts made by the ACHPR during the period under review to promote and protect human rights on the continent;
3. **WELCOMES** the commemoration, in 2022, of the thirty-fifth (35th) anniversary of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under the theme: "**35 Years of Commitment to the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Africa**";
4. **COMMENDS** those States Parties to the African Charter (States Parties) that have fulfilled their reporting obligations and **ENCOURAGES** those States Parties that have never submitted reports, as well as those with more than three outstanding periodic reports, to submit their reports in accordance with Article 62 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), Article 26 of the Maputo Protocol and Article 14 of the Kampala Convention;
5. **REITERATES** its request to Member States that have not yet ratified various African Union (AU) human rights instruments to take all necessary measures to do so;
6. **CALLS UPON** States Parties to comply with the requests for interim measures issued by the ACHPR, and **ENCOURAGES** States to implement the decisions rendered by the ACHPR on the Communications to which they are party, as well as the recommendations issued pursuant to promotion missions and periodic reports;
7. **WELCOMES** the progress made by the Government of the Republic of The Gambia towards the construction of a permanent headquarters for the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in accordance with Decisions EX.CL/Dec.1045 (XXXIV) and EX.CL/Dec.1080 (XXXVI), and **DIRECTS** the AUC to work jointly with the Government of The Gambia and the ACHPR to mobilize resources to support accelerated efforts to build the headquarters;
8. **COMMENDS** the progress made in the review by the ACHPR of its organisational structure in consultation with the African Union Commission, pursuant to Executive Council decision EX.CL/Dec.995(XXXII), and **DIRECTS** the PRC through its relevant Sub-Committee to consider the financial, structural and legal implications thereof, and to make recommendations for its adoption by the Executive Council at the next Summit.

9. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the ACHPR, working in collaboration with the AU Commission and the R10, for progress made in the recruitment of some critical staff for the ACHPR, in accordance with Decision EX.CL/DEC.1097(XXXVII), and **AUTHORIZES** the PRC to consider through its relevant Sub-Committees the allocation of an appropriate budget to hire additional critical staff to vacant ACHPR positions at its next supplementary budget session;
10. **TAKES NOTE** of the budgetary difficulties encountered by the ACHPR in the implementation of Executive Council Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1045(XXXIV)** which institutionalizes an annual joint retreat of the PRC and the ACHPR in order to improve relations between the two institutions; and **EX.CL/Dec.1126(XXXIX)** relating to the resolution of the Commission's governance issues; and **INSTRUCTS** the PRC through its relevant Sub-Committees to allocate budgetary support to the ACHPR through the supplementary budget process to ensure the implementation of these decisions and the organization of physical public sessions;
11. **REQUESTS** for enhanced collaboration between the ACPHR and the Commission also between ACHPR and Member states;
12. **AUTHORIZES** the publication of the 52nd and 53rd Combined Activity Reports of the ACHPR taking into consideration inputs and observations made by Member States; and in this regard;
13. **REQUESTS** States Parties, if they so wish, to submit, within fourteen (14) days of the closing date of the Executive Council session at which this decision is adopted, their written comments on the activity report, which shall be annexed to this report upon its publication
14. **REQUESTS** the PRC through its relevant Sub-Committees, to consider the new structure of the ACHPR and report to the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND
PEOPLES' RIGHTS (AfCHPR) INCLUDING OUTCOME OF THE PRC-AFCHPR
RETREAT HELD IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA, MARCH 2022)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Activity Report of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Court) for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022, and commends the Court for its work.
2. **WELCOMES** the organization of a Joint Retreat between the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) of the African Union from 10 - 11 March 2022, in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.
3. **INVITES** the African Union Commission (the Commission), the PRC and the Court to work closely to ensure the effective implementation of the Recommendations of the said Retreat.
4. **COMMENDS** Member States that have ratified the Court's Protocol and **ENCOURAGES** those that have not ratified to do so;
5. **REQUESTS** the Court to submit a new structure of its Registry to the relevant sub-Committee of the PRC, taking into account the current needs and core business of the Court;
6. **CALLS ON** the Commission, in collaboration with the relevant Sub-Committee of the PRC, to immediately implement Decision EX.CL/1177(XLI), on the Report of the Retreat between the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) and the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC), including amendment of Niamey Decision relating to the benefits of judges, adopted by the Executive Council during its 41st Ordinary Session held from 14 to 15 July 2022 in Lusaka, Zambia.
7. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the Joint Retreat between the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held from 12 to 14 October 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the adoption of a Complementarity Roadmap to guide and strengthen the relations between these two African Union human rights bodies.
8. **URGES** the Court and the African Commission to put in place concrete measures to strengthen their relationship with a view to enhancing the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights on the continent.

9. **INVITES** the Commission and the PRC to work closely with the two organs and provide them with the necessary technical and financial support to enable them effectively implement the Complementarity Roadmap.
10. **COMMENDS** the thirty-four (34) State Parties to the Protocol, namely; Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, Congo, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda, South Africa, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.
11. **COMMENDS** the eight (8) State Parties that have deposited the Declaration under Article 34(6) of the Protocol, namely: Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Malawi, Mali, Niger and Tunisia.
12. **ENCOURAGES** Member States that have not already done so, to consider acceding to the Protocol, and/or to consider depositing the Declaration required under Article 34 (6) of the Protocol.
13. **NOTES** with concern the low level of compliance with the decisions of the Court and **CALLS** for complete compliance with the Court's decisions, and **ALSO URGES** State Parties to appoint national focal points to ensure effective follow up on all matters relating to the Court, including on compliance with the Court's decisions.
14. **ENCOURAGES** the Court to continue its engagement with Member States, and **URGES** it to improve its communication channels with Member States on issues relating to the work of the Court.
15. **URGES** the Chairperson of the Commission, in conformity with previous Executive Council Decisions, that is, (EX.CL/Dec.973 (XXXI); (EX.CL/Dec.994 (XXXII); EX.CL/Dec.1044 (XXXIV); (EX.CL/Dec.1064 (XXXV); and (EX.CL/Dec.1079), to take all necessary measures to operationalize the Legal Aid Fund, and to this end, **INVITES** and **ENCOURAGES** all Member States of the Union, as well as other relevant human rights stakeholders on the continent, to consider making generous voluntary contributions to the Fund to ensure its sustainability and success.
16. **URGES** the Commission to expedite the reform process of the Court and other organs of the Union.
17. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for the facilities it has placed at the disposal of the Court, and for the architectural designs for the construction of the permanent premises of the Court submitted to the AUC, and **URGES** the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, the PRC and the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Court, working under the framework of the Task Force established by decision

EX.CL/Dec.994(XXXII), to take steps to commence the construction of the Court premises.

18. **REQUESTS** the Court, in collaboration with the PRC and the AUC, to report at the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in June/July 2023, on the implementation of this Decision.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP)
INCLUDING OUTCOME OF THE PRC-PAP RETREAT HELD IN JOHANNESBURG,
SOUTH AFRICA, DECEMBER 2022**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Activity Report of the Pan-African Parliament, including the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted during its October 2022 Ordinary Session;
2. **COMMENDS** the PAP for the resumption of work following the June 2022 elections of the Bureau;
3. **APPRECIATES** the activities implemented by the Pan-African Parliament within a short time period in 2022, in spite of limited budgetary resources, especially the proposed Model Law on Food and Nutrition Security, in furtherance of the African Union theme of the Year 2022;
4. **WELCOMES** the institutionalization of collaboration between the PAP and other AU organs, such as the African Union Commission, NEPAD, APRM, PRC and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, which will enable policy coherence, rationalization of resources and effective complementarity within the African Union institutional architecture;
5. **REQUESTS** the Pan-African Parliament to work closely with National and Regional Parliaments to expedite the harmonization of national legislative and policy frameworks to create an enabling environment for the realization of the African free trade and free movement of persons, in line with the African Union 2023 Theme of the Year;
6. **ALSO REQUESTS** PAP to continue the positive progress realized and to focus on dialogue and consultation with a view to contributing to the handling of issues such as the principle of rotation pending the entry into force of Malabo Protocol of 2014;
7. **ENCOURAGES** the PAP to increase its visibility with the peoples of Africa to popularize the continental organization;
8. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the PAP to work with the PRC, PAPS and other relevant Africa Union stakeholders to realize the universal ratification, domestication, and implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Good Governance;
9. **CONGRATULATES** the PAP and the PRC for holding a successful joint Retreat, in Johannesburg on 19 - 20 December 2022, in line with Executive Council Decisions EX.CL/Dec.1174(XLI) and EX.CL/Dec.1028(XXXII);

10. **ENCOURAGES** Member States that have not yet done so, to consider ratifying the Malabo Protocol of 2014 and **URGES** the African Parliamentarians to strengthen advocacy with their respective Member States through their National Parliaments for the ratification of the PAP Protocol;
11. **TAKES NOTE of** the conclusions and recommendations arising from the joint Retreat;
12. **ALSO REQUESTS** the PRC, through the relevant Sub-Committee to reconsider the 2023 budget of the PAP in order to enable the Parliament to meet its institutional and operational needs and to effectively fulfil its mandate;
13. **REQUESTS** the PRC and the Commission to consider the recommendation with financial, legal and structural implications and to report on progress on the implementation of this Decision at the next Session of the Executive Council.

