



*ANNEX 1.*

**AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING FOR VERIFICATION AND APPRAISAL OF ELIGIBILITY FOR  
THE SECOND ECOSOCC GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
NAIROBI, KENYA, 17-19 OCTOBER 2012**

**REPORT**

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 21<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2012 adopted the Decision EX.CL/Dec.716 on the Economic Social and Cultural Council of the African Union. By this decision, "**Council DECIDE(D) that the Commission should make the necessary arrangements to conduct the elections for the ECOSOCC Second Permanent General Assembly on the due date in accordance with EX.CL/Dec 656(XIX) and the ECOSOCC Statutes**". Prior to the Summit of July 2012 and in view of the fact that the tenure of the ECOSOCC General Assembly would expire statutorily on 7 September 2012, the Commission had already solicited applications from the African Civil Society Community for membership in the Second Permanent General Assembly. Subsequently, in furtherance of the Decision of the Executive Council at the Summit, the Chairperson of the Commission established an Interdepartmental Committee, comprising representatives of relevant departments for verification and appraisal of eligibility of all intending candidates that had submitted applications. The Committee met in Nairobi, Kenya from 17 to 19 October 2012, to review and assess the applications

## II. PARTICIPANTS

2. The following members of the Interdepartmental Committee attended the meeting:
  - (i) Dr Fareed Arthur, Office of the Deputy Chairperson
  - (ii) Mr Melckzedek Magoke, Internal Audit
  - (iii) Mr Christopher Kachiza, SPPMERM
  - (iv) Mr Mudzinga Gideon Mushininga, PBFA
  - (v) Mr Bright Mando , Office of the Legal Counsel
  - (vi) Mr Jalel Chelba, CIDO
  - (vii) Ms Nadia Roguai, CIDO
  - (viii) Mr George Mefful, French Translator, Conference Department
  - (ix) Mr Awad Rizieq, Arabic Translator, Conference Department

## III. PROCEDURE

3. All applications were sent to the ECOSOCC Secretariat in the Commission which had the initial task of screening and sorting out the applications to see if all the documents required as per article 6 of the ECOSOCC Statutes have been provided. Where categories or documents were missing, an interactive process ensued whereby the Secretariat repeatedly informed the applicant organisation and specified the missing document or documents while requesting that the application be upgraded to include the missing items. As a result several applications were upgraded successfully. The Secretariat then presented the entire range of applications in two categories, complete and incomplete to the Interdepartmental Committee with the

breakdown of organizations per name, country level and date of reception.

4. A total of one hundred and seventy two (172) applications for the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of ECOSOCC were received by the ECOSOCC Secretariat.

#### **IV.METHODOLOGY**

5. The members of the Interdepartmental Committee were guided in their work by the ECOSOCC Statutes, particularly, article 3 relating to the composition of ECOSOCC, article 4 dealing with membership, and article 6 defining eligibility requirements.
6. The Committee defined its work as falling into two categories. First was to review the sorting exercise of the Secretariat to ascertain reliability and second, was to review the various applications to determine eligibility according to the ECOSOCC Statutes
7. The applications were first classified by the five regions of the continent and categorized afterwards according to the respective countries, in order to comply with article 4 of the ECOSOCC Statutes, which provides that two (2) CSOs from each Member State of the Union and ten (10) CSOs operating at regional level as well as eight (8) at continental level should be elected into the ECOSOCC General Assembly. Consequently, the applications files were organized into three sub-categories separating those that applied for national level from those that applied for regional level and those that applied for continental level. Finally, within these various categories, the applications were graded at two levels – complete and incomplete applications.
8. Subsequently, the Committee reviewed complete applications on a country-by-country basis against a verification Template (outlining the eligibility requirements to be fulfilled by CSOs seeking membership) prepared and agreed upon by the members of the Committee (Annex 1.a & 1.b). Each member of the Committee had a copy of each application that was being reviewed, alongside with the verification Template, allowing members of the Committee to have a clear picture of the deposition of the candidates. Secondly, the Committee reviewed a random sampling of incomplete applications to ascertain their status (whether they were really incomplete).
9. To facilitate the selection process using scientific and verifiable schemes, the Committee decisions were articulated as follows:
  - a. Qualified
  - b. Not Qualified on the basis of...
  - c. Require additional information
  - d. Other

## V. STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION EXERCISE

10.. The Committee received 172 applications from 37 countries. Out of the 172 applications submitted, 59 applications were provisionally classified as complete application while 113 were provisionally classified as incomplete applications. The summary of complete and incomplete applications per region is depicted in a table 1.

