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Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER STATES
Doc. EX.CL/535(XVI)c

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on Contributions of Member States;

2. **COMMENDS** Member States that are up-to-date in the payment of their contributions to the regular budget and **ENCOURAGES** other Member States to settle entirely and on time their assessed contributions;

3. **WELCOMES** the initiatives undertaken by Seychelles and **ENCOURAGES** it to settle its arrears in conformity with the rules in force;

4. **COMMENDS** Burundi and Sierra Leone for their commitment to continue to honour their respective payment schedules;

5. **DECIDES** to exempt the Democratic Republic of the Congo from sanctions following its efforts to settle its arrears of contributions in conformity with the rules in force;

6. **DECIDES** to maintain sanctions against the following Member States:
   i) Eritrea
   ii) Seychelles

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE AU CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR
THE PERIOD JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2010
Doc. EX.CL/ 535(XVI)d

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Draft 2010 Calendar of Meetings;

2. **REAFFIRMS** the relevant provisions of its two previous Decisions EX.CL/Dec.419(XIII) and EX.CL./Dec.458(XIV) adopted by its Thirteenth and Fourteenth Ordinary Sessions held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, from 27 to 28 June 2008 and in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 30 January 2009 respectively;

3. **WELCOMES** the efforts by the Commission and in particular the Conference Services Directorate (CSD) aimed at ensuring a timely rational and improved preparation of the Calendar of Meetings;

4. **ENDORSES** the Calendar of Meetings for the period January to December 2010;

5. **EMPHASISES** that all meetings of the Commission should be organised and serviced by CSD;

6. **STRESSES** the need to ensure that all meetings proposed for inclusion in the Calendar of Meetings are properly aligned with the objectives and priorities of the African Union as set out in the Strategic Plan of the African Union Commission 2009 – 2012;

7. **DECIDES** that programmes are first considered and approved by the Sub-Committee on Conferences and Programmes prior to their inclusion in the Draft Budget for consideration by the Permanent Representatives’ Committee (PRC) Advisory Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters;

8. **FURTHER DECIDES** that for smooth consideration and adoption of the Draft Calendar of Meetings, the Commission should ensure that no single Department exceeds three (3) Ministerial Meetings in a year and that the principle of back-to-back Meetings is strictly adhered to, where they are identical in terms of subject and participation;

9. **EMPHASISES** that meetings that are not in the approved Calendar of Meetings should be removed from the Programme Budget, and likewise,

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
meetings not included in the approved Programme Budget should not remain in the Calendar of Meetings.

10. **ALSO EMPHASISES** that whenever the Commission deems it necessary to organize additional meetings over and above what is contained in the approved Calendar of Meetings, such additional meetings should be submitted to the PRC through the Bureau of its Sub-Committee on Conferences and Programmes for approval;

11. **REQUESTS** the Commission to prepare and submit to the PRC Sub-Committee on Conferences and Programmes a quarterly report on the implementation of the approved Calendar of Meetings.
The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on the Draft Staff Regulations and Rules of the African Union;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** that since the transformation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union (AU), the Commission and all other AU Organs have been using the 1993 OAU Staff Regulations and Rules and that the AU cannot continue its operation without appropriate Staff regulations and rules;

3. **REQUESTS** the PRC through its Advisory Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters to complete the review and finalization of the Draft African Union Staff Regulations and Rules for submission and adoption by the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly upon the recommendation of the Executive Council in Kampala, Uganda in July 2010.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE BUDGET OF THE AFRICAN UNION FOR THE 2010 FINANCIAL YEAR

DOC. EX.CL/537(XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. **APPROVES** the Budget of the African Union (AU) for the Year 2010 amounting to US$250,453,697, to the Assembly for adoption as follows:

   i) A total amount of US$ 111,763,676 assessed to Member States on the basis of the current Scale of Assessment, which includes the balance of the Programs Budget amounting to US$ 11,171,000;

   ii) A total of US$ 5,000,000 from the fund allocated from the purchase of the Washington Office;

   iii) A total amount of US$133,690,021 earmarked for the programs is secured from International Partners.

2. **ALSO APPROVES** the Budget breakdown among the AU Organs as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Operational Budget in (US$)</th>
<th>Programs Budget in (US$)</th>
<th>Total in (US$)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Union Commission (AUC)</td>
<td>82,047,121</td>
<td>135,415,745</td>
<td>217,462,866</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pan African Parliament (PAP)</td>
<td>9,129,736</td>
<td>5,019,514</td>
<td>14,149,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)</td>
<td>2,968,874</td>
<td>1,960,978</td>
<td>4,929,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR)</td>
<td>6,169,591</td>
<td>1,769,784</td>
<td>7,939,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)</td>
<td>1,531,500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,531,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL)</td>
<td>225,000</td>
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<td>225,000</td>
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1 Reservation entered by Tunisia

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
### Operational Budget in (US$) | Programs Budget in (US$) | Total in (US$)
--- | --- | ---
NEPAD | 3,020,854 | 3,020,854
Advisory Board on Corruption | 500,000 | 500,000
Peace and Security Council | 695,000 | 695,000
**Total** | 105,592,676 | 144,861,021 | 250,453,697

3. **APPROVES** that the Commission implements the decision to increase Member States’ contribution towards the Peace Fund from 6% to 12% over a period of three (3) years starting from 2011;

4. **APPROVES** that the Commission and the Organs scale down anticipated activities in 2010 including:
   
   a) Extraordinary sessions, meetings and seminars of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights;
   
   b) The sessions of the African Union Commission on International Law.