DECISION ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COUNCIL (ECOSOCC)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Annual Activity Report; Task Force Report on the Harmonization of the OIO Investigation Report and In-Depth Study on the Effectiveness and Efficiency of ECOSOCC; framework documents on the AU Harmonized Accreditation Mechanism and the ECOSOCC National Chapter; and the ECOSOCC Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

1. ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF ECOSOCC

2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** and congratulates the newly elected Bureau and Standing Committee of the 4th Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC.
3. **COMMENDS** the Government of the Republic of Zambia for the identification of a new standalone facility for the ECOSOCC Secretariat.

4. REQUESTS

- i. The Commission to expedite the long overdue skills and competency-based assessment on already existing staff of ECOSOCC to determine whether they meet the requirements of the revised structure of the Organ.
- ii. ECOSOCC to undertake the recruitment of its remaining staff in the revised structure with the assistance of the Commission in line with AU Staff Regulations and Rules as well as the Merit Based Recruitment System (MBRS).
- iii. The Commission to engage relevant the relevant PRC Sub-Committee(s) to assess ECOSOCC's request for an increased program budget for 2023 upon submission of a signed partnership agreement and proof of funds from international partners.
- iv. The Commission to align the legal instruments which relate to ECOSOCC;
- v. The ECOSOCC to strengthen collaboration with the Commission and the Member States for a better participation of civil society in ECOSOCC activities;
- vi. The ECOSOCC to implement the Decisions of the Policy Organs, in particular on matters relating to budgetary reforms and sanctions;
- vii. The Commission to work with the ECOSOCC Secretariat to assess the feasibility of the ECOSOCC General Assembly resolution on the holding of an annual in-person coordination meeting focused on program implementation and policy advice so as to substantively engage General Assembly members in the program implementation of the organ.

2. ON THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR EFFECTIVE CSO ENGAGEMENT WITH THE AFRICAN UNION

5. **ENDORSES** the Institutional Framework on the Establishment and Operations of ECOSOCC National Chapters and **DIRECTS** the Commission to work closely with Member States when establishing its national chapters.
6. **DIRECTS** the ECOSOCC Secretariat to report on the progress of the Institutional Framework on Diaspora Participation in ECOSOCC at the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
7. **URGES** ECOSOCC to mobilize the diaspora for a better involvement of the latter for the development of the Continent and the participation of the diaspora in the Agenda 2063 as the 6th African region.

3. ON THE HARMONISATION OF THE ECOSOCC IN-DEPTH STUDY AND OIO INVESTIGATION REPORT

8. **DIRECTS** the ECOSOCC Secretariat, in consultation with the Commission, to initiate and prioritize a comprehensive and holistic review of the ECOSOCC legal instruments i.e. the Statutes and Rules of Procedures in accordance with the recommendations of the Task Force and report progress on the matter at the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

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

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Activity Report of the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption (AUABC) and the recommendations contained therein and:
2. **URGES** Member States that are not party to the Convention to take the necessary steps to sign and accede to the Convention;
3. **COMMENDS** the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Kingdom of Morocco for having acceded to the Convention recently;
4. **CALLS UPON** State Parties that have not yet done so, to accept requests from the Board for review missions to enable the Board evaluate the status of implementation of the Convention and finalize States' reporting processes;
5. **NOTES** the successful completion of the reviews of Burkina Faso, Kenya and Zambia and requests the national authorities to implement the recommendations of the Board;
6. **ENDORSES** the theme of the African Anti-Corruption Day and the African Anti-Corruption Dialogue of 2023, namely "AUCPCC, 20 years after: Achievements and Prospects";
7. **INVITES** the Tanzanian authorities to finalize the architectural drawings of the Board's headquarters for review and approval by the AU Commission;
8. **SUGGESTS** that the proposed amendment to review the term of office of Board Members from two (2) to six (6) years, renewable to be considered for adoption.
9. **REQUESTS** the PRC and the Commission to consider the due process regarding the residency of the Chairperson of the Board.

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

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
2. **ADOPTS** the Report and commends the Committee for the work done in monitoring the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
3. **URGES** Member States which have not yet ratified the African Children's Charter, namely urge the Kingdom of Morocco, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, the Republic of Somalia, the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Tunisia, to expedite the ratification of the Charter; **COMMENDS** those withdrawing the reservations made, and **ENCOURAGES** State Parties that have entered reservation on the provisions of the African Children's Charter to consider withdrawing the same;
4. **COMMENDS** State Parties which have submitted their reports on the implementation of the African Children's Charter, and **ENCOURAGES** State Parties, which have not yet reported to the Committee to comply with their reporting obligations;
5. **ENCOURAGES** the concerned State Parties to fully comply with the Concluding Observations and Recommendations of the ACERWC;
6. **CALLS ON** the United Republic of Tanzania to fully implement recommendations of the ACERWC concerning Communication No: 0012/Com/001/2019;
7. **CALLS ON** the Republic of Mozambique to implement the recommendations of the ACERWC centering the situation of children affected by the conflict in Cabo Delgado;
8. **REITERATES** the importance of the Communications procedure of the ACERWC established pursuant to Article 44 of the African Children's Charter, and call on the concerned Member States to comply with their obligations under the Charter by responding to the Committee's requests and implementing the Committee's decisions;
9. **APPRECIATES** the Republic of Malawi for the measures it has undertaken in addressing the challenges of children with albinism, and **CALLS ON** the same to fully comply with the recommendations of the ACERWC

10. **APPRECIATES** Member States for the measures they have undertaken in commemorating the Day of the African Child for the Year 2022 on the theme- ***Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children: Progress on Policy and Practice since 2013*** and encourage Member States to implement the recommendations of the Committee and report on the same;
11. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to commemorate the Day of the African Child 2023 as adopted by the Executive Council on the theme ***'The Rights of the Child in the Digital Environment'*** and **CALLS ON** Member States to Commemorate this day and report to the ACERWC on the theme;
12. **ADOPTS** the theme for the Day of the African Child for the year 2024 to be ***'Planning and Budgeting for Children's Rights: Progress since 2010'***
13. **TAKES NOTE of** the development and adoption of the following documents and **CALLS ON** Member States to make use of the content of the documents in ensuring the rights and welfare of children in their respective territories and comply with their obligations under the African Children's Charter
 - a. The Continental Study on the Status of Teenage Pregnancies in Africa;
 - b. Guidelines on Safe Return to Schools After/During the Covid-19 Pandemic
 - c. The Study on the Mapping of the Structures and Functions of NHRIs on Child Protection in Africa;
 - d. The Study on Children without Parental Care
 - e. The Guidelines on Children with Disabilities
 - f. Resolution N ° 16/2022 on the Implementation of Decisions and Recommendations of the Committee;
 - g. Resolution N ° 18/2022 on Integrating a Child Rights-Based Approach to Climate Change Responses;
 - h. Resolution N ° 17/2022 on the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights in the Digital Sphere in Africa; and
 - i. Resolution N °19/2022 on the Situation of Children with Albinism in Africa
14. **REQUESTS** the ACERWC to develop ***Child Safeguarding Policy for the African Union*** and report to the Executive Council on the same;
15. **CONGRATULATES** the Kingdom of Lesotho for ensuring the smooth operations of the Secretariat of the ACERWC; and **ENCOURAGES** the host country to continue providing the required pursuant to the host agreement, including the timely construction of the permanent office premises;
16. **REQUESTS** the Commission to expedite the finalization recruitment of the ACERWC Secretariat's staff, and provide guidance on the possibility of allowing the ACERWC to recruit its own staff.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN
CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA) SECRETARIAT**

