



AFRICAN UNION SPECIALISED COMMITTEE (AU.STC. No.8) CAIRO

DECLARATION

We, Members of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service and Administration, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization (AU-STC No.8) meeting during this Fourth Ordinary Session on 31 August 2022 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.

REAFFIRMING the decisions of the First, Second and Third Ordinary Sessions of the AU- STC. No.8,

AWARE OF THE need for allocation of adequate resources for the AU-STC. No.8 to effectively execute its mandate,

COGNIZANT of the outcomes of the Extraordinary Session of the Bureau of the AU-STC. No.8 held at a Virtual Conference on 10 June 2020,

COMMEND the three Sub-Committees for effectively implementing their respective programmes under the auspices of the AU-STC No.8,

MINDFUL of the opportunity offered by urbanization and human settlements development as a transformative force for development, while noting the associated challenges of climate change, Covid 19 pandemic and other socio-economic crises impacting on service delivery, governance, and human settlements,

RECALLING the outcomes of the High-Level Meeting for review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda organized by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2022 in New York and the need to harness the transformative force of urbanization in Africa to achieve the African Agenda 2063 vision,

NOTING the success of the AU-STC.No.8 in championing the development of the Regional Framework for the New Urban Agenda in Africa, Celebration of the African Public Service Day (APSD), and the two Charters under the AU-STC. No8 mandate,

EXPRESS our profound gratitude and appreciation to the People and Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for its hospitality in hosting the Fourth Ordinary Session of the AU-STC.No.8 on Public Service and Administration, Local Governments, Urban Development and Decentralization,

EXPRESS our interests in Egypt's initiative Hayah Kareem (Decent Life) which aims to develop Egyptian rural areas and commend it as one of the initiatives that can serve as a role model which could be applied across the African continent.

EXPRESS our aspirations to convey the vision of local authorities towards climate change issues in the coming COP27 to be held in November at the city of Sharm El Sheikh so that the vision of Africa and local authorities is clear when presented during the summit.

SHOW appreciation towards Egypt’s hosting of the 1st African Summit on Solid Waste, which is one of the challenges that our continent faces. A conference to be held concerning issues of decentralization on the African arena, exchange of experiences and recognition of successes.

NOW THEREFORE, this Ordinary Session:

1. **Takes note** of the report of the AU-STC. No8 Secretariat on the activities implemented from 2019-2020,
2. **Commend** the Secretariat of the AU-STC No.8, the African Union Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (AUC-PAPS), for facilitating the smooth operations of the AU- STC.No.8,
3. **Further Commend** the out-going Bureau for effectively steering the work of the AU-STC.No.8 for the period 2019- 2020,

Elect the members of the Fourth Bureau of the AU-STC.No.8 as follows.

POSITION	COUNTRY	REGION	SECTOR
Chairperson	Vacant	North Africa	Public Service and Administration
1 st Vice Chair	Uganda	East Africa	Housing and Urban Development
2 nd Vice Chair	Congo	Central Africa	Public Service and Administration
3 rd Vice Chair	Ghana	Western Africa	Decentralization and Local Government
Rapporteur	Lesotho	Southern Africa	Housing and Urban Development

4. **Decide that Uganda** will assume the chair of the AU-STC No 8 Committee until the North Africa Region consults and elect a Member State from the region to take over as the substantive Chair.
5. **Further decide** that the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Vice Chairs of the AU-STC.No.8 Bureau will be the Chairs of the Public Service and Urban Development and Decentralization Sub-Committees respectively.
6. **Encourage** Member States to continue supporting the work of the AU-STC, No.8 through voluntary contributions and secondment of personnel to the Secretariat.
7. **Appreciate and Take Note** of the AU-STC.No.8 work plan for the period 2022-2024 and request the AUC in collaboration with key institutional partners to

effectively facilitate within available budget its implementation and to report progress regularly to the Bureau and Member States.

8. **Further Request** the AUC to expedite the operationalization of the High Council of Local Authorities (HCLA) through the implementation of Executive Council decision 993 of January 2018 and report to the Executive Council Session in June 2023. Entrust the AUC with the responsibility of initiating the process of signing the host agreement with the host country (Senegal) and to prepare the budget and structure of the HCLA Secretariat for consideration and adoption by the AU policy organs
9. **Request** the AUC-PAPS in collaboration with key institutional partners, including, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and UN-Habitat to make provision for the AU-STC No 8 in their overall resource mobilization strategies and to continue providing technical support.
10. **Request** the AUC-PAPS to hold the African Union Urban Forum biannually prior to the World Urban Forum and request the bureau of the AU-STC No8 to work on the operational matters in preparation for the World Urban Forum, **urge** the AUC to propose an appropriate theme, and further call on member States to volunteer hosting the inauguration of the first session of the African Union Urban Forum 2023 and call on the AUC to ensure communication is sent to all the member states on time and in all the AU working languages.
11. **Call** on Member States to constitute a high level national focal team for the AU-STC. No.8 in line with the AU-STC. No.8 Brazzaville Declaration.
12. **Further call** for the appointment of an African Union Head of State to Champion the course of Urbanization and Sustainable Human Settlement Development in Africa specifically, and the Work of the AU-STC No8 in general.
13. **Appeal** to Member States to volunteer to host the inaugural commemoration of the African Habitat Day in 2023.
14. **Further appeal** to Member States to join in the inaugural biannual celebration of the Continental Africa Day of Decentralization on 10th August.
15. **Decide** that the AU-STC No. 8 Sub-Committees, as a minimum, meet at Ministerial Level, once every two years.
16. **Request** the Chairperson of the AU-STC.No.8 to bring this Declaration to the attention of the African Union Policy Making Organs for consideration.
17. **Decide** to hold the Fifth Ordinary Session of AU-STC. No. 8 in 2024.

DONE IN CAIRO, EGYPT ON 31ST AUGUST 2022