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**Khartoum Declaration on AU-Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants**

**WE**, Ministers and other representatives of the following countries: Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, Sudan, South Sudan and Tunisia, meeting on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants in the Horn of Africa - Khartoum on 16th October 2014.

**TAKING NOTE** of the Report of the Senior Officials Meeting on AU Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa;

**RECALLING** the Executive Council Decision (EX.CL/276 614(IX)) on the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings Especially Women and Children which provides a framework for cooperation on migration and human trafficking and smuggling;

**FURTHER RECALLING** the Declaration adopted on 12 October 2013 at the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly following the Lampedusa incident, in which Member States resolved to intensify efforts to fight transnational organized crime in all its dimension, including human trafficking and smuggling of migrants;

**REAFFIRMING** the importance of migration, especially labour migration, in bringing significant contribution to the economic growth and human development;

**RECOGNIZING** the problems associated with irregular and forced migration especially human trafficking and smuggling through organized criminal networks that exacerbate human rights violations of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers;

**NOTING** with concern the variety of pull and push factors creating conducive environment for human trafficking and Smuggling, including conflicts, persecution, poverty, natural disasters and unemployment as well as unilateral economic sanctions and external debts that have negatively impacted on development;

**CONCERNED** by mounting evidence that a large number of such individuals are at serious risk of becoming victims of smuggling, trafficking and other human rights abuses while on the move;

**REITERATING** our strong condemnation of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, which constitute a serious threat to human dignity, human rights and development;

**EMPHASIZING** the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedom of all migrants, refugees and asylum seekers especially women and children;

**ENCOURAGING** Member States to build common understanding on the causes and consequences of irregular migration in the region in order to find durable and sustainable solutions to the challenges of human trafficking and smuggling;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that further actions should be taken according to national laws, regional agreements, and international standards to make progress in combating this phenomenon;

**EMPHASIZING** the importance of political will, dialogue and cooperation at national, regional and international levels to eliminate the exploitation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, prevent trafficking in persons as well as smuggling of migrants and strengthen the potential of regular and safe migration and migration for development.

**AGREE** to:

- (a) Undertaking measures to ratify and implement relevant international and regional instruments that address human trafficking, smuggling and Organized International Crime;
- (b) Addressing the social, economic, environmental, cultural, security and political factors that make people vulnerable to human trafficking and smuggling such as poverty, unemployment, social exclusion and marginalization, humanitarian emergencies as well as demands and policies that foster exploitation in destination countries;
- (c) Mainstreaming the prevention of human trafficking and smuggling into broader policies and programs towards economic and social development, human rights, the rule of law and education;
- (d) Developing and strengthening the capacity of law enforcement at origin, transit and destination countries through training and technical support to prosecute human traffickers and human smugglers while protecting victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants who have been victims of other human rights abuses;
- (e) Developing or strengthening processes for the identification of victims of human trafficking and smuggling and providing specialized assistance and services for the physical, psychological and social recovery and rehabilitation of trafficked persons and abused smuggled migrants;
- (f) Fostering cooperation coordination and support among all relevant stakeholders, including Regional Economic Communities, international organizations especially UNHCR, UNODC, ILO and IOM as well as civil society organizations and the private sector, taking into account best practices and lesson learned;

(g) Ensure that refugees and asylum seekers that constitute significant proportion of victims of this phenomenon are treated in accordance with relevant regional and international conventions.

The African Union Commission in collaboration with partners shall support the initiative and facilitate the implementation of this Declaration and adopted Strategy and Plan of Action.

**Accept the offer** of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the next meeting of the AU-Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants at a date to be determined.

**Express appreciation** to the Government and people of Sudan for the hospitality and generosity extended to the convening of the regional conference of the AU-Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants.

**Done in Khartoum on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014**