The Executive Council,

1. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly AU/Dec. 813(XXXV) of February 2022 and Ext/Assembly/AU/Draft/Dec.2(XVII) of November 2022 on the theme of the year for 2023 as “Acceleration of AfCFTA Implementation” and **EMPHASISES** on the role of all of the AU bodies, Member States, strategic plan in ensuring a coordinated celebration of the Theme of the Year.
2. **ALSO RECALLS** paragraph 28 of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1126(XXXIX) of October 2021 which urged the Commission “...to include a provisional budget line for the Theme of the Year in each annual budget” authorize the PRC through its relevant subcommittees to approve an additional budget for the implementation of the Theme of the year 2023;
3. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and the recommendation therein of the AfCFTA Secretariat on the implementation of the AfCFTA and ongoing activities.
4. **CONGRATULATES** Mozambique for having ratified the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA through its domestic legislative processes, and **INVITES** Mozambique and Comoros to take the additional step of depositing their instruments of ratification of the Agreement with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.
5. **CALLS UPON** the remaining non-State Parties, namely Benin; Botswana; Libya; Liberia; Madagascar; Somalia; Sudan; and South Sudan, which have not yet ratified the Agreement to do so as soon as possible and qualify as State Parties, in order to increase the size of the market and the volume of trade under the AfCFTA.
6. **ALSO CALLS UPON** for a coordinated effort in the implementation of the AfCFTA at the national level, including through the AfCFTA Guided Trade, the AfCFTA National Coordination Offices and other regional and sub-regional projects.
7. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly of Heads of State & Government the adoption of the two legally scrubbed protocols on Investment and Competition.
8. **REQUESTS** the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Export Import Bank (Afreximbank) and the other African Union Cooperating Partners to support the fast tracking of the AfCFTA implementation.

9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the AfCFTA Secretariat to continue monitoring the implementation of the AfCFTA and present a progress report to the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.
10. **DESIROUS** to achieve a gender, regional and language balance between the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General, **APPROVES** the recommendation to appoint the Deputy Secretary-General on a four-year renewable fixed term contract for one time, based on competitive recruitment.
11. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly to launch the Theme of the year 2023 during the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union and **REQUESTS** the Commission to report back on the matter to the 5th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting.

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

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the ARC Group and the recommendations made therein;
2. **COMMENDS** the ARC Group for working to scale up its operations to increase its reach and impact on the continent after 10 years of its establishment and particularly on the efforts directed towards providing solutions in strengthening resilience in Africa against multiple hazards and perils in view of the recent launch of the new ARC Outbreaks and Epidemics (O&E) insurance product as an African risk- financing solution to outbreaks and epidemics.
3. **CALLS UPON** Member States that have not yet signed and ratified the Agreement for the Establishment of the ARC Agency to do so and **ENCOURAGES** them to support the programmes and appeal to the African private sector and Member States to make voluntary donations or contributions to ARC to ensure its financial sustainability;
4. **REQUESTS** for proposal of a viable funding mechanism through the relevant PRC Sub-Committees for ARC.

**DECISION ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN CAPACITY
BUILDING FOUNDATION (ACBF)**

The Executive Council,

1. **CONGRATULATES** ACBF for its work of Capacity development for African countries and organizations and **ADOPTS** its report with its recommendations;
2. **CALLS ON** the AUC and ACBF to strengthen collaboration in particular on the feasibility study on the African Manufacturing Institute (AMI);
3. **DIRECTS** the ACBF to contribute to the study on the establishment of the African Credit Rating Agency;
4. **EXPRESSES** its deep concern over the non-implementation by the AUC of its previous decisions on the budget of ACBF, strongly **REITERATES** its decision EX.CL/1160 of February 2022; and **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to implement without delay existing decisions made on the ACBF's Budget (EX.CL/Dec.1073, 1107, 1126) in order to allow the ACBF to implement its mandate;
5. **FURTHER REITERATES** its decision EX.CL/1160 of February 2022, by which it **URGES** the AU Commission to champion the development of ACBF's Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2027; and **DIRECTS** the Commission to work with the ACBF for convening the Donors Conference for the ACBF 2023-2027 Strategic Plan due to take place in mid-2023;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to strengthen its collaboration with the ACBF;

DECISION ON THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF ALGIERS ON START-UPS IN AFRICA

The Executive Council,

RECOGNIZING the significant role of start-ups in the implementation of African Union strategies on the Digital Transformation of Africa 2020-2030 and the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024), and more globally for the implementation of the aspirations of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

RECALLING the objective of the digital transformation strategy for Africa (2020-2030) to use technologies and digital innovation to transform African societies and economies in order to promote Africa's integration, generate inclusive economic growth, stimulate job creation, eliminate the digital divide and eradicate poverty to guarantee the advantages of the digital revolution for socioeconomic development;

RECALLING the objective of the ten-year strategy for science, technology and innovation for Africa (STISA 2024) to accelerate Africa's transition to a knowledge-based economy driven by innovation, as well as its strategic objective to promote economic competitiveness through the promotion of innovation, the creation of added value, industrial development and entrepreneurship;

RECOGNIZING the progress made by African countries in establishing ecosystems conducive to the promotion of start-ups as a tool for the creation of wealth and decent jobs, as well as the great added value of the start-up ecosystem in the development of Africa's economy,

1. **NOTES** with satisfaction the holding of the first African Conference on Start-ups from 5 to 7 December 2022 in Algiers, Algeria and **COMMENDS** the Government of Algeria for this initiative;
2. **ENDORSES** the Ministerial Declaration of Algiers on the Development of African Start-Ups adopted during the said Conference, and whose objective is to promote high-level pan-African cooperation in the area of start-ups and innovation by facilitating the expansion of start-ups and their access to regional sources of financing;
3. **COMMENDS** the efforts made by the Government of Algeria to promote start-ups in Africa;
4. **UNDERScores** the need to implement the measures contained in the African start-ups roadmap and in particular:
 - a. the installation of national focal points and a permanent secretariat of the African Conference on Start-ups
 - b. the establishment of an annual action plan
 - c. the appointment in each country of an incubator or accelerator to serve as focal point for the ecosystem;

5. **SOLICITS** the support of the African Union and African institutions responsible for start-ups and entrepreneurship to strengthen strategies and action plans by facilitating the movement of start-ups and talents throughout the continent, and secure access to financing for young entrepreneurs with innovative projects;
6. **URGES** the African Union Commission and its relevant departments, in collaboration with Member States, to establish a pan-African strategy for the development of start-ups;
7. **DECIDES** to include the issue of development of start-ups in the prerogatives of the Specialized Technical Committee for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, which will be responsible in evaluating and monitoring the implementation of the commitments of the Declaration of Algiers;
8. **DIRECTS** the PRC through its relevant Sub-Committees to consider the possibility and feasibility of the creation of a fund for start-ups, to finance innovative projects on the continent.

**DECISION ON THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CONTINENTAL CIVIL CAPACITY MECHANISM FOR DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

RECALLING the report of the fourth (4th) session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment held from 13 to 16 December 2021 which adopted the report presented by the Commission on the establishment of the Mechanism and approved its establishment;

RECALLING the Communiqué of the 1042nd Session of the PSC-AU (PSC/AHG/COMM.1042/2021), held on 29 October 2021, which considered and adopted a proposal by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on the establishment of a "Continental Civilian Capacity Mechanism for Disaster Preparedness and Response";

FURTHER RECALLING Decision EX.CL/Dec.1144 (XL) §55 of February 2022 requesting the African Union Commission to convene a meeting of the national services of AU Member States responsible for civil defence and disaster response, with the objective of agreeing on the modalities, including the financial, legal and structural implications, for the establishment of the continental civil mechanism for disaster preparedness and response";

RECALLING Executive Council Decision EX.CL/1186(XLI) on the moratorium on creation of new structures;

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the meeting of Member States on the establishment of the Continental Civilian Disaster Preparedness and Response Mechanism (3CMDPR) held from 7 to 9 December 2022 in Algiers, Algeria, in a hybrid format, to discuss and agree on the practical modalities for the establishment of the 3CMDPR and its plan of action;
2. **ENDORSES** the action plan for the establishment of the Mechanism;
3. **APPROVES** the survey tool for the assessment of AU Member States' capacities and capabilities for disaster preparedness and response at the national level;
4. **TAKES NOTE** of the election of the following members to the Bureau who will provide guidance to the process until the mechanism is operational:
 - **President** : **Algeria (Northern Africa)**
 - **1st Vice President:** **Kenya (Eastern Africa)**
 - **2nd Vice Chair** : **Congo (Central Africa)**
 - **3rd Vice-Chair** : **To be decided (Southern Africa)**
 - **Rapporteur** : **Ghana (Western Africa)**
5. **REQUESTS** the AUC to organize the first meeting of the Bureau of the Mechanism;