5. **ALSO APPROVES** that the full operationalization and implementation of new Organs and programs be postponed to 2011;

6. **FURTHER APPROVES** that budgetary allocation of election monitoring under the Pan African Parliament and any other Organs be removed and allocated to the budget of the Commission, following the decision that the Commission should harmonize the organization of joint elections observation missions within the African Union;

7. **FINALLY APPROVES** to allocate US$3,020,854 to NEPAD as initial budget for its integration into the African Union structures and processes pending:
   
   i) The approval of its structure by the Policy Organs;
   
   ii) Continued harmonization of its programs with those of the Commission to avoid duplication and ensure coherence.

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Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE THEME OF THE JANUARY 2011 SUMMIT
EX.CL/565(XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on initiatives taken by the Commission in promoting the Strategic Plan of the African Union Commission 2009-2012 in Africa, including the Pillar on the Shared Values of the African Union, particularly with regard to putting in place a pan-African Architecture on Governance as a platform for dialogue between the various stakeholders;

2. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly that the theme of the Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2011 be dedicated to the Shared Values of the African Union, including identifying obstacles and measures to be adopted to facilitate continental integration based on such values.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF OAU/AU TREATIES
DOC. EX.CL/539(XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Status of Signature and Ratification of OAU/AU Treaties;

2. **WELCOMES** efforts made by the Commission and Member States during the Signing Week, which is organised in December of every year, aimed at ensuring that treaties are signed;

3. **ALSO WELCOMES** the initiative taken by the Commission to arrange a ceremony for signing of OAU/AU Treaties by the Heads of State and Government of the Union, during the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly and **REQUESTS** it to ensure that signing takes place at all future ordinary sessions of the Assembly.

4. **REITERATES** its appeal to Member States to prioritize and accelerate the signing and ratification/accession to OAU/AU Treaties and in particular to the Member States which are not yet states parties to the following:
   
   i) The Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (1991);
   
   ii) The Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament (2001);
   
   iii) The Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (2002);
   
   iv) The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007);
   
   v) The Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights (2008);
   
   
   vii) The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) (2009);
   

5. **ALSO REITERATES** its appeal to Member States to commence the process of ratification of existing treaties not yet ratified or acceded to, within the next one (1) year; and for future treaties, within one (1) year of their adoption in conformity with Decision EX/CL/Dec.459 (XIV) adopted by the Fourteenth

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2009;

6. **FURTHER REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) to assist with advocacy and sensitization of Member States to expedite the process of signature/ratification/accession to OAU/AU Treaties;

7. **REITERATES ITS REQUEST** to the Commission to expedite the implementation of previous decisions on the review of OAU/AU Treaties, particularly those related to the need to harmonize the OAU/AU Treaties in the various AU working languages;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up and report on a regular basis to the Executive Council on progress made in the implementation of this Decision.
DECISION ON THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STUDY ON THE AFRICAN UNION REPRESENTATIONAL OFFICES 
DOC. EX. CL/541(XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and Recommendations of the Commission on the Study by Consultants on the African Union (AU) Representational Offices;

2. **REQUESTS** the Commission to further review the Report of the Committee and Recommendations of the Commission on the Study undertaken by the Consultants on the AU Representational Offices, including identifying priorities with specific financial implications and proposing a management plan with timelines in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives’ Committee (PRC) Sub-Committees on Structures and Reform, Multilateral Cooperation, as well as the Advisory Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters; and to submit a report and appropriate recommendations to a meeting of Senior Officials of Member States;

3. **FURTHER REQUESTS** Member States to forward proposals and comments to the Commission as soon as possible on how to operationalize the Report of the Consultants and the recommendations by the Commission;

4. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to take necessary steps to correct the weaknesses identified in the current offices so as to make them more efficient;

5. **DECIDES** that the AU Office for Southern Africa should remain in Lilongwe, Malawi;

6. **ALSO DECIDES** that no new offices should be established until the study is completed, with priority being given to that of Vienna, and that the financial implications should be provided;

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council in due course.
DECISION ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE FINANCIAL RULES AND THE USE OF ARREARS IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET OF THE AFRICAN UNION

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on the Report of the Advisory Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters, particularly those concerning virement requests and the supplementary budget for the 2009 fiscal year;

2. **DECIDES** as follows:
   a) All Organs of the African Union (AU) including the Commission must submit to the PRC the quarterly report of the execution of their budget and respect the relevant provisions of Article 41 of the Financial Rules during the consideration of ordinary and supplementary budgets;
   b) All Organs of the AU should strictly comply with the Financial Rules and Regulations of the AU and establish strict control measures to prevent unauthorised use and misappropriation of funds, losses of cash, stores and other assets, and to implement the provisions contained in Section B of the Financial Rules and Regulations of the African Union;
   c) The Commission should strictly apply the relevant provisions of the Financial Rules and Regulations of the AU to violators of the rules;
   d) The utilization of arrears by all organs of the AU should be subject to the pre-approval of the Executive Council;
   e) The Commission should strengthen its internal audit system;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up on the implementation of this Decision and to report thereon at every ordinary session of the Executive Council.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES 
AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA 
Doc. EX.CL/542(XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Commission on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;

