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**SIXTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF DRUG CONTROL
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
6-10 OCTOBER 2014**

CAMDC/MIN/Decl.(VI)

***THEME:- “DRUGS KILL BUT BAD POLICIES KILL MORE:
SCALING UP BALANCED AND INTEGRATED RESPONSES TOWARDS
DRUG CONTROL IN AFRICA”***

**ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON SCALING UP BALANCED AND INTEGRATED
RESPONSES TOWARDS DRUG CONTROL IN AFRICA**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 10 October 2014

ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON SCALING UP BALANCED AND INTEGRATED RESPONSES TO DRUG CONTROL IN AFRICA

We, Ministers in Charge of Drug Control of African Union Member States, meeting at the Sixth Session of the AU Conference of Ministers in Charge of Drug Control under the theme, "**Drugs Kill, but Bad Policies Kill more: Scaling up Balanced and Integrated Responses to Drug Control in Africa**" at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 10 October 2014,

RECOGNISING that the social development programme of the AU Commission is based on a human-centred approach seeking to promote human rights and dignity, promote employment, eliminate poverty and improve access to social services, thus improving the quality of life of the African people, in particular the vulnerable and marginalized groups;

CONVINCED that the family is the fundamental unit of society and has multiple roles and functions, especially in Africa where it has been central, unique and indispensable, also in support of victims of substance abuse;

DETERMINED to contribute to AU Agenda 2063, a new continental socio-economic vision that would promote wider inclusive human development and social protection for all, including individuals and their families who are victim of substance abuse and drug trafficking;

ENCOURAGING cooperation at all levels and sharing of experiences and best practices among countries and regions on drug control strategies and programmes, including the implementation of the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013-2017);

WE HEREBY:

1. **RECOMMIT OURSELVES** to the acceleration of the implementation of the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013-2017);
2. **COMMIT** to undertake policy and legal reforms to focus on a balanced and coordinated, holistic and multi-sectorial approach to drug control and adequately address drug use and drug trafficking in all its forms, including reducing harm associated with drug use and expanding health and social services for those with problematic use and their families;
3. **URGE** Member States to establish and strengthen implementation and coordination mechanisms and structures for drug control, including the appointment of focal points for drug control (institutions and focal persons)
4. **ALSO URGE** Member States and RECs to improve research and data collection capacities at national and regional levels to be used for the development and revision of national drug control strategies;

5. **RECOMMEND** that drug control be raised to the same level of the HIV response at national and regional levels and to learn from coordinated efforts of the HIV response;
6. **FURTHER RECOMMEND** that Member States consider to dedicate and ring-fence a percentage of annual national budgets towards drug control and to mainstream drug control into national policies and development plans to leverage national financial resource allocation;
7. **REQUEST** Member States to build capacity for more effective border control, including investment in port and marine assets, as well as the use of INTERPOL databases, and to enhance inter-agency cooperation and coordination between and among Member States;
8. **ALSO REQUEST** the Commission to facilitate consultations and engagements towards a Common Position for the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Drug Control; and **FURTHER REQUEST** the Commission to conduct independent studies of the nexus of drug trafficking and organised crime and its impact on peace and security, public health and social development in all regions of Africa;
9. **WELCOME** the development of the African Union Agenda 2063 as it will provide the opportunity for Member States to collectively advocate for political and fiscal space for intensified social policy interventions in Member States.