6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the AUC to take all necessary actions for the review and validation of the draft statute on the establishment of the Mechanism by the Heads of Civil Protection and Disaster Management of Member States to be submitted to the 5th Ordinary Session of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, scheduled for October 2023, for consideration and adoption;
7. **FINALLY EXPRESSES** its appreciation and gratitude to the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for its warm hospitality and for sponsoring the meeting of Heads of Disaster Management and Civil Protection Services of AU Member States, held from 7 to 9 December in Algiers, Algeria, on the establishment of Continental Civil Capacity for Disaster Preparedness and Response.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISION EX.CL/DEC.1157(XL) OF FEBRUARY 2022
ON ECOSOCC**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Office of the Legal Counsel as well as the observations and comments of Member States;
2. **EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION** to:
 - i) The Commission, the ECOSOCC Secretariat and the other members of the Interparental Team for their efforts that led to the successful outcomes of the Fourth ECOSOCC General Assembly.
 - ii) the Republic of Kenya for successfully hosting the meeting of the Fourth ECOSOCC General Assembly in Nairobi in December 2022; and
 - iii) the Republic of Zambia for continuous support to the ECOSOCC and its Secretariat as the seat of the Organ.
3. **COMMENDS** the ECOSOCC in its efforts, to mobilize all national and regional CSOs and grass root Organizations to facilitate their constant interaction as well as the establishment of National Chapters of ECOSOCC within the Member States, to effectively achieve a people-centered Union in line with AU Agenda 2063 Framework;
4. **ALSO RECALLS** its decision EX.CL/Dec.890(XXVII) and **COMMENDS** ECOSOCC Secretariat and in close consultation with the Commission, AU organs and Member States to finalize the harmonized accreditation system and clear criteria for the granting of AU consultative and observer status to CSOs in Africa;

**DECISION ON THE ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF TWO (2) JUDGES OF
THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (AfCHPR)
Doc. EX.CL/1425(XLII)**

The Executive Council,

- 1. TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Election and Appointment of Two (2) Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights;
- 2. ELECTS AND APPOINTS** with immediate effect the following judges of the AfCHPR for a term of **six (6) years**:

NO.	NAME	GENDER	COUNTRY	REGION
1	Chafika BEN SAOULA	Female	Algeria	Northern
2	Tujilane Rose CHIZUMILA	Female	Malawi	Southern

**DECISION ON THE ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF SIX (6) MEMBERS
OF THE AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY BOARD AGAINST CORRUPTION (AUABC)
Doc. EX.CL/1426(XLII)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Election and Appointment of Six (6) Members of the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption (AUABC) from the Northern Region;
2. **ELECTS AND APPOINTS** with immediate effect the following Members of the AUABC for a **two(2)-year term**:

NO	NAME	GENDER	COUNTRY	REGION
1.	Yvonne Mutepuka CHIBIYA	Female	Zambia	Southern
2.	Seynabou NDiaye DIAKHATE	Female	Senegal	Western
3.	Pascoal Antonio JOAQUIM	Male	Angola	Southern
4.	Tsiry Harivelo Lalaina Eric RAZAFIMANDIMBY	Male	Madagascar	Eastern
5.	Kwami Edem SENANU	Male	Ghana	Western

**DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THREE (3) JUDGES TO THE
ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL OF THE AFRICAN UNION
Doc. EX CL 1427 (XLII)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Commission on the nomination of three (3) judges to the African Union Administrative Tribunal;
2. **COMMENDS** the outgoing members of the Administrative Tribunal for their work;
3. **DESIGNATES the following Member States to nominate**, with immediate effect, One (1) judge each to serve on the African Union Administrative Tribunal for a term of Four years:
 - a. Niger
 - b. Nigeria
 - c. Rwanda
4. **CALLS UPON** the said Member States to designate judges to the Tribunal by the end of February 2023.

**DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF ONE (1) MEMBER OF THE AU
BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS (BoEA)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the ongoing consultations within the Northern Region with regard to the designation of one member of the AU Board of External Auditors (BoEA) for the 2022 and 2023 Financial Years;
2. **CALLS UPON** the Northern Region to finalize its consultations to designate its representative within the BoEA to be endorsed by the Executive Council in July 2023.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF
FIFTEEN MINISTERS OF FINANCE (F15)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the meeting of the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15) held on the 27th January 2023.
2. **RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.1186(XLI) which requested the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15) to continue and finalize consultations on its draft rules of procedure for presentation to the Policy Organs in February 2023, stressing that the membership of the F15 shall comprise three (3) Member States per region to be constituted on the basis of the principles of equal sovereignty, rotation and solidarity as per the established practice.
3. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in finalizing the rules of procedure and the recommendations made on this matter.
4. **REQUESTS** the F15 to expedite the process of finalizing its draft rules of procedure for presentation to the Policy Organs in July 2023.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE JOINT-SITTING OF THE MINISTERIAL
COMMITTEE ON SCALE OF ASSESSMENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS
AND THE COMMITTEE OF F15**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Joint Sitting of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions and the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15).
2. **COMMENDS** Member States for contributing **US\$180,762,083.94** that is equivalent to **88%** of the **US\$204,784,571** and **URGES** Member States that are yet to pay, to do so in fulfillment of their financial obligations to the Union.
3. **ALSO COMMENDS** Member States for contributing since 2017, **US\$285,753,833.75** towards the AU Peace Fund, demonstrating a high level of commitment by the Union to fully operationalize the Fund.
4. **FURTHER COMMENDS** Member States that have made full contributions on their 2023 assessments.
5. **RECALLS** Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1071(XXXV)** of July 2019 which considered the security and political situation of Somalia and Libya and withheld the imposition of sanctions for non-payment of contributions, and which requested the Commission to consult with the two countries to agree on a payment plan to clear the arrears within four (4) years from the adoption of the Decision.
6. **ALSO RECALLS** Decision **Assembly/AU/Dec.752(XXXIII)** of February 2020 which took note of the requests from the Republic of Burundi and the challenges the country faced in meeting its annual contributions to the Union, and the request to the Commission to engage with Member States facing difficulties paying their contributions to the Union and those in arrears for two (2) or more years in order to agree on the payment plan for clearing their arrears.
7. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1119(XXXVIII)** of February 2021 which took note of the request from the Republic of the Sudan on the need to review its assessed contribution and requested the Commission to consult with the Republic of Sudan based on the current Scale of Assessment to agree on a Payment plan to clear the arrears as soon as possible, within four (4) years from the adoption of the Decision.
8. **RECALLS** Decision **Assembly/AU/Dec.802(XXXIV)** of February 2021 which endorsed the payment plans for the Republic of Somalia and Republic of Burundi to clear their arrears.

9. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the efforts made by the Republic of Burundi and the Republic of Somalia to clear their arrears and **ENCOURAGES** them to abide by the remittance schedules in accordance with the agreed payment plans.
10. **ALSO RECALLS** Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1138(XXXIX)** of October 2021 which urged the State of Libya and the Republic of the Sudan to conclude the engagements with the Commission to agree on their respective payment plans for settling their arrears and report back to the Executive Council in February 2022.
11. **RECALLS** Decision **Assembly/AU/Dec.838(XXXV)** of February 2022 which decided exceptionally and given the well-known long-standing complex situation in Libya that upon full payment by the State of Libya of 50% of their arrears, the Commission shall write-off the 50% of the contributions to the regular budget due to the organization.
12. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1185(XLI)** of July 2022 which **COGNIZANT** of the lack of progress made in agreeing on a payment plan between the Commission and the Republic of the Sudan on the payment of the latter's arrears, urged both parties to urgently conclude on the matter and report back to the Executive Council in February 2023.
13. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the effort made by the State of Libya to pay its arrears and **ENCOURAGES** the country to settle the 50% of its arrears as per Decision **Assembly/AU/Dec.838(XXXV)**, for the Commission to effect the necessary write-off of the remaining 50% of its arrears.
14. **NOTES WITH CONCERN** the accumulation of arrears of the Republic of the Sudan to the Union's budgets and **STRONGLY URGES** the Commission and the Republic of the Sudan to urgently agree on a payment plan and report back to the Executive Council in July 2023.
15. **DECIDES** to impose sanctions on the following Member States that have fallen back on the payment of their assessed contributions:
 - a. **Intermediate sanctions:** *Mali, Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe*
16. **RECALLS** Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1138(XXXIX)** of October 2021 which directed the Commission, supported by the Experts of the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15), to expedite the process of developing the new scale of assessment to be applied for the period 2023-2025 and present proposals for consideration and adoption by the Policy Organs in February 2022.
17. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1162(XL)** of February 2022 which took note of the report of the Joint Sitting of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions and Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15) on the development of the new scale of assessments and the recommendation to give more time to the Commission and F15 Experts to gather

additional data that will, in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, better reflect Member States' capacity to pay and for the necessary regional consultations to be undertaken, and the recommendation to the Assembly to extend the 2020-2022 Scale by one year up to 2023.