*Table 1. summary of complete and incomplete applications for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ECOSOCC General Assembly*

No.	Region	Total No. of Applications received	Total No. of Complete Applications	Total No. of incomplete Applications
1.	Central Africa	14	1	13
2.	Eastern Africa	61	26	35
3.	Northern Africa	20	9	11
4.	Southern Africa	21	6	15
5.	Western Africa	56	17	39
TOTAL		172	59	113

11.The Committee examined a total of fifty nine for verification of completeness and eligibility all the fifty nine (59) provisionally complete applications from (24) African Member States of the Union, namely, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Togo, Uganda and Zambia. The main results are summarized in table 2.

12.At the end of the exercise, a total number of (29) complete applications were adjudged qualified. Out of this:

- Twenty five (25) were for the national level.
- Four (4) were for the continental level.
- And one application which was adjudged qualified under national level was from Madagascar which is under sanctions

13.A total number of twenty nine (29) applications out of fifty nine (59) provisionally complete applications were adjudged not eligible on the ground of the criteria listed in Annex 1 . The Committee also observed that many applications were disqualified because they did not meet one or a combination of the following eligibility criteria:

- Article 6.3.c of the ECOSOCC Statutes requiring CSOs "*To show a minimum of three (3) years proof of registration prior to the date of submission of application*"
- Article 6.5 of the ECOSOCC Statutes *requiring "To show proof that the ownership and management of the CSO is made up of not less than fifty (50% ) of Africans or of African Diaspora"*

➤ Article 6.6 of the ECOSOCC Statutes requiring that *"The basic resources of the organisation shall substantially, at least fifty percent (50%), be derived from contributions of the members of the organization"*

➤ and article 6.9 stipulating that *"CSOs that discriminate on the basis of religion, gender, tribe, ethnic, racial or political basis shall be barred from representation to ECOSOCC"*.

Overall and as described in table 2, the Committee observed that:

➤ 22 civil society organizations (CSO) that presented their candidatures for the national level, did not meet the eligibility requirements of the ECOSOCC Statutes;

➤ 3 CSO that presented their applications for the regional level did not meet the eligibility requirements;

➤ And 4 CSO applications for the continental level did not meet the eligibility requirements

14. In addition, and despite the fact that the application of the African Charitable Society for Mother and Child Care (ACSMCC) a Sudanese national organisation was classified as complete, the Committee decided to request additional information on the registration status in order to clarify the claim contained in the application files.

15. Finally, the Committee appraised and verified at random seventeen (17) incomplete applications from the five regions with a particular emphasis on Central Africa region where out of 14 applications received from four (4) countries, namely, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo only one application was classified as complete. At the end of the exercise, the Committee confirmed the status of incomplete applications from the sample reviewed as satisfactory evidence of incompleteness of the overall set of the applications provisionally qualified as incomplete. In this regard the Committee commended the work of the ECOSOCC Secretariat.

Table 2: Summary of qualified and non-qualified applications per region and country

No.	Country	Total No. of complete applications	Qualification Status											
			National				Regional				Continental			
			Q	NQ	RAI	O	Q	NQ	RAI	O	Q	NQ	RAI	O
<b>CENTRAL AFRICA</b>														
1.	Cameroon	1	1											
<b>EAST AFRICA</b>														
2.	Djibouti	1	1											
3.	Ethiopia	3	1	2										
4.	Kenya	4	1	1				1				1		
5.	Madagascar-Country under sanctions <sup>1</sup>	1	1											
6.	Mauritius	2	1	1										
7.	Sudan	12	5	4	1						2			
8.	Tanzania	1	1											
9.	Uganda	3		3								5		
<b>NORTH AFRICA</b>														
10.	Algeria	2	2											
11.	Egypt	6	1	5										
12.	Tunisia	1	1											
<b>SOUTHERN AFRICA</b>														
13.	Malawi	2	0	2										
14.	South Africa	2									1	1		
15.	Swaziland	1	1											
16.	Zambia	1									1			
<b>WEST AFRICA</b>														
17.	Benin	2	1	1										
18.	Burkina Faso	1		1										
19.	Cote d'Ivoire	4	3									1		
20.	Ghana	1						1						
21.	Guinea	1	1											
22.	Nigeria	3	2	1										
23.	Senegal	2	1									1		
24.	Togo	3		1				1				1		
Total		60	25	22	1			3			4	5		

## VI. OBSERVED TRENDS

16. The Committee noted that no applications were received from the following sixteen (16) countries, translating to a 31% non-participation rate.

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Central African Republic | 10. Angola              |
| 2. Chad                     | 11. Lesotho             |
| 3. Equatorial Guinea        | 12. Namibia             |
| 4. Gabon                    | 13. Cape Verde          |
| 5. Comoros                  | 14. Liberia             |
| 6. Eritrea                  | 15. Sierra Leone        |
| 7. South Sudan              | 16. Sao Tome & Principe |
| 8. Mauritania               |                         |
| 9. Western Sahara           |                         |

17. Out of the 24 countries from which CSO have sent their applications, the highest number came from Sudan (12), Egypt (6), Côte d'Ivoire (4), Kenya (4), followed by Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda and Togo (3). For the remaining 16 countries, the number of applications received per country varies between 1 and 2 applications files.

18. The Committee noted that, although in total the number of applications received was 172 only 29 from 24 countries were adjudged qualified. The Committee considers that this is not representative enough for elections.

<sup>1</sup> For unconstitutional changes of government

18. The review of different applications provided the following information on the categories of CSOs that have applied. The summary of the CSOs categories is summarized in table 3.

*Table 3 : Summary by type of organization*

	Type of organization	Number of organization
1.	Social Group	1
2.	Professional Group	3
3.	Non-governmental Organization(NGO)	19
4.	Community-based organization (CBO)	0
5.	Voluntary Organization	0
6.	Cultural organization	4
7.	Trade Union	2

## **VII. RECOMMENDATIONS**

19. On the basis of the above, the Committee recommends as follows:

- a. That the candidates who were adjudged eligible should be formally informed.(draft letter attached. Annex 2)
- b. That the candidates who were adjudged ineligible should be formally informed .(draft letter attached. Annex 3)
- c. That applicants whose applications were considered inconclusive should be requested to provide further information. (draft letter attached. Annex 4)

20. The Committee, through the Secretariat should continue the process of upgrading incomplete applications by requesting the applicants to supply the missing documents that will ensure the completion of their applications. The notion of incomplete applications should be restricted to those whose applications were impaired because of missing documents rather than those who were disqualified because the documents provided contradict the requirements of the ECOSOCC Statutes.

21. In furtherance of article 4 of the ECOSOCC Statutes relating to membership and Executive Council decision EX.CL/716 (XXI) of July 2012, the period for submission should be re-opened to allow for greater representation of CSO from the 54 African Union Member States and ensure regional balance. To assist the process, the ECOSOCC election process should be re-advertised.

22. In the same vein, the Commission through the ECOSOCC Secretariat should appeal to the Permanent Missions to assist the process of mobilizing CSO in their respective countries and to disseminate the information regarding the ECOSOCC electoral process through various channels.

23. In addition, the ECOSOCC Secretariat should undertake an active sensitization process electronically and physically in targeted Members States.

24. The Committee recommends the extension of the deadline for the receipt of applications for elections into the 2<sup>nd</sup> ECOSOCC General Assembly to 15 December 2012.

25. The Committee recommends that in the event that a decision is taken to re-open the call for application and to extend the deadline in line with the above recommendation a new Interdepartmental Committee be set up or the life of the current committee be extended accordingly.

26. The Committee recommends that a third Interdepartmental Committee Meeting shall be convened before the January Summit 2013 to assess the overall work of the Committee, to examine new applications and most importantly develop an electoral programme and timetable in a manner that would ensure that elections are conducted as soon as possible, after the new deadline of 15 December 2012.