2. EXPRESSES GRATITUDE to Member States that grant asylum and extend assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons; and THANKS the international community, in particular the humanitarian agencies for their continued support and assistance to the victims of forced displacement in Africa;

3. STRESSES the need for Member States to address the root causes of forced displacement in Africa;

4. CALLS UPON Member States to speed up the signing, ratification and effective implementation of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) adopted during the African Union Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in October 2009 in Kampala, Uganda;

5. WELCOMES the visits undertaken by the Permanent Representatives’ Committee (PRC) Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in accordance with its Programme of Work and REQUESTS that the outcomes of these visits be included in the bi-annual Report on the Activities of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees to the Executive Council;

6. REQUESTS the Commission to elaborate a Plan of Action for the promotion and implementation of the outcomes of the Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons;

7. FURTHER REQUESTS the Commission in collaboration with Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations, in particular the AU partners to provide accurate statistics on refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, and also to take into account additional information provided by various delegations during the PRC meetings.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

DOC. EX. CL/543(XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Sub-Committee of the Permanent Representatives’ Committee (PRC) on its activities relating to Multilateral Cooperation and on Africa’s strategic partnerships;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained in the Report;

3. **STRESSES** the coordinating role of the Commission in the management of partnerships in collaboration with the PRC and Africa’s diplomatic representations in the capitals of countries/regions that have cooperation arrangements with Africa;

4. **REQUESTS** Member States and the Commission to ensure that partners respect the Banjul format on Africa’s participation in meetings with them, and Africa’s representatives outside the Continent to respect the Decisions of the Assembly and the Executive Council on partnerships;

5. **REQUESTS** the Sub-Committee and the Commission to continue to work in tandem towards the successful implementation of the outcomes of the various Summit/Fora and the attainment of the objectives of Africa’s strategic partnerships.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE SECOND AFRICA-SOUTH AMERICA (ASA) SUMMIT
DOC. EX. CL/544 (XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Second Africa-South America (ASA) Summit held in Margarita Island, Venezuela, from 22 to 27 September 2009 and the ASA Declaration;

2. **WELCOMES** the hosting by the Government of Venezuela of the Second ASA Summit in Margarita Island, Venezuela, from 22 to 27 September 2009;

3. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the difficulties encountered by the African side with respect to the organization of the meetings with the South American side and, in particular, the preparatory meetings of the eight (8) Working Groups;

4. **RECALLS** that the Commission and the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) through its Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation are charged with the responsibility of managing the partnership processes and that Africa’s representatives in South America should take due note of this and liaise with them on all issues relating to this summit process;

5. **TAKES NOTES** of the important decisions taken by the ASA Summit regarding the establishment of the ASA Pro-Tempro Secretariat in Margarita Island and the Presidential Committee to develop ASA’s Strategic Plan and **REQUESTS** that their roles be clearly defined so as to ensure their value addition to the ASA Summit process;

6. **ALSO TAKES NOTES** of the establishment of the Bank of the South and **REQUESTS** the Commission to explore the possibility of opening subscription to the Bank to African countries so as to make it an ASA institution;

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to deploy all efforts to produce a harmonized Implementation Plan/Programme within the period stipulated in the Margarita Declaration for approval by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of both sides meeting on the margins of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York;

8. **DECIDES** as follows:

   i) In determining the dates and venues of summits, the side convening will ensure that it obtains the agreement of the other side before it proceeds with the preparations;

   ii) The principle of rotating the venues should be respected and therefore, the meetings of the eight (8) Working Groups at bi-regional level will be alternated between Africa and South America unless otherwise decided by the competent organs of both sides;

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
iii) In the preparation and management of summits and other meetings the two sides should share information and conduct them on the basis of co-chairing and joint secretariat;

iv) Africa’s representatives in South America should continue to make contributions to the ASA process in consultation and coordination with the PRC and the Commission;

v) The responsibility and obligations of host countries on both sides, vis-à-vis the Commission, must be defined in a host agreement to be signed between the Commission and the host country.

9. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to host the next ASA Summit in 2011, on a date to be determined through consultations.
DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE FOURTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE FORUM ON CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION (FOCAC) 
DOC. EX. CL/544(XVI)

The Executive Council,


2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained therein;

3. **REITERATES** that the Commission is charged with the responsibility of managing and coordinating the FOCAC process in consultation with the Regional Economic Communities and the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

4. **URGES** all Member States to implement the decisions taken in Sharm El Sheikh and the Plan of Action, and to report regularly on progress made;

5. **NOTES** that the Follow-up Mechanism of FOCAC was established in 2001 before the establishment of the African Union and **REQUESTS** the Commission and Member States to initiate action with China to review the Mechanism in order that the Commission and the PRC play a central coordinating role in the FOCAC process as already decided by the Assembly;

6. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to take all necessary measures to ensure the implementation of this decision and to report regularly to Council;


8. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** for the new commitments contained in the Sharm El Sheikh Plan of Action as well as the measures announced by the Chinese Prime Minister at the Fourth FOCAC Ministerial Conference;

9. **ALSO EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to Egypt for successfully hosting the Fourth FOCAC Ministerial Conference;

10. **TAKES NOTE** that the Fifth FOCAC Ministerial Conference which will take place in 2012 in China and **WELCOMES** the offer by South Africa to host the Sixth Ministerial Conference in 2015 when it is Africa’s turn to host.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND KOREA-AFRICA FORUM
DOC. EX. CL/544(XVI)