18. **ALSO RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.838(XXXV) of February 2022 in which the Assembly decided to extend the application of the current scale of assessment 2020- 2022 by one year up to 2023.
19. **RECALLS** Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1185(XLI)** of July 2022 which took note of the roadmap agreed on by the Commission and F15 on the development of the new scale of assessment and in line with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.838(XXXV), and requested the Commission with the support of the F15 to develop the new scale of assessment to be applied for the period 2024-2026 and, following the due process, present it to the Assembly for adoption in February 2023 including the relevant consultations.
20. **TAKES NOTE** of the three Options proposed for the AU successor Scale of Assessment for the period 2024-2026 and **APPROVES** the request by Member States for additional time to undertake further consultations with the relevant Experts at their respective Capitals, mindful of enduring social and economic challenges in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, inflationary pressures, debt surge, and the increasing negative effects of climate change among other factors, that impact on Member States' capacity to pay, and subsequently **REQUESTS** the Commission and F15 Experts to agree on a roadmap for undertaking the necessary regional consultations, and following due process, present a single option for consideration and adoption by the Executive Council in July 2023.
21. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly to delegate to the Executive Council its powers to adopt the new scale of assessment in July 2023.
22. **RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.1162(XL) of February 2022 which took note of the proposal made by the six Member States of the Northern Region that expressed reservations on Decision EX.CL/Dec.1100(XXXVII) on the use of scale of assessment for the regular budget to assess Member States to the AU Peace Fund and its implications on the total endowment of the Peace Fund, **DIRECTS** the Commission to work closely with the F15 and the Office of the Legal Counsel to analyze the proposals made and the implications thereof, and recommend solutions in accordance with legal frameworks of the African Union and **FURTHER DIRECTS** the Commission, guided by the solutions recommended thereof, to continue consultations with the concerned countries from the North and other regions to agree on a mechanism for contributions to the Peace Fund and report back to the Executive Council in July 2022.
23. **RECALLS** Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1185(XLI)** of July 2022 which took note of the progress made in analyzing the proposal of the six countries of the Northern

Region and urged the Commission and the F15 to finalize the analysis including the consultations as prescribed in Decision EX.CL/Dec.1162(XL) and report back to the Executive Council in February 2023.

24. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcome of the regional consultations undertaken by the Commission on the matter of assessing Member States to the Peace Fund and **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the F15 for the excellent work done to analyze the proposal of the six Countries of the Northern Region and the solutions recommended thereof in accordance with the legal frameworks of the African Union.
25. **ENDORSES** the recommendation to assess contributions to the Peace Fund, for Member States with reservations, in accordance with their proposal as noted by the Executive Council through its Decision EX.CL/Dec.1162(XL) of February 2022.
26. **REQUESTS** the Commission and the six (6) countries of the Northern Region to expeditiously agree on the payment plans for the outstanding contributions to the Peace Fund and submit the outcome report to the Executive Council in July 2023, following due process.
27. **NOTES** the proposal to seek voluntary contributions from Member States and contributions from the African private sector as a recommendation to fill the shortfall of \$28,136,379.12 on the \$400 million endowment.
28. **COMMENDS** the Commission for the progress made in the preparation of the AU investment and treasury policy and **RECALLS** Decisions EX.CL/Dec.1162(XL) of February 2022 and EX.CL/Dec.1185(XLI) of July 2022 on the need to finalize the African Union Treasury Policy and **REQUESTS** the Commission to present it for consideration by the PRC through its relevant Sub-Committees and F15 technical experts, before its adoption by the Chairperson of the Commission.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

The Executive Council;

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System.
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE OF THE PENDING CANDIDATURES** for election as President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for the period 2024-2025, which is scheduled for **June 2023**, in New York, USA, the Candidatures of:
 - **Republic of Cameroon** (Central Africa Region)
 - **Republic of South Africa** (Southern Africa Region)

N.B.: The Executive Council noted the submission of the two Members States from two different African Regions. Currently, there is no approved rotation plan within the African bloc for the post of President of the UNGA. To reach a political consensus, a consultation at the level of both Foreign Ministers, and, if necessary, at the level of Heads of State to agree on one African candidate.

3. **RECOGNISES** that there is no clear and approved rotation plan existing within the African bloc for the Post of President of the UNGA.

ACCORDINGLY, RECOMMENDS that a political consensus is required, implying that both countries should consult at the level of both Foreign Ministers and, if necessary, Heads of State to agree on an African candidate for this post. If an agreement is not reached, a final decision will be taken by the Assembly on the way forward for the 2024-2025 African candidature; **FURTHER RECOMMENDS** that whatever the outcome, a clean rotational plan should be implemented as from the next turn of Africa for PGA based on the English alphabetical order.

4. **ENDORSES NEW CANDIDATURES OF GOVERNMENTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES:**

- A. For election for the Post of **Member of the UNESCO Executive Board for the period 2023-2027**, to be held in November 2023 in Paris, France, the candidatures of:
 - **Islamic Republic of Mauritania** (Northern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Cote d'Ivoire** (Western Africa Region)
 - **Federal Republic of Nigeria** (Western Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Kenya** (Eastern Africa Region)

B. For election for the Post of **Member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council for the period 2024-2026**, to be held in April 2023 in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Federal Republic of Nigeria** (Western Africa Region)
- **Republic of Senegal** (Western Africa Region)
- **Republic of Kenya** (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Republic of Mauritania** (Northern Africa Region)
- **Republic of Zambia** (Southern Africa Region)

C. For election for the Post of **Member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) for the period 2024-2026**, which is to be held in October 2023 in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Federal Republic of Nigeria** (Western Africa Region)
- **Republic of Cote d'Ivoire** (Western Africa Region)
- **Republic of Burundi** (Central Africa Region)
- **Republic of Malawi** (Southern Africa Region)

NB: Only Four (04) seats are available for Africa. The 39th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council took note of the candidatures of Republic of Mali and Republic of Ghana for the same period. The African Group In New York is requested to advise on the way forward. Undergoing consultations at the Western Africa Region level to identify the two candidates allocated to the region.

D. For election for the Post of **Member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) for the period 2025-2027**, which is to be held in October 2024 in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Republic of Kenya** (Eastern Africa Region)

E. For election for the Post of **Member of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for the period 2024-2027**, to be held in April 2023 in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Republic of South Africa** (Southern Africa Region)
- **Pending** (Southern Africa Region)
- **Republic of Cameroon** (Central Africa Region): Re-election
- **Pending** (Central Africa Region)
- **Republic of Tanzania** (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Republic of Madagascar** (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Pending** (Eastern Africa Region)

- F. For election for the Post of **Member of the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Region “A” for the period 2024-2025**, to be held in November 2023 in London, UK, the candidatures of:
- **Kingdom of Morocco** (Northern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Kenya** (Eastern Africa Region) **Re-election**
 - **Republic of Liberia** (Western Africa Region)
- G. For election for the Post of the **Council of International Maritime Organization, Region “C” for the period of 2024-2025**, election which is to be held in November/December 2023, in London, the candidature of:
- **Arab Republic of Egypt** (Northern Africa Region)
- H. For election for the Post of the **Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization**, which election is to be held during the 25th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of the Organization taking place in November 2023 in Uzbekistan, the candidature of:
- **Arab Republic of Egypt** (Northern Africa Region)
- I. For election for the Post of **Vice President of the United Nations General Assembly** during the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2023 for the one seat of the Eastern African Region at the United Nations, the candidatures of:
- **Republic of Uganda** (Eastern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Congo** (Central Africa Region)
 - **Kingdom of Morocco** (Northern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Zambia** (Southern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Senegal** (Western Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Gambia** (Western Africa Region)
- J. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Commission for Social Development for the period 2024-2027** during the election scheduled for April 2023 in New York, the candidatures of:
- **Pending** (Central Africa Region)
 - **Pending** (Southern Africa Region)
 - **Republic of Togo** (Western Africa Region)
 - **Pending** (Western Africa Region)
- K. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Statistical Commission for the period 2024-2027** during the election scheduled for April 2023 in New York, the candidatures of:

- **United Republic of Tanzania** (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Republic of Sierra Leone** (Western Africa Region): **Re-election**

L. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Commission on Population and Development for the period 2024-2027** during the election scheduled for April 2023 in New York, the candidatures of:

- **Pending** (Central Africa Region)
- **Pending** (Western Africa Region)

M. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) for the period 2024-2027** during the election scheduled for April 2023 in New York, the candidatures of:

- **Republic of Burundi** (Central Africa Region)
- **Republic of South Africa** (Southern Africa Region)
- **Republic of Mali** (Western Africa Region)

N. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the period 2024-2027** during the election scheduled for April 2023 in New York, the candidatures of:

- **Republic of Burundi** (Central Africa Region)
- **Pending** (Central Africa Region)
- **United Republic of Tanzania** (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Republic of Kenya** (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Pending** (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Pending** (Southern Africa Region)

O. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development for the period 2024-2027** during the election scheduled for April 2023 in New York, the candidature of:

- **Republic of Burundi** (Central Africa Region)

P. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) for the period 2024-2026** during the election scheduled for April 2023 in New York, the candidatures of:

- **Republic of Cameroon** (Central Africa Region): **Re-election**
- **Republic of Rwanda** (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Republic of South Africa** (Southern Africa Region)
- **Republic of Cote d'Ivoire** (Western Africa Region)

Q. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and**

Reporting (ISAR) for the period 2024-2026 during the election scheduled for April 2023 in New York, the candidatures of:

- **Peoples' Democratic Republic of Algeria** (Northern Africa Region)
- **Pending** (Southern Africa Region)
- **Federal Republic of Nigeria** (Western Africa Region): Re-election
- **Republic of Togo** (Western Africa Region)
- **Pending** (Western Africa Region)

R. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the period 2024-2026** during the election scheduled for April 2023 in New York, the candidatures of:

- **United Republic of Tanzania** (Eastern Africa Region)
- **Republic of Senegal** (Western Africa Region)

S. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Executive Board of the UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS for the period 2024-2026** during the election scheduled for April 2023 in New York, the candidatures of:

- **Republic of Tunisia** (Northern Africa Region)
- **Federal Republic of Nigeria** (Western Africa Region): Re-election

T. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme (WFP) for the period 2024-2026** during the election scheduled for April 2023 in New York, the candidature of:

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

U. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Committee on Conferences for the period 2024-2026** during the election scheduled for November 2023 in New York, the candidatures of:

- **Republic of Botswana** (Southern Africa Region)
- **Republic of Sierra Leone** (Western Africa Region)

V. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Coordinating Board (UNAIDS) for the period 2024-2026** during the election scheduled for November 2023 in New York, the candidature of:

- **Republic of Burundi** (Central Africa Region)

W. For election for the Post of **Chairman of the Group of 77 and China for the period 2024-2025**, which is to be held in June 2023 in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Republic of Uganda** (Eastern Africa Region)
- X. For election for the Post of **Member of the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO for the period 2025-2028**, due for November 2023 in Paris, France, the candidature of:
 - **Republic of Kenya** (Eastern Africa Region)
- Y. For election for the Post of **Member of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) for the period 2023-2025**, due for June 2023, the candidature of:
 - **Republic of Kenya** (Eastern Africa Region)
- Z. For election for the Post of **Member of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) for the period 2023-2027**, due for November 2023, the candidature of:
 - **Republic of Kenya** (Eastern Africa Region)
- AA. For election for the Post of **Member of the Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) for the period 2023-2027**, due for November 2023, the candidature of:
 - **Republic of Kenya** (Eastern Africa Region)
- BB. For election for the Post of **Member of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for the period 2023-2027**, to be held in November 2023 in Paris, France, the candidature of:
 - **Republic of Kenya** (Eastern Africa Region)
- 5. **TAKES NOTE OF NEW CANDIDATURES OF GOVERNMENTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES:**
 - A. For election for the Post of a **Member of the Commission on UN Peace Building for the period 2024-2027** during the election scheduled for December 2023 in New York, the candidature of:
 - **Republic of Uganda** (Eastern Africa Region)
 - B. For election for the Post of **Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2025-2026**, to be held in June 2024, in New York, USA, the candidature of:
 - **United Republic of Tanzania** (Eastern Africa Region)

NB: The 39th and 40th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council took note of the candidature of Somalia and Mauritius respectively for the same period. The African Group in New York is requested to advise on the way forward.

C. For election for the Post of Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the period 2026-2027, to be held in June 2025, in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (Central African Region)**

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

- **Federal Republic of Nigeria (Western Africa Region)**

NB: The 38th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in February 2021 took note of the candidature of the Kingdom of Morocco and the State of Libya. The African Group in New York is requested to advise on the way forward.

E. For election for the Post of Member of the UNESCO Executive Board for the period 2025-2029, due for November 2024 in Paris, France, the candidature of:

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

F. For election as President of the 84th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for the period 2029-2030, which is scheduled for June 2028, in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Democratic Republic of Congo (Central Africa Region)**

G. For election for the Post of Member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) for the period 2025-2027, which is to be held in October 2024 in New York, USA, the candidature of

- **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (Eastern Africa Region)**

H. For election for the Post of a Member of the Commission on the Status of Women for the period 2025-2028 during the election scheduled for April 2024 in New York, the candidature of:

- **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (Eastern Africa Region)**

6. ENDORSES NEW CANDIDATURES OF INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES:

A. For election as a **Judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC), for the period 2014-2029**, during the election scheduled to take place in December 2023 in New York, the candidature of:

- **Mr. Rajaona ANDRIAMANAKIANRIANANA** of the Republic of Madagascar

B. For election as a **Chair of the Fifth Committee (Administrative & Budgetary) of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**, scheduled for June 2023 in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **H.E. Mr. Osama Abdelkhalek**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations (Northern Africa Region)

NB: South Africa withdrew its candidate in support of the candidate of Egypt.

C. For election as **Chair of the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee) for the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**, due in June 2023 in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations (Southern Africa Region)
- **Candidate to be submitted by Burundi** (Central Africa Region)
- **Candidate to be submitted by Mauritius** (Southern Africa Region)

D. For election as **Vice-Chair of the Second Committee (Economic & Financial) for the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**, during the election scheduled for June 2023 in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Candidate to be submitted by Kenya**
- **Candidate to be submitted by Ghana**

E. For election as **Vice-Chair of the First Committee (Disarmament & International Security) for the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**, during the election scheduled for June 2023 in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Mr. Yaseen Lagardien** of the Republic of South Africa

F. For election as **Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee (Legal) for the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**, during the election scheduled for June 2023 in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Mr. Moussa Mohamed Moussa** of the Republic of Djibouti

G. For election as a **Member of the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW)** for the period **2024-2027**, slated for New York in November 2023, the candidatures of:

- **Mr. Mohammed CHAREF** of the Kingdom of Morocco
- **Mr. Khaled Cheikhna BABACAR** of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

NB: The Africa Group in New York is requested to advise on the number of seats allocated for Africa in this Committee.

H. For election as a **Member of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, for the period 2024-2026**, at the elections to be held in November 2023 in New York, USA, the candidature of:

- **Mr. Imran Vanker** of the Republic of South Africa (Re-election)

I. For election for the Post of **Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**, election to be held in **June 2024**, of the candidature of:

- **Prof. Cephas Lumina** of the Republic of Zambia

J. For re-election for the Post of **Vice President of the World Metrological Organization, for the period 2023-2027**, during the election to be held in May/June 2023 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, of the candidature of:

- **Mr. Konaté Daouda** of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

7. TAKE NOTES OF NEW INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATURES SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES:

A. For election as a **Member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for the period 2024-2026**, scheduled for November 2023 in New York, USA, the candidatures of:

- **Mr. Nabil KALKOUL** of the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Algeria (Northern Africa Region)
- **Mr. Abdallah Bachar BONG** of the Republic of Chad (Central Africa Region)
- **Mr. Hicham OUSSIHAMOU** of the Kingdom of Morocco (Northern Africa Region)

NB: Africa is represented by five members, one for each region. Ms. Caroline Nalwanga, the candidate for the Eastern Africa Region was endorsed by the

40th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council. The candidatures for the Western and Southern Africa Regions will be renewed in 2024. Tunisia withdrew its candidate in support of the candidate of Algeria.

REQUESTS the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System to consider the issues of admissibility raised for the ACABQ and to report to the 43rd Session of the Executive Council.

