

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UMOJA WA AFRIKA



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**6TH MID-YEAR COORDINATION MEETING BETWEEN THE
AFRICAN UNION,
THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES AND THE
REGIONAL MECHANISMS
21ST JULY 2024, ACCRA, GHANA**

MYCM/AU/Decl(VI)

DECLARATION

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WE, the Heads of State and Government, representing the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union and Chairpersons of the Eight (8) Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as Regional Mechanisms (RMs), meeting in Accra, Ghana on 21st July 2024, on the occasion of the Sixth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, chaired by H.E. Mohamed Cheikh El Ghazouani, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Chairperson of the African Union;

RECALLING the outcomes of the five previous Mid-Year Coordination Meetings, the latest of which declaration on 16 July 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya is contained in document MYCM/AU/ Decl.(V);

UNDERSCORING the need to promote cooperation in all fields of human endeavour in order to raise the standard of living of the African peoples, maintain and enhance economic stability, foster close and peaceful relations among Member States and contribute to the progress, development and economic integration of the Continent;

UNDERLINING the importance of the harmonization of national and regional policies in order to promote socio-economic development across the continent;

RECOGNIZING that the promotion of intra-African trade remains a fundamental factor for sustainable economic development, employment generation and effective integration of Africa into the global economy; and

REITERATING that the implementation of the Protocol on Relations between the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities charges the Union and the Communities with the responsibility to ensure that both the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities guarantee the realization of the continent's integration process in the most effective way possible, and that this integration process is hastened in order for Africa to tackle the challenges posed by globalization.

HEREBY DECLARE THAT WE:

1. **CONGRATULATE** the Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Mohamed Ould Cheikh Al-Ghazouani, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, for his efforts at promoting peace, security and human rights on the continent; and
2. **APPRECIATE** the prospects opened up through his active and constructive participation and his advocacy with international partners on the continent's priorities, particularly with regard to debt relief, sustainable global development and responses to socio-security challenges.

STATUS OF INTEGRATION

3. **TAKE NOTE** of the Report of the AU Commission on the Continental Integration of Africa and **FURTHER TAKE NOTE** of the Reports of the Chairpersons of the Regional Economic Communities on the status of Regional Integration as follows:
- i. **H.E. Mohammad Younis Menfi**, President of the Presidency Council of the State of Libya and current Chairperson of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU);
 - ii. **H.E. Mahamat Idriss Deby**, President of the Republic of Chad and current Chairperson of the Community for Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD);
 - iii. **H.E. Hakainde Hichilema**, President of the Republic of Zambia and current Chairperson of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA);
 - iv. **H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit**, President of the Republic of South Sudan and current Chairperson of the East African Community (EAC);
 - v. **H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo**, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and current Chairperson of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS);
 - vi. **H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and current Chairperson of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
 - vii. **H.E. Ismail Omar Guelleh**, President of the Republic of Djibouti and current Chairperson of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD); and
 - viii. **H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço**, President of the Republic of Angola and current Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

REPORTS BY HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AND CHAMPIONS HOLDING SPECIAL PORTFOLIOS

4. **TAKE NOTE** of the reports by Excellencies and Champions of Special Portfolios:
- i. H.E Dr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and current Chair of the Summit of the Eastern Africa Standby Force, and **ENDORSE** the recommendations contained therein.
 - ii. H.E Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and current Chair of the North African Regional Capability, and **ENDORSE** the recommendations contained therein.
 - iii. H.E Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Chair of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA NEPAD), and **ENDORSE** the recommendations contained therein.
 - iv. **H.E Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo**, President of the Republic of Ghana and AU Champion on AU Financial Institutions, and **ENDORSE** the recommendations contained in the two reports namely:
 - Establishment of the African Union Financial Institutions (AUFIs);

- and
- Scaling up Interoperability for Economic Integration: using mobile money to buy and sell across Africa.
- v. **H.E Denis Sassou Nguesso**, President of the Republic of Congo and Second Vice Chairperson of the Bureau of the Assembly, and **ENDORSE** the recommendations contained therein relating to the conclusions of the First International Conference on Afforestation and Reforestation (CIAR1); **APPROVE** the recommendations on a common African position contained in his report and further **ENDORSE** that the Report should be transmitted to the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79) for the consideration and adoption of a World Decade of Afforestation and Reforestation; and
- vi. **H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou**, AU Champion on the AfCFTA, and **ENDORSE** the recommendations contained therein.