The Executive Council,


2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained therein;

3. **COMMENDS** the Government of the Republic of Korea for successfully hosting the Forum and for working closely with the Commission and the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) in accordance with the established format of the Forum;


5. **REQUESTS** the PRC through its Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation to work with the Commission on the implementation of the outcomes of the Second Korea-Africa Forum;

6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with Member States, to take all necessary measures to implement the outcomes of the Second Forum and report to the Executive Council as appropriate.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Permanent Representatives Committee on the coordination of elections observation by the Organs of the African Union;

2. **WELCOMES** the efforts deployed by the Commission to accompany electoral processes within Member States, especially the deployment of observer missions before and during elections, in accordance with the Durban Declaration of July 2002 on the principles governing democratic elections in Africa;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission, under a centralized budget managed by the Department of Political Affairs, to coordinate the organisation of joint elections observation missions with the Pan-African Parliament and other concerned Organs.
DECISION ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION
Doc. EX.CL/570(XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report on the Thirteenth Session of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation (SCAAC) held in Tripoli, Libya, from 10 to 11 October 2009;

2. WELCOMES the convening of the Thirteenth Session of SCAAC, after a period of eight (8) years;

3. EXPRESSES APPRECIATION to the Government and People of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for hosting this important Session;

4. WELCOMES the offer by the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to host the Second Afro-Arab Summit in Tripoli during the second half of October 2010 and REQUESTS the Chairperson of the Commission in collaboration with the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to ensure the successful preparation of the Summit;

5. DECIDES to transform the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute into the Afro-Arab Institute for Cultural and Strategic Studies;

6. ALSO WELCOMES the establishment of a Preparatory Committee, composed of Senior Officials from Burkina Faso, Ghana, Egypt, Tanzania and the African Union Commission on the Africa side and Algeria, Libya, Kuwait, Morocco and the League of Arab States on the Arab Side to coordinate and guide the technical and material preparation for the Second Afro-Arab Summit; and CALLS UPON the Chairperson of the Commission in collaboration with the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to provide all necessary support to the Committee to enable it perform its tasks efficiently;

7. APPEALS to Ministers of Foreign Affairs of all Member States of SCAAC to participate at the Fourteenth Session of SCAAC, which will be held in Cairo, Egypt on 4 March 2010 to consider important issues such as the Second Afro Arab Summit and REQUESTS the Commission, in collaboration with the League of Arab States, to ensure adequate preparation for the Session;

8. TAKES NOTE of the postponement of the Joint Afro-Arab Ministerial Meeting on Agricultural Development and Food Security planned for December 2009, and URGES all Ministers of Agriculture of Member States to confirm their participation at this important meeting which will take place in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt from 14 to 16 February 2010;

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
9. **TAKES NOTE** of the postponement of the High-Level Experts Meeting on Investment Prospects in Africa and the Arab World, planned for December 2009, and **CALLS UPON** the Commission in collaboration with the League of Arab States to take all necessary measures to ensure that the meeting takes place in April 2010;

10. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this Decision and report to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2010.
DECISION ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN THE WORLD EXPOSITION IN SHANGHAI, CHINA

DOC EX.CL/550 (XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the participation of the Commission in the Shanghai World Exposition held in Shanghai, China, from 1 May to 31 October 2010;

2. **WELCOMES** and supports the Commission’s efforts on preparing its participation in an internationally organized event outside of Africa;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to undertake activities related to the Shanghai World Exposition, and focus on coordination and representation aspects for the Continent in order to avoid duplication;

4. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to explore cost effective means of participating in the Shanghai Exposition, including the reduction of the time spent in Shanghai;

5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** Member States to display the new AU Flag alongside their national flags at their respective stands;

6. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Commission to take appropriate measures to establish a legal framework aimed at the protection of intellectual property rights of Africa's cultural artefacts.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE REVIEW OF THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENT

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Meeting of the Ministerial Committee on the Review of the Scale of Assessment and the Study on the Review of the Scale of Assessment, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 29 January 2010;

2. **DECIDES** as follows:

   a) To refer the Study of the consultant to a Group of Experts from eleven (11) Member States in February/March 2010 for further elaboration and recommendations to the Ministers;

   b) The Experts should be guided by the principles of capacity to pay, fairness and equity;

   c) The Committee should meet and consider the Report of the Experts in April/May 2010;

   d) The current scale of assessment shall remain in force until the next African Union Summit in July 2010.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE AFRICAN UNION/REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES/UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK COORDINATION COMMITTEE

DOC. EX.CL/552 (XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Seventh Meeting of the African Union (AU) Commission/Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and African Development Bank (AfDB) Coordination Committee and the recommendations contained therein;

2. **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to continue to coordinate and harmonise the activities of the RECs to make greater impact on the integration process in Africa;

3. **WELCOMES** the efforts by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to create a single Free Trade Area (FTA) within the tripartite arrangement and **ENCOURAGES** all other RECs to draw experiences from the COMESA-EAC and SADC cooperation framework as well as to engage in dialogue towards harmonizing their approach on matters of regional and continental integration with the aim of accelerating continental integration;

4. **SUPPORTS** the appeal made by RECs requesting Member States to consider additional funding mechanisms, like in ECOWAS, as means of providing the AU and RECs with adequate and sustainable funds for the implementation of regional and continental integration.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUND
FOR AFRICAN WOMEN

The Executive Council,

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Ministerial Meeting of Gender and Women’s Affairs held in Banjul, The Gambia on 21 November 2009;

2. ENDORSES the recommendations of the Report of the Ministerial Meeting of Gender and Women’s Affairs, including on the Feasibility Study of the Trust Fund for African Women;

3. ENDORSES the name recommended by the Ministers of Gender and Women’s Affairs of the Fund as “Fund for African Women”.

4. REQUESTS the Commission to develop a detailed proposal and a resource mobilization strategy within the context of the integration of NEPAD into the African Union structures in line with the Assembly decisions to avoid duplication.