ON OTHER ISSUES

The Executive Council;

8. **ENDORESES** the Commission's initiative to launch an **E-Portal for African Candidatures within the International System** and **REQUESTS** the Commission to develop a training manual and conduct orientation programmes for the already identified Focal Persons of Member States;
9. **COMMENDS** the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System at the Ambassadorial Level for its efforts to meet as a Committee of the whole for information sharing among all Member States. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Committee at the Ministerial Level to continue to meet as a Committee of 15 Member States;
10. **URGES** the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures through its Secretariat to work closely with the African Groups in New York and Geneva and to meet on regular basis to enhance coordination and collaboration, and **INSTRUCTS** the PRC to allocate adequate budget for these engagements and other activities of the Committee in support of campaigns for African candidatures in the international system with the overall objective of the AU being a strong united, resilient and influential player within International System
11. **APPROVES** the Revised Rules of Procedure of the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL FOLLOW UP COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2063

The Executive Council,

1. **RECALLS** the Executive Decision EX.CL/Dec.1164(XL) which called upon the African Union Commission (AUC), and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) to lead the process of evaluation of Agenda 2063 FTYIP (2014 – 2023) and the development of the STYIP (2024-2033).
2. **APPLAUDS** Member States, Regional Economic Communities and other AU Organs and partners that have contributed and supported the Evaluation of the FTYIP and formulation of STYIP.
3. **APPRECIATES** the Technical Working Group on Agenda 2063 specifically the Strategic Partners AfDB, UNDP, UNICEF, UNECA, and Champion on Agenda 2063 Technical Team for their support to the Special Project.
4. **TAKES NOTE** of the Draft Evaluation Report on the First Ten Year Implementation Plan (2014 – 2023) and the development of the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan (2024 – 2033)
5. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ambassadorial Committee and **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained therein.
6. **REQUESTS** the African Union Commission and AUDA – NEPAD together with the strategic partners AfDB, UNDP, UNICEF, UNECA to continue the work on finalization of the report of the Special Project taking into consideration all comments and suggestions made towards the improvement of the draft evaluation report and the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan and report at the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in July 2023.
7. **DIRECTS** the Technical Working Group (TWG) on the implementation of Agenda 2063 to provide support to Member States that have not submitted their National Consultation Reports, and for the AUC, AU Organs, and Institutions to engage in the formulation and subsequently in the implementation of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan.
8. **REQUESTS** the AUC to align and strengthen the governance structure for the implementation of Agenda 2063, and in particular the governance of delivering the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan.
9. **REQUESTS** AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to explore estimating the cost of delivering the STYIP and articulate a robust financing model in collaboration with Member States and leverage the multiple innovative financing instruments including efficient resource mobilisation mechanism and deployment of technical support to Member States and RECs.

**DECISION ON THE AFRICAN UNION 2022
THEME OF THE YEAR ON NUTRITION**

Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent: Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development (Assembly/AU/Dec. 813(XXXV)).

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the roadmap of the AU Continental Report on the 2022 African Union Theme of the Year Implementation Roadmap and **COMMENDS** the AU Leader for the Theme of the Year 2022, H.E. ALASSANE OUATTARA, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, for his stewardship and leadership in advocating for food security and nutrition agenda in the continent.
2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the role of the African Union Nutrition Champion, His Majesty King Letsie III, of the Kingdom of Lesotho, for mobilizing Heads of State and Government, policy and decision-makers to elevate Nutrition on continental and national agendas and strengthening the political will to address the complex root causes of malnutrition.
3. **EXPRESSING** our profound appreciation to the African Union Member States and partners for their support on the implementation of the AU Theme of the Year for 2022 Action, and **WELCOMES** the outcomes achieved by the AU Commission and Organs, Member States, Regional Economic Communities, civil societies and partners.
4. **EMPHASIZING** on the importance of addressing hunger, malnutrition and all its forms and recognizing the adverse effects in human capital economic and social development, with unacceptable human consequences on individuals, communities and nations, **CALLING ON** Member States and development partners, to scale up interventions to overcome challenges;
5. **NOTING WITH GREAT CONCERN** the growing challenges of Nutrition and food security in Africa exacerbated by the ever-increasing impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, climate change, and rising uncertainties in the global financial markets, and **RECOGNIZING** that we have only three years left to achieve the Malabo targets (10% and 5% Stunting and underweight), the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2016-2025) and less than a decade to achieve the Sustainable development goals (SDGs) and working towards the achievement of Agenda 2063;
6. **ALSO UNDERSCORING** the compounding disruptions and **RECOGNIZING** the generational impacts of malnutrition across the health, education and economic sectors;

WE HEREBY:

APPEAL to the AU Leader of the 2022 theme of the year, H.E. ALASSANE OUATTARA, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, African Union Nutrition Champion His Majesty King Letsie III, Head of State of the Kingdom of Lesotho

42nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, 15-16 February 2023, Addis Ababa Ethiopia

and all African Leaders for Nutrition to continue advocating for the nutrition and food security continental agenda;

CALL UPON the African Union Commission, partners and relevant stakeholders to work closely with the African Union Nutrition Champion, His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho, in convening a Continental High-Level Conference on Investing in Nutrition and Food Security in Maseru, Lesotho in 2023;

FAVOURABLY WELCOME and **ENDORSE** the Abidjan Declaration. A call to action to “accelerate investment, implementation and coordination to improve nutrition and food security in Africa” and **CALL ON** the African Union Commission, Member States and stakeholders to implement actions and recommendations of the Abidjan Declaration.

URGE Member States, stakeholders and partners to implement recommendations made in the context of the activities of the 2022 theme of the year;

REQUEST the African Union Commission and Member States to continue implementing the 2022 theme of the year up to 2025 in order to accelerate the achievement of targets of the Malabo Declaration and the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy 2016- 2025, noting the negative impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, climate change, and rising uncertainties in the global financial markets on food security and nutrition on the continent;

REQUEST the Commission to report on the progress made by Member States in addressing malnutrition in all its forms on the continent, in line with the continental and national targets to be presented in 2025.

**DECLARATION ON ACCELERATING THE PATH TO ACHIEVING THE GOALS
AND TARGETS OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
2015-2030 IN AFRICA**

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa having met in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya on 19 November 2021 on the occasion of the Seventh High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was preceded by the Eighth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 16-18 November 2021 on the theme, “*Towards disaster risk-informed development for a resilient Africa in a COVID-19 Transformed World*”:

Express appreciation to the Government and the People of the Republic of Kenya for hosting these events and for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to the Delegates;

Further appreciate the efforts made and the support provided by the African Union Commission, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to organize the Eighth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Seventh High-level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction;

Recognize with deep concern the continuing negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Africa’s social and economic development, including the disproportionate impact on women, and **welcome** the efforts being made across the continent to respond to and recover from the pandemic;

Further appreciate Member States and Regional Economic Communities for their continued efforts to implement priorities and decisions in the Tunis Declaration and in the *Africa Common Position to the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction*, while the continent continues to grapple with the COVID-19 crisis;

Further recognize the systemic nature of risk, illustrated by interconnected and simultaneous disasters and their cascading and devastating impacts, including loss of lives and livelihoods, damage to infrastructure, and displacement, exacerbated by COVID-19, climate change, environmental degradation, unplanned and rapid urbanization, poverty, inequality and conflict, including disproportionate vulnerability and exposure on women and girls, all of which undermine efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want;

Express deep concern about the growing severity and frequency of climate related disasters and the increasing vulnerabilities of Member States, especially Small Island Developing States to such disasters and the resulting negative effects on their economies and development;

Recall the decision of the African Union Executive Council at its 30th Ordinary Session, January 2017 [EX.CL/Dec.943 (XXX)], endorsing the *Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa* (Programme of Action), and the *Mauritius Declaration on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa*; and the *Ministerial Declaration on the Specialized Session*

of African Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources on the Challenges and Opportunities presented by the COVID-19 pandemic (13 November 2020);

Further recall the decision of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment of the African Union [STC3/ARDWE/MIN], endorsing the *Tunis Declaration on accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction*; and **urge** the African Union Commission to accelerate the establishment of a continental system for multi-hazard, impact-based and inclusive early warning and preparedness for natural hazards;

Commend the African Union Commission for its support and leadership in translating priorities and decisions contained in the Tunis Declaration and in the *Africa Common Position to the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction*, including institutionalization of Disaster Risk Reduction in its regular organizational structure, the development and launch of the *Biennial Report on the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa*, strengthening capacities for early warning and early action, as well as the establishment and operationalization of the Africa Science and Technology Advisory Group and a Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction;