REPORTS OF THE AU COMMISSION, ITS ORGANS AND PARTNERS ON THE STATUS OF INTEGRATION IN AFRICA

5. **CALL UPON** the AU Commission, RECs and RMs, in collaboration with UNECA and AfDB, to publish the Integration Report every two years, starting from 2025, on the basis of the new African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII);
6. **RECALL** the need to continue improving the level of integration within the RECs as well as at the continental level and **CALL UPON** Member States, the AU Commission, the RECs, the RMs and the AUDA-NEPAD to strengthen their collaboration towards the implementation of the African Integration Agenda;
7. **REQUEST** the AU Commission to continue advocating the promotion of inter-REC co-operation with a view to speeding up the African integration agenda and **CALL UPON** Member States to allocate adequate financial resources that will ensure the effective implementation of the integration agenda; and
8. **URGE** the AU Commission, in collaboration with UNECA, RECs and AU relevant institutions, to pursue the development of a single comprehensive and harmonized approach as well as a unique index of assessing African integration that leverages the strengths of existing indexes at the AU Commission (AMRII) and UNECA (ARII). The Unified Index should be aligned with the objectives of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (the Abuja Treaty) and Agenda 2063.

DIVISION OF LABOUR BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION, REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES/REGIONAL MECHANISMS AND MEMBER STATES

9. **TAKE NOTE** of the report by H.E Pierre Mbonjo Moukoko, Head of the Reform Implementation Unit of the AU Commission, and **ENDORSE** the recommendations contained therein; and
10. **REQUEST** the Coordination Committee (comprising the Chairperson of the AU

Commission, the Chief Executives of the RECs and AUDA-NEPAD) to transmit the finalized report on the Division of Labour to the Executive Council, in line with the established procedures, and for it to be submitted to the 38th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly for adoption in February 2025.

AU INTER-REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE (I-RECKE) ON EARLY WARNING

11. **WELCOME** the Annual Report on the Activities of the Inter-Regional Knowledge Exchange (I-RECKE) on Early Warning and Conflict Prevention;
12. **ENDORSE** the report of the Third Policy Session of the AU Inter-Regional Knowledge Exchange (I-RECKE) on Early Warning and Conflict Prevention and the activities of the I-RECKE; and **COMMEND** the AU Commission and RECs/RMs, as members of the I-RECKE platform, for the significant progress made in developing a comprehensive joint strategy to strengthen AU-RECs/RMs cooperation in the harmonization of efforts and amplification of impacts in the area of resource mobilization for regional and continental peace and security initiatives;
13. **UNDERScore** the critical role of the I-RECKE as a strategic platform to enhance the AU Continental Early Warning System; and, in this regard, **CALL UPON** Member States and partners to support I-RECKE activities to enhance coordination and cooperation among the RECs/RMs and with the Member States and the AU Commission to ensure regional integration in the peace and security domain;
14. **COMMEND** the established cooperation of the I-RECKE and the African Union Network of Think Tanks for Peace (AU NeTT4Peace); **WELCOME** the progress made by AUNeTT4Peace as a network of African think tanks bridging the theory-policy differential, as part of its vision of a peaceful, secure, and prosperous Africa and mission to provide a strategic interface between knowledge communities and the African Union for effective policy making and impactful implementation towards the Africa We Want; and **FURTHER ENCOURAGE** the role of the Network to address one of the AU's priorities of promoting a knowledge approach to AU peace, security and democracy action and bridging the gap between research, policy and practice; and
15. **REQUEST** the I-RECKE, as an intra-continental platform, to continue to intensify its efforts towards improving cross-regional best practices on early warning, conflict prevention, resilience and peacebuilding between the AU and RECs/RMs.

AUDA-NEPAD

16. **REAFFIRM** the central coordination role of the AU Commission and AUDA- NEPAD in relation to all priority regional and continental development activities in Africa, in accordance with its mandate as the development agency of the African Union;

17. **TAKE COGNIZANCE** of the Commission and AUDA-NEPAD's lead role in the evaluation report of the First Decade of the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the subsequent formulation and costing of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP); **ENCOURAGE** AU Member States, RECs, RMs and partners to adopt domestication and implementation instruments, allocate sufficient technical and financial resources, and collaborate closely with the AU Commission and AUDA-NEPAD to expedite the implementation of Agenda 2063; and **URGE** them to continue enhancing the capacities of RECs and Member States in scenario planning, foresight analysis, monitoring and reporting on Agenda 2063;
18. **TAKE NOTE** of the conceptualisation and development by the AU Commission and AUDA-NEPAD of the Africa Team Flagship initiative, in cooperation with AfCFTA, ACDC, APRM, PAP and RECs, as an AU Flagship Resource Mobilisation Programme to expedite resource mobilisation for a Pipeline of High-Impact Investment Programmes aimed at accelerating the implementation of the STYIP; and **REQUEST** the AU Commission and AUDA-NEPAD to ensure that the official launch of the Africa Team Programme takes place at the 38th Session of the Assembly of the African Union in February 2025;
19. **WELCOME** the efforts of the AU Commission and AUDA-NEPAD towards the development of the Agenda 2063 Dashboard to track progress on the implementation of Agenda 2063 by Member States at the Regional and Continental levels; **COMMEND** Member States which have made use of the Dashboard to report on the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan and **ENCOURAGE** all Member States to use the Dashboard to report and track progress on the implementation of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063; and
20. **URGE** Member States and RECs to support the WorldSkills Africa Desk initiative launched by the AU Commission and the AUDA-NEPAD in February 2024 as a flagship initiative of the African Union 2024 Theme of the Year on Education in order to provide African countries with a dedicated platform to improve skills development, build capacity and reimagine Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems across the continent.

CONTINENTAL KEY INITIATIVES OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AfDB)

21. **TAKE NOTE** of the Report by H.E Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB);
22. **COMMEND** the AfDB's efforts at championing and implementing continental initiatives as mandated by the AU Policy Organs to mobilize financing to drive the continent's economic transformation and integration agenda, including institutional support to the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities;
23. **ACKNOWLEDGE** the tremendous progress achieved across the AfDB's High 5s – Light up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Industrialize Africa, Integrate Africa and Improve the Quality of Life of the People of Africa – as a catalyst for the

implementation of Agenda 2063, and support towards the attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals;

24. **RECALL** decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 817(XXXV) on mobilizing financing for Africa's accelerated economic recovery, development and integration, and **WELCOME** the significant progress in the implementation of key initiatives including the Security-Indexed Investment Bond, the establishment of the African Financial Stability Mechanism and the re-channelling of IMF Special Drawing Rights to Africa through multilateral development institutions like the AfDB;
25. **FURTHER WELCOME** the AfDB's technical support to the club of 12 Heads of State and Government under the leadership of H.E. President Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo, towards the advocacy of "Green" GDP incorporating natural capital;
26. **CALL FOR** a substantial allocation to the 17th replenishment cycle of the African Development Fund in 2025 with a target of mobilizing \$25 billion to enable it to meet the growing needs of the continent; and
27. **URGE** the AfDB to present an update on the progress made towards the implementation of this declaration to the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly in February 2025.

APPRECIATION

28. **APPRECIATE** the efforts made by the Government of the Republic of Ghana towards the successful hosting of the Sixth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the African Union, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms.

Done in Accra, Ghana, 21st July 2024