

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UMOJA WA AFRIKA



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

UNIÓN AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: (251) 11 5517700 Fax: (251) 11 55182970

**7TH MID-YEAR COORDINATION MEETING BETWEEN
THE AFRICAN UNION, THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES
AND THE REGIONAL MECHANISMS
13TH July 2025,
Malabo, EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

MYCM/AU/Decl(VII)
Original: English

DECLARATION

DECLARATION

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 Malabo, city of Sipopo, Equatorial Guinea on 13th July 2025, on the occasion of the Seventh Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, chaired by **H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço**, President of the Republic of Angola and Chairperson of the African Union (AU);

RECALLING the outcomes of the six previous Mid-Year Coordination Meetings, the latest of which was held on the 21st of July 2024 in Accra, Ghana whose declaration is contained in document MYCM/AU/ Decl.(VI).

UNDERSCORING the need to foster deeper continental integration and collective prosperity, guided by the findings of the 2025 Africa Regional Integration Report, that was based on the Africa Synthetic Regional Integration Index (ASRII) Report.

RECOGNIZING that Africa's strongest integration performance lies in free movement of people, goods and services, and macroeconomic coordination.

CONCERNED by the continent's average integration performance as revealed by the findings of the 2025 Africa Regional Integration Report.

FURTHER CONCERNED by the slow progress in productive and infrastructural integration.

HEREBY DECLARE THAT WE:

1. **CONGRATULATE** the Chairperson of the African Union, **H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço**, President of the Republic of Angola, for his efforts at promoting peace, security and human rights on the continent.

STATUS OF INTEGRATION

2. **TAKE NOTE** of the Report of the AU Commission on the Continental Integration of Africa and **FURTHER TAKE NOTE** and **WELCOME** the Reports of the Chairpersons of the Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Mechanisms 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 Chairperson of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU);
- ii. **H.E. Mahamat Itno Deby**, President of the Republic of Chad and Chairperson of the Community for Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD);
- iii. **H.E. William Samoei Ruto**, President of the Republic of Kenya and Chairperson of the East African Community (EAC);
- iv. **H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye**, President of the Republic of Burundi and Chairperson of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

- v. **H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo**, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and Chairperson of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS);
 - vi. **H.E. Brig. Retired Dr. Julius Maada Bio**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
 - vii. **H.E. Ismail Omar Guelleh**, President of the Republic of Djibouti and Chairperson of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD); and
 - viii. **H.E. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa**, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).
 - ix. **H.E Abdel Fattah El-Sisi**, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Chairperson of the North African Regional Capability and **ENDORSE** the recommendations therein.
 - x. **H.E Hassan Sheikh Mohamud**, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Chairperson of Summit of the Eastern Africa Standby Force, and **ENDORSE** the recommendations contained therein.
3. **REAFFIRM** our commitment to the full implementation of the AfCFTA and the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA), leveraging on them to elevate trade integration beyond current levels;
 4. **REQUEST** the AUC, the RECs and RMs, to implement the recommendations of the 2025 Africa Regional Integration Reports.

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

5. **TAKE NOTE** of the reports by Excellencies and Champions of Special Portfolios:
 - i. **H.E Abdel Fattah El-Sisi**, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Chairperson of Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) Orientation Committee and **ENDORSE** the recommendations contained therein;
 - ii. **H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou**, Leader and Champion of the AfCFTA and former President of the Republic of Niger, and **ENDORSE** the recommendations therein

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

6. **WELCOME** the reports by the AUC Chairperson on regional and continental integration and noted progress made in the four pillars of integration, namely, political, economic, infrastructure and human development.

7. **NOTE** with concern the resurgence of protectionist policies and reductions in development aid, increased debt burdens, and limited fiscal space that limit Africa's capacity to fund transformative investments.
8. **FURTHER NOTE** limited digital transformation growth constrained by inadequate infrastructure, uneven digital access, weak regulatory frameworks, and limited digital skills; and
9. **CALL FOR** the following actions:
 - (i) **Accelerate Ratification and Implementation:** Urge Member States to swiftly ratify and implement key AU legal instruments, especially those concerning free movement, governance, education, and justice
 - (ii) **Invest in Human Capital:** Prioritize regional investment in education, health, research, and social inclusion systems to align with Agenda 2063 and foster inclusive growth.
 - (iii) **Strengthen Coordination:** Urge AUC to enhance coordination and ownership of continental frameworks among RECs and Member States to ensure effective implementation and monitoring.
 - (iv) **Promote Digital Transformation:** Address infrastructure gaps, harmonize digital regulations, and invest in digital skills to unlock the full potential of Africa's digital economy.
 - (v) **Mobilize Sustainable Resources:** Develop innovative resource mobilization strategies to reduce reliance on external aid and secure sustainable financing for integration initiatives through the allocation in the regular budget of AUC, RECs and RMs as provided for in article 22 of the 2020 Protocol on the relations between AU and RECs.
 - (vi) Expedite the implementation of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Programme (CAADP) Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035 with a view to building resilient agrifood systems in Africa that is resilient to climate change as well as other shocks, and adaptive to technological advancement.
10. **REQUEST** the AU Commission and partners to publish an annual progress report using ASRII metrics, with mid-year review sessions to chart corrective actions.

UNFOLDING GEOPOLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICA-AND SADC PERSPECTIVE

11. **WELCOME** the report and findings of SADC Case Study and **ENDORSE** the recommendations contained therein.
12. **NOTE** with concern the tariffs being levied by the United States of America on goods produced and exported from Africa.
13. **CALL UPON** African Union Member States to harness the opportunities provided by the AfCFTA and to trade more amongst themselves.