Appreciate the role of stakeholders, including Parliamentarians, the Civil Society Organizations, Media, Academia, Youth, Women, Private Sector, Local Authorities and Communities in supporting and implementing the Sendai Framework, as well as regional, sub-regional, national, and local disaster risk reduction programmes and plans;

Further appreciate the work being carried out by the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction in coordinating and guiding the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action across the continent, including the revision of the matrix for the implementation of the Programme of Action (2021-2025);

Note the importance of ensuring coherence among global, regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development actions; and **also note** the need to ensure national development strategies and adaptation plans reflect disaster risk reduction;

Stress the important role of regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national disaster risk reduction platforms and institutions in coherently implementing, monitoring and reporting progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action;

Further stress the importance of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action in providing guidance to sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from disasters, including COVID-19 across the continent, as well as identifying and addressing underlying drivers of disaster risk in a systematic manner;

Recognize the role of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference in promoting integrated actions for disaster risk reduction and in ensuring risk-informed interventions in implementing Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063;

Further recognize the partnership between the African Union Commission, Inter Governmental Authority on Development, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, World Meteorological Organization and other Development Partners to launch and operationalize the continental programme for the implementation of the *Africa Road Map for Improving the Availability, Access and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action, including in the Context of Transboundary Risk Management*;

Appreciate the support provided by the Governments of Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, the European Union, and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative, as well as other Development Partners, United Nations agencies, and international and regional financial institutions to implement the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa in coherence with climate change, sustainable development, and other related actions for resilience;

Further appreciate the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for its continued support, in partnership with the African Union Commission, in capacity building, including development of tools and guiding documents such as the Sendai Framework Monitor (including the regional module), as well as development, implementation, monitoring, and review of progress of disaster risk reduction strategies and plans at all levels;

Welcome the launch of Making Cities Resilient 2030 as a successor of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign to facilitate the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action at the local level;

Acknowledge the support being provided by the United Nations Development Programme and other partners to develop the COVID-19 Recovery Framework for Africa under the leadership of the African Union Commission;

Aware of the UN General Assembly resolution 75/216 of 21 December 2020 on holding “a midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework in 2023 to assess progress on integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, identify good practice, gaps and challenges and accelerate the path to achieving the goal of the Sendai Framework and its seven global targets by 2030”;

Mindful of the outcomes of the COP-26 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Glasgow, United Kingdom and **concerned** about the continued insufficient finance for adaptation to climate change including the increasing severity and frequency of climate change induced disasters particularly in Africa and Small Island Developing States;

Declare our determination to deliver on our commitments to the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Programme of Action, the *Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction*, as well as sub-regional and national strategies and plans of action for disaster risk reduction as key instruments for the realization of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want; and

Hereby:

1. **Adopt** the *Matrix of the Programme of Action (2021-2025)* to implement the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa*;
2. **Further adopt** the *Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Early Action*;
3. **Call upon** Member States, Regional Economic Communities, Local Authorities, the Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and other stakeholders to support the rollout and implementation of the Matrix of the Programme of Action (2021-2025), as well as the *Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Early Action* across the continent;
4. **Further call upon** the United Nations and other international and regional organisations, international and regional financial institutions to consider the matrix of the Programme of Action, as well as the *Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Early Action* in multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes;
5. **Request** the African Union Commission to continue to regularly prepare the *Biennial Report on the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa*;
6. **Further request** Member States, Regional Economic Communities, Local Authorities, the Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and other stakeholders to support the development and implementation of disaster risk-informed, inclusive, holistic and gender-sensitive strategies, programmes and plans of action at all levels;
7. **Call for** Member States and Regional Economic Communities to increase the annual budgetary allocation, as well as establish innovative financing solutions, including by participating in the Africa Risk Capacity's innovative risk pooling mechanism, for the implementation of gender sensitive and inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies, programmes and plans of action, in coherence with climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, combating desertification and sustainable development actions and Great Green Wall initiative at all levels;
8. **Call upon** Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission, United Nations organizations, Parliamentarians, the Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and other stakeholders to strengthen capacity for resource mobilization, implementation and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting processes;

9. **Reiterate** the need for scaling up investments in nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction, climate action and supporting sustainable land and biodiversity management, as well as ensuring the early and full implementation of the African Union Green Recovery Action Plan and the Africa Green Stimulus programme as key instruments for building resilience;
10. **Reiterate** the need for Member States to ensure stronger partnerships between institutions responsible for disaster risk reduction, environmental management, climate change action, planning and finance and other sectors to ensure a coherent, integrated and a whole-of-society approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at all levels;
11. **Urge** Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission, the Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and other stakeholders to strengthen the capacity of Member States to better prepare for, respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic; and consider disaster risk reduction in the overall COVID-19 response, recovery plans and mechanisms for resilience;
12. **Request** Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission, the Private Sector, and Development Partners to strengthen financial and technical support to use the existing Sendai Framework Monitor system for monitoring and reporting on progress in achieving all targets of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action;
13. **Urge** Member States to ensure the development and use of multi-hazard and multi-sectoral risk assessments, collection and analysis of disaster loss data disaggregated, where relevant, by income, age, gender, disability, and geographical location, as well as putting in place a mechanism for the exchange of disaster related data between institutions responsible for disaster risk reduction and management and other relevant sectors;
14. **Call upon** the African Union Commission, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and other partners to support the integration of disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework Monitor into the African Peer Review Mechanism processes, methodology and questionnaire to facilitate the assessment of Member States' resilience, including the commitment to avail experts, as well as strengthen their capacities and mechanisms to effectively prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, including COVID-19;
15. **Encourage** Member States to ensure the development and implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks that are risk-informed and aligned to the national development plans to support their efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063;

- 16. Further encourage** the adoption of a whole-of-society approach that integrates women, children and youth, local communities, the elderly, people living with disabilities, displaced people, and other people in vulnerable situations, as well as considers indigenous and local knowledge systems and practices, age and cultural perspectives into the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies and plans;
- 17. Urge** Member States to establish strong risk governance systems supported by regulatory and legal frameworks to buttress the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Africa Programme of Action at all levels;
- 18. Further urge** Member States and Regional Economic Communities to actively participate in and follow-up on the outcomes of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference to strengthen the integration of disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development actions, as well as consideration of disaster risk reduction in Voluntary National Reviews and Sub-National Voluntary Reviews;
- 19. Call upon** the African Union Commission, United Nations organizations, especially the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Development Programme and other Development Partners to continue to strengthen their support to Member States and Regional Economic Communities through the provision of guidance, tools and technical assistance, and by facilitating the exchange of experiences, including for the strengthening of the multi-hazard and impact-based early warning systems for early action and for effective transboundary risk management;
- 20. Urge** Member States, Regional Economic Communities, Regional Climate Centres, the African Union Commission, the Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and other stakeholders to strengthen hydrological and meteorological systems and improve weather and climate information generation and outreach, for effective early warning and early action, and transboundary risk management at all levels;
- 21. Call upon** Member States, Regional Economic Communities and the African Union Commission to consider disaster-induced displacement in regional, sub-regional, national, and local levels and integrate disaster risk reduction, climate change and development strategies and plans to reduce and prevent the risk of disaster displacement, and thus build the resilience of displaced people and host communities;
- 22. Further call upon** Member States and other stakeholders to actively participate in and contribute through inclusive and evidence-based processes to the Mid-term

Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa;

23. **Request** Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission and Development Partners to strengthen support to the African Science and Technology Advisory Group, as well as the Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction as key instruments contributing to the realization of the outcomes of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action;
24. **Call upon** the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, other United Nations organizations and Development Partners to strengthen partnerships and cooperation through enhancing regional, sub-regional and national coordination mechanisms, as well as North-South, South-South, and Triangular cooperation in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action at all levels;
25. **Request** the African Union Commission to accelerate the development of the COVID-19 Recovery Framework for Africa for consideration and adoption by the 4th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment; and **urge** Member States, Regional Economic Communities and other stakeholders to support the process;
26. **Mandate** the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction to coordinate the development of the Africa Position to the 2022 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction; and ensure that these processes are inclusive, participatory and Member States driven;
27. **Request** the Government of the Republic of Kenya, as the Chair of the Eighth Africa Regional Platform and the Seventh High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, to submit the Nairobi Declaration to the relevant African Union Policy organ for endorsement and advocate for the follow-up and implementation of this Declaration.