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**Sixth Conference of African Ministers  
In Charge of Integration (COMAI VI)  
18-19 April 2013  
Balaclava Fort  
Mauritius**

**COMAI/ MIN/RPT (VI)**

# **REPORT**

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the invitation of the Mauritian Authorities, the Sixth Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Integration took place on April 18-19, 2013, in InterContinental Hotel, at Balaclava Fort, in Mauritius.

## II. ATTENDANCE

2. The following Member States were present: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Uganda, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Sahrawi Republic, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe
3. The following RECs were present: the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community for Western Africa States (ECOWAS) and Community of Sahel and Saharan States (CEN-SAD).
4. Also represented at the meeting were the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.

## III. OPENING CEREMONY

### ***Speech by H.E Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission***

5. On behalf of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the AUC, welcomed Ministers and their delegates to the Conference. He began by expressing the warm greetings of the AUC Chairperson, who due to circumstances beyond her control was unable to attend the Conference. He thanked His Excellency Rajkeswur Purryag, President of the Republic of Mauritius, the Government and the People of Mauritius, for graciously accepting to host the Conference the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and excellent arrangements made for its success.
6. He also took the opportunity to convey the deepest condolences of the AU Commission to the people of Mauritius and families affected by the recent floods. He commended the country, stating that by hosting the Conference the Government of Mauritius clearly demonstrated her resilience in the face of diversity and the realization of the AU vision of an 'integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa'. He also acknowledged the presence of Honourable Dr Ahmed Rashid Beebeejaun, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Public Utilities of the Republic of Mauritius, and

Honourable Dr Arvin Boolell, GOSK, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

7. He drew the attention of the Conference to the OAU/AU 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on the theme 'Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance'. He explained that it is an opportunity to reflect on the road traveled celebrate the successes and contribution of the founders, but also take stock of the present, begin preparations for a long term perspective – namely, 'Africa in 2063'. He explained that the commemoration is to be celebrated in two forms, the May 25<sup>th</sup> celebrations and yearlong celebrations. To this end, he said that the theme of this year's Conference the '**Governance of Africa's Integration**', is extremely pertinent, timely and will serve as an important contribution to discussions on the future growth and development of the continent. He underscored the crucial role of integration for Africa to enable it to compete in a highly competitive and crowded global economy and sustain its current growth performance.
8. He explained that the purpose of the Conference is to review progress made in implementing Africa's integration agenda since COMAI V, convened in Nairobi, Kenya, in September 2011. To this end, two flagship monitoring reports by the Commission on the 'Status of Integration in Africa' and the 'Report on the Implementation of Recommendations from COMAI V' would be presented to and considered by the Sixth Conference. He urged the meeting to assist the Commission by ensuring its monitoring procedures for integration are robust and its equipped with adequate tools, which includes establishing an integration observatory to aide monitoring and evaluation efforts.. In updating the Conference on the efforts to form the 2<sup>nd</sup> bloc of combined RECs in emulation of the EAC-COMESA-SADC Tripartite Arrangement, he informed that Chief Executives of ECOWAS, ECCAS and CEN-SAD had endorsed the initiative and that reflections and consultations on the way forward were underway. In this regard, the first consultation meeting took place with Experts from the RECs and the concerned Member States during the period of COMAI VI.
9. He also reminded the Conference that the Commission was working hard to implement the recommendation of the previous Conference and endorsed by the 18<sup>th</sup> AU Summit, to devote one of its Ordinary sessions to development and integration. In this regard, he stressed that regional integration is an imperative for the continent's transformation, survival in a changing and dynamic global context. It should, therefore, be accompanied by industrialization, as emphasized by Ministers at the recently concluded Sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, which took place in Abidjan from 21-26 March 2013. In concluding, he also said, effective integration requires incorporating the voice of African peoples in key policy and decision-making processes, to ensure the process is citizen rather than institutionally driven.

***Speech by Hon. Arvin Boolell, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius***

10. On behalf of the Government of Mauritius, Hon. Arvin Boolell, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius, welcomed Ministers and their delegates to the Conference.
11. He stated that the African Continent is in the middle of a process of massive transformation and is home to seven of the world's ten fastest growing economies with a growth rate of 6% in 2012, where the rest of the world is grappling with an embedded financial crisis and uncertainty. However, he mentioned that recovery of some African countries from the financial and economic crises is slow and most of Africa's economies have been adversely affected by the global recession, despite the initial optimism that the global financial system would have few spillover effects on the continent.
12. He stressed the importance that Mauritius give to regional integration and reaffirmed its Commitment towards achieving the objectives of the Abuja Treaty. He particularly noted the success of the EAC, COMESA and SADC Tripartite Arrangement which is a major boost to the continental integration agenda. In this respect, he recalled the importance of building the adequate infrastructure needed to accelerate the implementation of the integration process.
13. He, therefore, pointed out that the theme of the Conference was timely and invited the delegations to thoroughly reflect on the actions to be taken to accelerate the integration process, through effective implementation of various initiatives, decisions and legal instruments adopted to that effect, such as, APRM.
14. In conclusion, he invited the Conference to propose any necessary actions to be taken to achieve our integration and development common goals.

***Welcome address by Dr. Hon. Ahmed Rashid Beebeejaun, GCSK, FRCP, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities of the Republic of Mauritius***

15. In his opening remarks, H.E. Dr. Hon. Ahmed Rashid Beebeejaun indicated that the hosting of COMAI VI was a testimony to the commitment that his country had to both regional and continental integration processes. In the same connection, he also noted that the Conference was part of the events that his country was organizing to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OAU/AU and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).
16. He reminded participants that the early independence leaders recognized that without economic emancipation, political independence would be meaningless. This

is because people's legitimate aspirations for a prosperous, peaceful and better life would not be met. He observed that this is why they adopted in 1981 the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty in 1991 on the establishment of the African Economic Community (AEC), as well as the Constitutive Act of the African Union in 2000. However, he noted that the laudable ambitions that the leaders had were not equally matched by actions and deliverables.

17. On a positive note, he observed that Africa was a newly emerging continent, which is attracting a huge number of investors both within and outside the continent, which need to be harnessed to sustain the encouraging high growth trajectory. Part of the positive figures that we are experiencing is arising from sound economic management and improved political governance. Furthermore, there are many investment, trade and business opportunities as well as those presented by a growing middle class, estimated at about 500 million. However, in order to maximize the opportunities presented, there was urgent need to address the obstacles to low level of intra-African trade, through enhanced regional and continental integration.
18. He lauded the efforts of the COMESA-EAC-SADC FTA, which can play a positive role in ensuring that a Continental FTA is established by the indicative date of 2017. He informed the meeting that the Government of Mauritius has done a lot to improve the business environment and facilitation of free movement of people through the liberalization of entry visa regime. In conclusion, the Deputy Prime Minister indicated that as a way of promoting human resource capacity development in the continent, the Government of Mauritius has decided to offer 50 scholarships to African students to study in various disciplines in certain institutions of higher learning. He also underscored the need to allocate adequate financial resources for the implementation of regional and continental integration agenda.

#### **IV. COMPOSITION OF THE BUREAU**

19. The meeting constituted its Bureau as follows:

i. Chairman:	Mauritius (Eastern Africa)
ii. First Vice-Chairman:	Zimbabwe (Southern Africa)
iii. Second Vice-Chairman:	Benin (West Africa)
iv. Third Vice-Chairman:	Tunisia (Northern Africa)
v. Rapporteur:	Congo (Central Africa)

#### **V. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

20. The meeting adopted the following Agenda:

- i. Opening Ceremony;
- ii. Election of the Bureau;

- iii. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work;
- iv. Presentation by the Chairperson of the AU Model;
- v. Activity Report of the Chairperson of COMAI V;
- vi. Overview on the status of Integration in Africa and implementation of the COMAI V recommendations;
- vii. Panel Discussions on the theme of the Conference:
  - *Sub-theme 1: How to deepen the interest of African leaders in the integration process?*
  - *Sub-theme 2: Impact of Globalization on the Governance of Integration in Africa.*
  - *Sub-theme 3: Pan Africanism and Integration.*
- viii. Consideration of the recommendations of the Experts Meeting;
- ix. Presentation on the conclusions of the Panel discussions;
- x. Any Other Business;
- xi. Consideration and Adoption of the Ministerial Report;
- xii. Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Ministerial Declaration;
- xiii. Press Communique;
- xiv. Date and Venue of the Next Conference; and
- xv. Closing Ceremony.

## VI. PROCEEDINGS

### a) Presentation by the Chairperson of the AU Model

21. Mr. Ghanish kumar Jwaheer presented the recommendations of the Conference on the Model African Union 2013. In his presentation, he expressed the voice of the Mauritian youth. He informed the Conference that, at least 50 delegations, each representing a country of the AU, discussed and made proposals on the theme of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance, in the framework of celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OAU/AU. He mentioned that the Conference recommended the following:
- Put in place a new system of Governance based on democracy;
  - Facilitate intra-African trade;
  - Encourage cultural exchanges between African countries using festivals, sport events;
  - Fight corruption and its vicious tendency to impede on progress of a remarkable transition;
  - Need to diversify the education curriculum;
  - Promote industrial development to support the integration process; and
  - Promote women's right;

### b) Activity Report of the Chairperson of COMAI V

22. The Activity Report of the Outgoing Chairman of COMAI V, Honourable Mr. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya, Minister of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 of Kenya, was presented by Hon Maadhi Juma Maalim Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tanzania. In his presentation, he recalled all the activities carried out by the Member States, the AUC and the RECs as well as by the Stakeholders in conformity with the recommendations of the Fifth Session of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Integration. He also recalled the status of integration of the continent and urged the Member States as well as all stakeholders to effectively implement the recommendations, decisions and legal instruments pertaining to the integration process in order to accelerate the implementation of the Abuja Treaty.

**c) Overview on the status of Integration in Africa and implementation of the COMAI V recommendations**

23. This item was presented by the African Union Commission. The presentation highlighted the status of regional integration in Africa and the progress in implementing recommendations from the Fifth Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Integration, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya on 8-9 September 2011. The presentation outlined the progress made in the implementation of the Abuja Treaty by each REC and the stages reached. It was mentioned that RECs are moving towards implementing the Abuja Treaty with different rhythms. EAC is the most advanced Community having launched its Common Market in 2010. COMESA launched its Customs Union in June 2009. ECOWAS and SADC have made progress in building their FTAs and are planning to launch their Customs Union in 2015 and 2013, respectively. ECCAS have launched its FTA in 2004 but is facing enormous challenges in its implementing. UMA, CEN-SAD and IGAD are moving slowly and still in the stage of cooperation amongst their Member States. He presented the progress made in various sectors including, Trade, Agriculture, Energy, Infrastructure, Macro-economic Convergence, Health, etc... Regarding the free movement of people, he informed the meeting that enormous results have been achieved in certain regions such as ECOWAS, EAC and AMU; on the other hand some RECs namely: SADC, ECCAS, CEN-SAD, IGAD and COMESA are still facing challenges to ease movement of persons.
24. The meeting was informed that although the majority of the recommendations were reported as under implementation, a number of them were considered too broad in scope and non-specific in nature, lacking clear indicators and timelines. Further, respondents failed to provide sufficient concrete examples of AU and REC decisions, protocols, programmes and projects under domestication, implementation and to which resources had been allocated. Rather, general responses on some issues were provided.
25. It was stated that despite the progress achieved in all sectors, Africa is still faced with several difficulties, among others, difficulties stemming from harmonization of policies; inadequate political will to implement integration decisions; apprehension

on the part of States to cede some of their competencies; the absence/ inefficiency of compensation mechanisms for the temporary losers in the integration process; the inadequacy of the physical integration infrastructure; lack of ownership of regional projects at the grassroots level; lack of ownership of regional programmes at national level; inadequate financial resources; and inadequate human resources.

26. In order to overcome existing constraints, some initiatives, taken by the African Union Commission, such as the Minimum Integration Programme (MIP), the establishment of the three financial institutions provided for in Article 19 of the AU Constitutive Act, the harmonization of statistics through the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and its related Strategy, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) as well as the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), were cited.
27. Finally, it was recommended, among others, that (i) the role of RECs in monitoring and evaluating the integration process should be strengthened; (ii) Member States should prioritize the implementation of Regional programmes at national level and need more assistance in implementing regional policy frameworks through increased advocacy and technical assistance at the national level; (iii) the ongoing work on the AU alternative sources of financing should be supported by the RECs and Member States in order to finance integration programmes especially those contained in the Minimum Integration programme (MIP) and translate them into reality; and (iv) RECs, which have not done so, should also start reflecting on putting in place their own alternative sources of financing.

#### **d) PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE**

##### **Sub-theme 1: How to deepen the interest of African leaders in the integration process?**

##### **Presentation by Mr. Francis Ndengwe, African Advisory Board**

28. In his presentation, Prof. Ndengwe underlined the need to learn lessons from history and contemporary Africa, including slavery, colonialism, neocolonialism and apartheid. He observed that the African continent has the highest diversity index, when it comes to languages spoken per country, a situation that complicated communication and integration.
29. He raised serious concerns regarding lack of monetary independence, and use of monetary weapon to control the affairs of the continent. He underscored the need by Member States to cede sovereignty with a view to moving forward the integration process. In order to succeed in the integration process, he observed that ideas, ideals, values and trust were more important than geographical proximity. He also introduced the concept of *Triangle of Invincibility*, where he mentioned three elements including: military, money and law, as pillars of sovereignty.



***Discussant: S.E. M Thomas Pale, Minister in Charge of Regional Cooperation, Burkina Faso***

30. The Minister observed that the challenge of lack of ownership of integration, should go beyond, political leadership and be extended to other stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society, youth and women. In particular, integration needed to be people-centered. Furthermore, achieving the regional and continental integration objectives and goals as stipulated in the Abuja Treaty, has to benefit from political will in order to succeed. To achieve this, there is need to sensitize the population on matters of integration.
31. Furthermore, he indicated that, to enhance the invincibility of Africans, there is need to counter the marginalization of Africans by involving them in decision-making through confidence-building. He observed that progress has been made, but there was need for the prioritization of integration programmes.

***Moderator: Hon. Nassirou Bako-Arifari, Minister of Foreign Affairs and African Integration and Francophonie and the Benenise in the Diaspora, Benin***

32. The moderator began by recalling the presentation of the Presenter. He observed that the key parameters of focus include: issues of language diversity; monetary and population dynamics. He noted that issue of ethnic and language diversity should be looked at as asset. He laid particular concern on the issue concerning the reluctance of Member States to cede sovereignty. It was emphasized that there was need to introduce a lingua franca for purposes of easing communication, across the continent.
33. He noted that to ensure invisibility, the presenter needed to extend the three elements mentioned in the triangle: namely, law, military, money, to include technology, making it a square. He observed that Member States are reluctant to cede sovereignty to supra-national institutions. He alluded to the fact that United Nations has put in place binding conventions which have left African countries vulnerable and weak.

***Discussant: Hon. Peter Sinon, Minister for Natural Resources and Industry, Seychelles***

34. The Minister noted that African countries continue to face serious challenges due to the nature of structural adjustment programmes. He observed that Africa's diversity is a valuable asset that can be used to support regional and continental integration process. He noted that there is need to break off from inferiority complex. He underscored the need to use the forthcoming OAU/AU Jubilee Celebrations as an opportunity to look back at what has been achieved during the last 50 years, with a view to spearheading Africa's integration process and promoting its prosperity.

**Discussion**

35. It was noted that there is need to take into account the Abuja Treaty, while also focusing the three pillars, highlighted by the Presenter namely: law, military and money. He also noted the need to emphasize both military and monetary aspects. He also suggested that there was need to review the Abuja Treaty, to take into account the challenges facing Africa's integration process today.

### **Recommendations**

36. The Conference recommended the following:
- i. Urge the Member States to transform the linguistic, ethnic and cultural diversities into a dynamic opportunity to accelerate the integration process;
  - ii. Invite member States to work towards building mutual confidence and trust in order deepen the integration process;
  - iii. Invite also Member States to strengthen the cohesion and solidarity between themselves to enable them facing the external threats;

### **Sub-theme 2: Impact of Globalization on the Governance of Integration in Africa.**

37. This session was moderated by **Honorable Mr. Asumani kiyingi, Minister of State for foreign Affairs, Regional integration Cooperation of Uganda.**

### **Presentation by Ambassador Vijay Makhan**

38. In his presentation, Ambassador Makhan noted that integration and sovereignty are interdependent and not mutually exclusive. He observed that faced to globalization and in the framework of the trade negotiations with the European Union and at the level of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Africa was not speaking with one voice in front of partners. This has resulted in weakening the Member states positions and negotiating with the EU in different blocs. The Doha development round was promising but results are still awaited. He noted that despite the regional and continental programmes which have been developed, the progress in their implementation is still slow.
39. In concluding, he stressed the need to empower the continental institutions in order to enable them play their mandate and coordinate the various initiatives and come up with common positions. He underlined the need for African States to enhance their cooperation among themselves without losing sight of the globalization phenomenon in order to ensure that maximum benefits are derived from the various partnerships with the rest of the world, with particular emphasis on the benefits of Intra-African cooperation.

**Discussant: H.E Mr. Demba Traore, Minister of Integration and Malians in the Diaspora, Mali**

In response to the presentation, the discussant underlined the need for Africa to shape its integration and address its security challenges by pooling the resources together. He indicated that time has come to all the Member States to take concrete measures and steps towards effective integration of the continent, which possesses all needed potentials for its integration.

He recalled the political will, which had been several times expressed by African Leaders, is a reality and that what is needed today is to have another reading of our sovereignties which instead of constituting an obstacle to our integration should rather cement the latter if each Member States accepts to pool them together for the benefit of the whole Continent and its integration.

**Discussant: Honorable Maadhi Juma Malim, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tanzania.**

In reaction to the presentation, the discussant, while having no serious objections on the presentation, would have preferred that the presenter focused more on the definition of “globalization” and related it more significantly to the governance of integration. He underlined the fact that Africa, with its potentials and resources as well as a high sense of solidarity and complementarity of its Member States, should be able to integrate and be an active and indispensable actor of the globalization process. He indicated that all one needs is to rethink our approach to integration to rapidly achieve the goals set by our nations for development and integration.

**Discussions**

40. During the discussion that ensued, the Conference appreciated the quality of the presentation and made several observations. It was observed that Africa has all the necessary legal instruments needed to succeed in its integration process. However, it was recognized that the process of integration is complicated but necessary, in light of the challenges of globalization.
41. In this regard, the Conference pointed out that there is need for common policy convergence in key sectoral issues. The Conference stressed upon the need to focus more on the achievements that have been registered so far in integration within the regions and take advantage of the opportunities offered by the globalization.
42. Finally, the Conference emphasized the importance of addressing the lack of financial resources critical to the success of the integration process. In this regard, the Conference stressed the need for the Member States to urgently adopt innovative sources of financing.

**Recommendations**

43. The Conference recommended the following:
  - i. Need for Member States to empower the regional and Continental institutions in order to enable them play their role in coordinating and accelerating the integration process;
  - ii. Need for Member States to develop common convergence policies in key sectoral integration areas;
  - iii. Urge member States to enhance their cooperation taking into account the globalization phenomenon in order to derive maximum benefits from the various partnerships.

### **Sub-theme 3: Pan Africanism and Integration**

#### **Presentation by Dr. Mathole Motshekga**

44. In his presentation Dr. Motshekga recalled the early emergence of Pan-Africanism in the early 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, amongst the African diaspora in the Americas, Europe and the Caribbean. Formally coming into being at the first Pan-African Congress in London on 1900. The Pan-African vision of the 1930s and 1940s and espoused during the Fifth pan-African Congress held in Manchester in 1945 found expression in the formation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963. The OAU was formed to speed up decolonization and unification of African States.
45. He stated that the emergence of a new Pan-Africanism has already had its principles shaped by the first wave of the movement and as such should not attempt to reinvent the wheel. In subsequent aspects of the presentation he highlighted those key values and principles underpinning Pan-Africanism. He demonstrated how those values and principles informed the national liberation struggles in Africa to dismantle regimes such as apartheid and pursue reconciliation, reconstruction and development.
46. He emphasized that the dehumanization of blacks and Africans in particular the world over made the recovery of the Africa a necessity for humanity as a whole. Consequently, from inception the struggle of African peoples has been non-racial and directed against colonial and apartheid system, not the colour of the oppressors. He underscored that early Pan-African and renascent ideas regarding the emergence and renaissance of the continent and its people first found practical application during the Harlem renaissance in the United States, the latter of which informed the founders of African Nations such as Nnamdi Asikiwe of Nigeria and, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Nelson Mandela of South Africa.

47. He underscored that Africa's cultural diversity is and should continue to be its strength in a new Pan-African movement rather than its undoing. Further, reviving the incorporation of African heritage, languages and knowledge systems into education curricular and national life would go a long way to foster social cohesion, inclusiveness and serve as a key aspect of socio-economic integration. Although slavery had been long and barbaric it had not completely deprived the people of African descent from identity and African national consciousness which influenced both national and religious life. It produced slogans such as 'Africa for Africans' and the 'Back to Africa' campaign. He concluded by stating that the Charter on African Cultural Renaissance and Languages be ratified by all Member States so as to serve as the basis for the full revival and promotion of Africa's socio-cultural heritage and knowledge systems as part of the continent's new awakening, new Pan-Africanism and transformation agenda.

**Discussant: Hon. Thomas Kaydor Junior, Minister, Liberia**

48. In response to the presentation the discussant emphasized the critical role played by the Republic of Liberia in the formation of the OAU and the creation of the ECOWAS. He observed that Africa had failed to give concrete materialization to the concept of Pan-Africanism beyond decolonization and liberation from regimes such as apartheid. There was, therefore, need to give practical expression to the new wave of Pan-Africanism through practical measures to stimulate economic development and growth. These include, developing an African passport in emulation of the ECOWAS and EAC experience, a continentally recognized driving license and incorporation of African languages and heritages in education curricular. All of which will help to further integration and help uphold peace and stability within the continent, by furthering a sense of Africaness.

**Discussant: H.E. Erastus J.O. Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission**

49. The discussant expressed his pleasure at the fact that the presentation addressed the origins of early Pan-Africanism, the issues that informed the original movement and even the creation of the OAU. Namely, the fight against slavery, colonialism and the promotion of self-emancipation. However, he observed that the presentation needed to show why the spirit of Pan-Africanism is not burning as brightly as in the early 1900 or 1960s. Periods which witnessed unprecedented waves of reverse migration back to the continent, unlike today. Consequent, he expressed the need to look at how to reposition Pan-Africanism today, especially in the context of Africa's renaissance. The fact that the concept is the theme of the OAU/AU anniversary demonstrates the feeling of African leaders that the movement is not burning as strong as before.
50. He stressed that early liberation movements were financed by Africans. However, since independence nations have become protectionist, reinforcing arbitrary borders and restrictions and seeking resources to finance their development from external

actors. He underscored that the borders inherited from the colonialists are both false and imaginary. He observed that although colonialism has ended, neo-colonialism exists which is more subtle and sophisticated in its effects on the African economy and cultural heritage. A new Pan-Africanism should, therefore, arise to confront its effects. This requires equipping Africans and the continent with the necessary tools to safeguard its future. These include, teaching African history in schools and universities, promoting the use of African languages, and liberating the continent financially from a dependence on external resources.

51. To this end, he emphasized that African Governments must begin to apportion a share of their sovereign funds and domestic savings to financing the continent's development in critical areas such as infrastructure development, trade facilitation, statistics, science, technology and industrialization. Africans must claim back the narrative, its destiny and be able to craft and tell its own story to the outside world as it moves into its next 50 years. He concluded by stating that a new Pan-Africanism is needed to consolidate the continent's economic agenda and this will be the new benchmark and litmus test of success over the next 50 years.

### **Recommendations**

52. The Conference recommended the following:
  - i. Call upon the Member States to develop and promote a new form and spirit of Pan-Africanism to address neo-colonialism by incorporating practical measures to maximize the benefits of the continent and achieve economic emancipation, liberation and consolidate its economic transformation.
  - ii. Call upon the AUC to accelerate the issuance of the AU passport for African citizens, emulating the ECOWAS and EAC experiences;
  - iii. Request the AUC, in consultation with the RECs and Member States, to develop a continental driving license and motor vehicle insurance scheme, to be recognized and accepted in all African countries;
  - iv. Urge Member States to promote skilled labor mobility across the continent; and
  - v. Invite Member States, through the Conference of African Ministers of Education (COMEDAF), to include the teaching of African history, African languages and regional integration into educational curricular.

### **e) Consideration of the Report of the Meeting of Experts**

53. The Conference considered the Report of the Meeting of Experts.

**f) Presentation on the conclusions of the Panel discussions**

54. The Conference took note of the conclusions of the Panel discussions.

**VII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

55. Under this item no issue was raised.

**VIII. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

56. The Conference adopted its report with amendments.

**IX. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECLARATION**

57. The Conference considered and adopted its Declaration.

**X. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE**

58. The Minister of State for foreign Affairs, Regional integration Cooperation of Uganda, Honorable Mr. Asumani kiyingi, informed the Conference of the offer by his Government to host the Seventh Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Integration (COMAI VII). The Conference favourably welcomed this offer and expressed its gratitude to the Government of Uganda. The date of the next Conference will be determined through consultations and communicated to Member States by the AUC.

**XI. CLOSING CEREMONY**

59. In his closing remarks, Honorable Arvin Boolell, the Chair of the Conference stressed that accepting to host the Conference was the manifestation of the commitment of the Government and people of Mauritius to Africa's economic emancipation and development through, among others, the integration of its economies and peoples.

60. He expressed the gratitude of Mauritius to all delegations for honoring the invitation to take part in the Conference as well as for their frankness and openness during the discussions and that led to tangibles outcomes. He called upon Member States to associate all the stakeholders namely the Private Sector, Youth and Media with decision making process and seriously and effectively implementing the Conference recommendations for a fast and successful integration of the Continent.

**XII. VOTE OF THANKS**

61. Addressing the Conference, on behalf of all his colleagues as well as the Heads of Delegations and other participants, Honorable Nassirou Bako-Anfari, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and Beninese Diaspora, expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the authentic African hospitality accorded to all delegations as well as for the facilities put at their disposal and which highly contributed to fruitful proceedings and responsive outcomes of the Conference.

62. He assured the Mauritian Competent Authorities that the spirit of Balaclava will revamp the renewed willingness of all Member States for fostering the event of an integrated Africa.

**XIII. PRESS COMMUNIQUE**

63. A Press Communique, summarizing the main topics discussed by the Conference as well as the recommendations made, was delivered by the Rapporteur on behalf of the Conference.