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

14. **TAKE NOTE** of the convening of the Fourth Policy Session of the African Union Inter-Regional Knowledge Exchange (I-RECKE) on Early Warning and Conflict Prevention, held on the margins of the 7th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting under the theme “*Structural Conflict Prevention: Continental and Regional Lessons*”, and **WELCOME** the report of the Session;
15. **RECOGNISE** the importance of structural conflict prevention and the need to operationalise the early warning-to-early action continuum across the AU and RECs/RMs; in this regard, **COMMEND** the I-RECKE platform for advancing joint approaches, sharing best practices, and fostering strategic coherence in support of Member States’ efforts to address root causes of conflict, particularly within the frameworks of Agenda 2063 and the AU Master Roadmap on Silencing the Guns;
16. **COMMEND** the development of the Joint AU-RECs/RMs Resource Mobilisation Strategy on Governance, Peace and Security as a direct follow-up to the outcomes of the Third I-RECKE Policy Session; and **RECOGNISE** its strategic value in advancing a coordinated and sustainable approach to address governance, peace and security priorities across the continent. The Strategy reflects the collective commitment of the African Union and the RECs/RMs to enhance self-reliance, foster complementary financing, and strengthen the long-term sustainability of interventions, in response to the increasingly complex and interlinked challenges that require unified and collaborative action at all levels;
17. **REQUEST** the Commission, in collaboration with RECs/RMs and relevant stakeholders, to accelerate the implementation of the outcomes of the Fourth Policy Session, including the operationalisation of the Joint Resource Mobilisation Strategy, and to submit a progress report at the 8th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting.

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

18. **TAKE NOTE** of the report by H.E. Professor Pierre Mbonjo Moukoko, Head of the Reform Implementation Unit of the AU Commission and the recommendations contained therein;
19. **WELCOME** the progress achieved in operationalizing the Division of Labour framework, particularly the finalization and circulation of the first phase covering Political Affairs, Peace and Security, and Trade. We further encourage the immediate implementation of these three adopted sectors and reaffirm our collective commitment to a harmonized, efficient, and subsidiarity-based governance architecture in support of Agenda 2063;

20. **ENDORSE** the convening of the Special Summit on AU Reforms in November 2025 which will, inter alia, finalize and adopt the remaining five sectors of the Division of Labour framework, following the appropriate channels of the African Union Organs, including the PRC and Executive Council;
21. **URGE** all relevant AU Organs, RECs/RMs, and Member States to reaffirm their political commitment and expedite the submission of outstanding inputs by August 2025.

REPORT ON THEME OF THE YEAR

22. **TAKE NOTE**, with appreciation, the report presented by H.E. Selma Malika Haddadi Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission, and **ENDORSE** the recommendations contained therein;
23. **WELCOME** the progress achieved in the systemwide coordination and mainstreaming of the theme throughout the AU system, in the institutional development of the mandated mechanisms, in efforts aimed setting the agenda, raising awareness and advocacy both in multilateral and multistakeholder forums, as well as in forging transcontinental partnerships especially with the Caribbean Community.
24. **CALL FOR** the mobilisation of additional resources, including through voluntary contributions, for the full implementation of Assembly mandated tasks and required outcomes related to the Theme of the Year 2025, which should be extended to a Decade (2026-2036) of Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations.

AUDA-NEPAD

25. **TAKE NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the report of H.E Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Chair of Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) on the Role of AUDA-NEPAD in Deepening Continental and Regional Integration in Cooperation with the RECs, and **ENDORSE** the recommendations contained therein.
26. **REAFFIRM** the central coordination role of AUDA-NEPAD in relation to all priority regional and continental development activities in Africa, in accordance with its mandate as the premier development agency of the African Union.
27. **URGE** Member States, RECs, and partners to strengthen institutional capacities in scenario planning, foresight analysis, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge capitalisation, and communication and advocacy to accelerate implementation of the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan (STYIP).
28. **CALL UPON** AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to fast-track the domestication, implementation and reporting process of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) of Agenda

2063 at both regional and national levels, especially through strengthening the capacities of Member States and RECs, and to deploy key instruments—such as the STYIP Indicator Handbook, M&E Framework, Agenda 2063 Dashboard, and Communication, Advocacy and Branding Strategy—to accelerate implementation and track progress.

29. **URGE** Member States, RECs, and partners to utilise the Agenda 2063 Digital Platform as the central continental repository for coordinated reporting, knowledge dissemination, and tracking of progress on the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan.
30. **CONGRATULATE** AUDA-NEPAD for conceptualizing and developing, jointly with the AUC and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Africa Team Resource Mobilisation Campaign, launched at the 5th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, in July 2023, in partnership with AfCFTA, Africa CDC, APRM and PAP, which serves as a unified framework for alignment, delivery, and resource mobilisation for a pipeline of High-Impact Investment Programmes aimed at accelerating the implementation of the STYIP; and **WELCOME** the endorsement by the 7th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the Africa Team Programme Document, marking the commencement of the operational phase of the Campaign, with implementation to be undertaken in cooperation with the RECs and with the support of development partners, Multilateral Development Banks, and the private sector.

APPRECIATION

31. **APPRECIATE** the efforts made by the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea towards the successful hosting of the Seventh Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the African Union, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms.

Done on 13th July 2025 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea