



Reference :

BC/OLC/217/4761.11


The Commission of the African Union presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs/External Relations of all Member States of the African Union and has the honour to refer to *Decision EX.CL/AU/Dec. 661 (XIX)* on the Report of the Ministerial Panel on the Election of Members of the Commission in January 2012 of the Executive Council during its Nineteenth Ordinary Session in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June 2011.

The Commission wishes to recall that in the said Decision EX.CL/AU/Dec. 661 (XIX), the Executive Council adopted the *Modalities on the Election of Members of the Commission* which contains, among other things, timeframes for the submission of candidatures for the Office of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and the Commissioners and the finalization of the work by the regions and the Commission. It should be further recalled that the timeframes were adopted by the Executive Council bearing in mind that candidatures for the Office of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and the Commissioners are required to be circulated to Member States at least three (3) months before the election. The timeframes are as follows:

- “ 1. **Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson: Candidatures should be submitted to the Commission [in a sealed envelope to the Office of the Legal Counsel] on or before 15 September 2011.**
2. **Commissioners:**
 - (i) **Member States should submit candidatures to their respective regions on or before 15 August 2011;**
 - (ii) **The regional consultations should be finalized and the regions should submit their candidatures to the Commission [in a sealed envelope to the Office of the Legal Counsel] on or before 15 September 2011;**
 - (iii) **The Ministerial Panel assisted by the team of consultants should meet and finalise its work on or before 10 October 2011;**
 - (iv) **The Commission shall circulate the list of the candidatures received from the Panel to all Member States on or before 26 October 2011 in readiness for elections of Commissioners to be undertaken by the Executive Council in January 2012.”**

The Commission further wishes to bring to the attention of the esteemed Ministries that under paragraph 18 of the Modalities, **“each candidate for the position of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Commissioner shall be required to submit a curriculum vitae in the approved AU format together with a short write up on his/her vision and strategic approach for the position sought in at least two (2) working languages of the Union”**. The AU format for the CV is herewith attached. With regard to the short write up on the candidate’s vision and strategic approach, the AU Commission advises that it should not be more than **eight hundred (800) words**.

The Commission also attaches herewith the Executive Council decision, the *Report of the Ministerial Panel for the Election of Members of the Commission* and the *Modalities on the Election of Members of the Commission in January 2012* for ease of reference. It should be emphasized that in conformity with the modalities and the practice for past elections, each region is expected to determine its own modalities for short-listing at the regional level.

The Commission of the African Union avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs/External Relations of all Member States of the African Union the assurances of its highest consideration. 

Addis Ababa, 25 July 2011

**To: Ministries of Foreign Affairs/External Relations of all Member States
of the African Union**

**Permanent Missions of All Member States of the African Union
Addis Ababa**