5. REQUESTS the Commission to implement the Decision on the Fund for African Women and to report on the progress made to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2010.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Integration (COMAI);

2. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to host the Fifth COMAI Meeting in May 2010;

3. **REQUESTS** all Member States to take appropriate measures to effectively implement the recommendations of African Ministers in charge of Integration as endorsed by the Assembly of the Union;

4. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities, the partners and all the stakeholders to implement the recommendations in their respective areas of competence and to provide Member States with the necessary support to speed up the process of integration in the Continent;

5. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Chairperson of COMAI to present an annual report on the status of integration to the January/February sessions of the Assembly.
DECISION ON THE SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AFRICAN UNION (AU) LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
COMMISSION (LSAC) – Doc. EX.CL/555(XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Seventh Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Labour and Social Affairs Commission (LSAC), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 28 September to 02 October 2009;

2. REQUESTS the Commission to convene the Eighth Ordinary Session of the AU LSAC in April 2011;

3. DECIDES that the ordinary sessions of the AU LSAC will be organized every two (2) years in reference to the Executive Council Decision to reduce meetings and also to alternate with the ordinary sessions of the Ministers of Social Development which is also to be held every two (2) years;

4. REQUESTS Member States to accelerate the implementation of the Productivity Agenda for Africa and the Programme on Upgrading the Informal Economy by mobilizing the necessary resources, including support from development partners.

5. ALSO REQUESTS the expert groups to immediately begin work on mechanisms for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Agenda and the Programme on Upgrading the Informal Economy.

6. FURTHER REQUESTS Member States to Build capacities and enhance the skills of the workforce in the informal economy through the restructuring of vocational training for the youth and their integration into gainful employment.

7. ACKNOWLEDGES the progress made in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Plan of Action as noted in the Report of the Chairperson of the AU Commission on Employment and Poverty Alleviation (2004-2009);

8. REQUESTS Member States to submit before the end of 2010 to the Commission their implementation report for the next biennale Ouagadougou Extraordinary Summit Report for the period 2009-2011;

9. ALSO REQUESTS the Commission to launch at regional level, the AU Commission Initiative against Trafficking Campaign (AU.COMMIT) and APPEALS to Member States to facilitate the ratification of the AU and United Nations (UN) instruments on trafficking in human beings;

10. CALLS ON Member States to cultivate the necessary expertise to actively participate and influence deliberations within the Committees of the International Labour Conference and REAFFIRMS that the African Group

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
preparatory meetings should commence prior to both the official opening of the 99th International Labour Commission (ILC) and the pre-conference meeting of the Government Group.

11. **CALLS ON** Member States to elaborate authenticated and comprehensive data on effects of the crisis, as there is potential for exploitation of the crises by some employers in their dealings with unions and workers and **REQUESTS** Member States to give support to the informal economy which should be enhanced;

12. **CALLS ON** Governments, as well as workers and employers organizations to cooperate on efforts to improve health at work and thus increase productivity;

13. **ENDORSES** the Resolution on the ratification of the instrument for the amendment of the 1986 Constitution of the International Labour Organization;

14. **ALSO ENDORSES** the Declaration on Global Jobs Pact;

15. **FURTHER ENDORSES** the Resolution on Palestinian Workers.
The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Second African Union Conference of Ministers responsible for Maritime Transport, held in Durban, South Africa, from 12 to 16 October 2009;


3. **REQUESTS** Member States to speed up ratification of the African Maritime Transport Charter so as to enable it to enter into force as early as possible to facilitate accelerated development of maritime transport in the continent;

4. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to facilitate the implementation of the African Maritime Transport Charter and the Durban Resolution on Maritime Safety, Maritime Security and Protection of the Environment within the framework of the 2009-2012 Strategic Plan of the African Union Commission;

5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), specialised institutions, Member States and other stakeholders to take all the necessary measures to speed up the implementation of the Maritime Transport Plan of Action with a view to developing a cost-effective, safe, secure and clean maritime transport industry in Africa;

6. **URGES** Member States, RECs and Specialised Agencies to participate effectively in the implementation of the African Maritime Transport Charter and the Durban Resolution on Maritime Safety, Maritime Security and Protection of the Environment;

7. **APPEALS** to development partners including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; the African Development Bank, the European Union, the World Bank and others to support the implementation of the African Union Maritime Transport Plan of Action;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit periodic reports on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF SPORTS (CAMS3)
Doc. EX.CL/557(XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Third Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Sports (CAMS 3), held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 12 to 16 October 2009 and the recommendations contained therein;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of CAMS 3, in particular, the following:
   
   i) A new Architecture for African Sports, consisting of the current Conference of Ministers of Sports (CAMS) and its Bureau to provide political leadership in the domain of sports, and a Sports Advisory Board with Technical Committees to prepare issues for discussion and decision for the CAMS meetings;
   
   ii) The Commission should conduct further studies regarding the integration of the functions of Supreme Council for Sports in Africa (SCSA) into the Commission, including the transitional mechanism and the current financial situation relating to SCSA and submit the outcome to the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) through the relevant Sub-Committees, including the Structures Sub-Committee and the Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters;
   
   iii) Dissolution of the SCSA to be concluded after the next All Africa Games to be held in Mozambique, in 2011.

3. **URGES** Member States to pay their contributions and arrears to the SCSA in order for SCSA to fulfill its financial obligations before its dissolution, and **DECIDES** that the Commission should be fully involved in the dissolution programme for SCSA;

4. **WELCOMES** the Report by the Republic of South Africa on the progress towards hosting the 2010 FIFA World Cup event and **CALLS ON** Member States to participate and fully support South Africa in this regard;

5. **DECIDES** that the theme for Africa Day 2010 should be “Building and Maintaining Peace through Sports in Africa”;

6. **FURTHER CALLS ON** Member States to fully support the African participating teams from Algeria, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa;

7. **CONGRATULATES** the Republic of Ghana for winning the Under-20 FIFA World Cup, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Federal Republic of Nigeria for successfully hosting the Under-20 and Under-17 FIFA World Cup events, respectively; and the Republic of Angola for successfully hosting the 27th African Cup of Nations;

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
8. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the Fourth Session of the CAMS in 2011;

9. **RECOMMENDS** that the dates of the final phase of the World Cup scheduled to take place in South Africa in 2010 be taken into account in fixing the dates of the next African Union Summit in June/July 2010;

10. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on the implementation of the outcomes of CAMS 3 and report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2010.
DECISION ON THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN POPULATION COMMISSION

The Executive Council,


3. **CALLS UPON** Member States, in collaboration with relevant partners, to mainstream population dynamics and climate change into national development programmes;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Seventh Session of the APC and to report on a regular basis to the Executive Council.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies and the recommendations contained therein, held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 5 November 2009;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies;

3. **WELCOMES AND SUPPORTS** the Oliver Tambo Declaration and the establishment of mechanisms to accelerate and monitor the implementation of the African Regional Action plan for Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE), the reference framework for Harmonization of Telecommunication/ICT Policies and Regulations in Africa, and the strategies and action plan for the development of the postal sector in Africa;

4. **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the integration of ICTs into National Imperative Programmes including Education and Training Systems and the public administration with a view to produce a critical mass and increase skilled human capital as well as promote access to and use of ICTs;

5. **ALSO SUPPORTS** that ICT policies be mainstreamed in other sectors at national, regional and continental levels;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to promote:

   i) Development of a biennial ICT outlook in order to facilitate the evidence based policy formulation, peer review evaluation and ensure better utilization of the resources for the development of the sector;

   ii) Development of standards and guidelines for African Postal Services and Strategies to promote the utilization of ICT for the sector development;

   iii) A massive penetration and use of ICTs into local communities using African languages including codification programs to fit into IT standards, and encourage the development of African Content-based applications to give them rightful place in the information society.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
iv) Development of a common definition, understanding, concept and guidelines on open access, in coordination with relevant stakeholders.

v) Better utilization and management of Critical Internet Resources;

vi) Research and development in the ICT sector.

7. **URGES** Member States, the Commission, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and specialized institutions in coordination with all other African ICT stakeholders to establish appropriate institutional arrangements and mechanisms to interconnect ICT backbones including national and regional Internet Exchange Points within Africa and the rest of the world with objective of lowering the tariffs and providing better quality of service;

8. **INVITES** Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies and Ministers of Finance to work in close cooperation at the national level, in order to identify innovative funding mechanisms to enable Member States to increase national budget allocation for mainstreaming ICTs in all sectors and also contribute to the African Union Communication and Information Technologies Fund as established by Executive Council Decision EX.CL/434 (XIII) in Sharm El-Sheikh, in June 2008;

9. **ENCOURAGES** South-South and North-South cooperation in the sector of Communication and Information Technologies and to enhance its role in international partnerships;

10. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this Decision and to report to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly, through the Executive Council in July 2011.
DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HYDROCARBONS (OIL & GAS)
Doc. EX.CL/563(XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Second African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Hydrocarbons (Oil & Gas), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 11 December 2009;

2. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the joint studies undertaken and successfully completed by the Commission and the African Development Bank, on the impact of the high oil prices on the African economies and the operational modalities for the establishment of the African Petroleum Fund;

3. **ENDORSES** the Declaration and the Road Map on the operationalization of the African Petroleum Fund that were adopted by the Ministerial Conference on 11 December 2009;

4. **DECIDES** that the contributions from Member States and the oil companies doing business in Africa to the resources of the African Petroleum Fund shall be voluntary;

5. **CALLS UPON** the bilateral and multilateral development partners, as well as other institutions to contribute to the resources of the Fund;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with other stakeholders to take all the necessary measures and modalities to facilitate and speed up the operationalization of the African Petroleum Fund;

7. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to submit periodic reports on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF IV) held in Mombasa, Kenya, from 22 to 26 November 2009;

2. **WELCOMES** the support by partner agencies in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa;

3. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the progress made towards establishment of the Pan African University;

4. **CALLS UPON** Member States, the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities to expedite implementation of the recommendations of COMEDAF IV;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this Decision and to report thereon to the Session of the Executive Council in January 2011.
DEcision on the Twenty-Seventh Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights

Doc. EX.CL/575(XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. TAKES NOTE of the Twenty-seventh Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR);

2. RECOMMENDS to the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly to:

   i) ADOPT and AUTHORIZE, in accordance with Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (the African Charter), the publication of the Twenty-Seventh Activity Report of the ACHPR and its Annexes;

   ii) REITERATE its commitment to allocate adequate resources from its regular budget to the ACHPR as provided for in Article 41 of the African Charter to enable the ACHPR effectively and independently discharge its mandate under the Charter;

   iii) REITERATE its previous Decision EX.CL/Dec.529 (XV) that the African Union (AU) Commission, in consultation with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), expedite the review of the honorarium and allowances of the Members of ACHPR in accordance with the Financial Rules and Regulations of the African Union;

   iv) FURTHER REITERATE its request to the ACHPR to finalize consideration of its Rules of Procedure, taking into account the comments of the various stakeholders, and ensuring that they are consistent with the African Charter and other AU legal instruments;

   v) REITERATE as well its REQUEST that ACHPR identify possible ways to overcome financial and human resources shortcomings in the functioning of their communications handling system, and report on the implementation of this Decision to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in January 2011;

   vi) WELCOME the good work done by the ACHPR in the promotion and protection of human and peoples’ rights, and REQUEST that it continues to pursue and intensify its efforts in this regard.
DECISION ON ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FINANCING THE AFRICAN UNION
Doc. EX.CL/564(XVI)

The Executive Council,


2. **REQUESTS** the Commission to deepen the study on alternative sources of financing in order to better take into account the legal, financial, administrative, institutional and economic aspects as part of the evaluation of the different options proposed;

3. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to elaborate a questionnaire to facilitate and harmonize the process for the collection of comments and observations of Member States on the study;

4. **INVITES** Member States to submit to the Commission, their comments and observations on the study after receiving the questionnaire, before June 2010, so as to enable the Commission to finalize the revised study and present it at the next Extraordinary Session of CAMEF, scheduled to be held in November 2010.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
The Executive Council,


2. **APPROVES** the Annexes to the Statutes of the African Investment Bank (AIB) including the selection of scenario B, as amended on the distribution of capital and voting rights of the AIB among Member States, and the choice of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) of the International Monetary Fund as unit of account of the AIB, until the creation of the African single currency;

3. **RECOMMENDS** the submission of these Annexes to the Assembly for consideration and adoption;

4. **URGES** Member States to speed up the signing and ratification of the Protocol and Statutes of the African Investment Bank.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON MICROFINANCE
Doc. EX.CL/564(XVI)

The Executive Council,


2. ENDORSES the Decision of the Ministers to adopt a Guideline Document on the development of microfinance in Africa;

3. URGES Member States to implement the Guideline Document.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES’ RIGHTS
DOC. EX.CL/576(XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. TAKE NOTE of the Activity Report of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights for the year 2009;

2. ALSO TAKE NOTE of the work accomplished by the Court in the year 2009, particularly in Judicial Matters;

3. CALLS ON Member States which have not yet done so, to ratify the Protocol establishing the Court and to make the declaration accepting the jurisdiction of the Court to receive applications directly from individuals and Non-Governmental Organizations in compliance with the Protocol establishing the Court.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION
DOC. EX.CL/578(XVI)

The Executive Council,


2. **ELECTS** the following five (5) Members of the Peace and Security Council for a three-year term as of 1 April 2010:

   - Equatorial Guinea Central Region
   - Kenya Eastern Region
   - Libya Northern Region
   - Zimbabwe Southern Region
   - Nigeria Western Region

3. **ALSO ELECTS** the following ten (10) Members of the Peace and Security Council for a two-year term as of 1 April 2010:

   - Burundi Central Region
   - Chad
   - Djibouti Eastern Region
   - Rwanda
   - Mauritania Northern Region
   - Namibia Southern Region
   - South Africa
   - Benin Western Region
   - Cote d’Ivoire
   - Mali

4. **RECOMMENDS** the elected Members for appointment by the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM
Doc. EX.CL/577(XVI)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures;

2. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained therein;

3. **DECIDES** to amend the Executive Council’s Decision EX.CL/Dec.345 (X) to permit the early consideration of certain candidatures, within the year of elections, so that they can have a longer period of time to campaign regionally, continentally and internationally, in order to have a better chance to win the seat or the position.

4. **ENDORSES** the following Candidature:

   a. Mrs. Mona Zulficar of Egypt for re-election to the membership of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Human Rights Council, during the elections to be held at the Thirteenth Session of the Human Rights Council in March 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland.

5. **ALSO ENDORSES** the following candidatures:

   i. The candidature of the Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for membership of the United Nations Human Rights Council during the elections to be held in May 2010 in New York, USA;

   ii. The candidature of Mauritania for the second allocated seat to the North African Region to the United Nations Human Rights Council during the elections to be held in May 2010 in New York, USA;

   iii. Ambassador Agnes Kalibbala of Uganda for non-elective position of Under Secretary/Executive Director of UN HABITAT during the selection to be made by the UN Secretary General in New York in April 2010.

6. **ENDORSES** the following candidatures:

   

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
i) The candidature of Dr. M.Z. Madjodina of South Africa for re-election to the United Nations Human Rights Committee during the elections to be held at the Conference of the State Parties to the International Convenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), scheduled to take place in September 2010 New York, USA.

ii) The candidatures of Tanzania, Tunisia and Nigeria to the Board of the Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) scheduled to take place in September 2010 at the 54th Session of the General Conference in Vienna, Austria.

iii) The candidature of Burkina Faso to the Council of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) at the Plenipotentiary Conference scheduled to take place in October 2010 in Veracruz, Mexico.

7. **ENDORSES** the candidature of South Africa for the non-permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council for the period 2011-2012, during the elections to be held in New York, USA in October 2010.

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
Doc. EX.CL/571(XVI)

The Executive Council,

1- **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine; and **RECALLS** all resolutions and decisions adopted by the OAU/AU on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East;

2- **REITERATES** its full support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people against Israeli Occupation under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), their sole and legitimate representative, to obtain their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, return to their homeland and to their property, and to live in peace and stability in an Independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital, in accordance with the principles of International law, all relevant United Nations (UN) Resolutions, particularly UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution 194, which calls for the return of all Palestinian Refugees to their homeland and properties, and all relevant resolutions and decisions of the OAU/AU;

3- **REAFFIRMS** its support for a peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the principles of the international law and all relevant UN resolutions; and **CALLS UPON** Israel to end its occupation of the Palestinian and Arab States territories;

4- **STRESSES** the need for the UNSC to assume its major responsibilities under the UN Charter, and calls on the UN to exercise its role in maintaining international peace and security in order to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

5- **EXPRESSES** its deep concern about the positions of the Israeli Occupying Authorities and its refusal to accept international efforts aiming at reaching the two States solution with establishing the Independent Palestinian State with AL-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital; and **CALLS UPON** the Israeli Occupying Authorities to fulfil their obligations and to move forward in the peace process on the basis of resolutions on international legitimacy, signed agreements, and the principle of land for peace;

6- **STRONGLY CONDEMONS** the Israeli siege imposed on AL-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) and Al-Aqsa Mosque and **URGES** Israel to halt all settlement activities around the sacred city, and the preservation of the status of AL-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) as well as of all Islamic and Christian holy places;

Adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 1 February 2010
7- **FURTHER STRONGLY CONDEMN** the Israeli brutal practices and repressive measures against Palestinian citizens in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including AL-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem), **URGES** Israeli Occupying Authorities to stop these serious violations immediately; and **CALLS UPON** the international community to exert pressure on Israeli Occupying Authorities to abide to International and Humanitarian Laws;

8- **WELCOMES** the report of Goldstone Doc. A/HRC/12/48; **HOLDS** Israel responsible for war crimes and violations of international law and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and **CALLS UPON** the international community to prosecute those responsible for these crimes and bring them to international courts and tribunals;

9- **DENOUNCES** the Israeli rejection to a peaceful, comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East; and **CALLS UPON** Israeli Occupying Authorities to accept the international efforts aiming at reaching the two States solution with establishing the Independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital, and to respond immediately to the demands of the international community;

10- **ENCOURAGES** its full support to the tireless efforts aimed at putting an end to division in the Palestinian ranks and to strengthen the Palestinian national unity, in order to ensure the geographical and political unity of the Palestinian territories; **REITERATES** its support for the leadership of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA); and **COMMENDS** the Presidential decision issued by the President of the Executive Committee of PLO to launch the Presidential and Legislative elections;

11- **REITERATES** its deep appreciation for the tireless efforts made by President Mahmoud Abbas for the achievement of comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and his commitment to the Palestinian National's principles that proposed for an immediate and complete halt of the Israeli settlement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem), and the need to resume the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations from the point at which they stopped with the previous Israeli Government;

12- **TAKES NOTE** of the position taken by U.S. President Barack Obama, his engagement in serious efforts for peace in the Middle East, and his demand of the complete cessation of settlement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the two States solution; with establishing the sovereign Independent Palestinian State with AL-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital; and **URGES** President Barak Obama and the U.S. administration to continue this approach;

13- **FOLLOWS WITH DEEP CONCERN** the worsening humanitarian situation and increasing sanitary and economic deterioration in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, due to the constant siege imposed on Gaza Strip, ongoing daily Israeli
invasions, restrictions on the movement of persons and constant closures and blockades of the Palestinian commercial crossing points with neighbouring countries; and **URGES** the Israeli Occupying Authorities remove it immediately and without delay, to allow the humanitarian assistances and construction materials to reach to People, and to re-open all crossing points in order to start the reconstruction and rehabilitation;

14- **EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** over the deterioration of the living and health conditions of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli Jails; **DENOUNCES AND CONDEMNS** all Israeli inhuman practices against prisoners and detainees; and **DEMANDS** the Israeli Government to release all prisoners and captives from the jails of the Israeli Occupying Authorities;

15- **REITERATES** that the just and comprehensive peace can be achieved only through complete Israeli withdrawal from Occupied Palestinian and Arab States territories up to the boarders of the 4th June 1967, including the Occupied Syrian Golan and the lands still occupied in southern Lebanon, and through the two States solution with establishing the sovereign Independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative;

16- **CALLS UPON** the African Union Committee of Ten (10) Member States on Palestine, in consultation with other AU Member States in order to develop an action plan to move across the international bodies and organizations in the effort to enforce its resolutions on Palestine and the Middle East.

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