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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

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### THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON SIGN THREE AGREEMENTS FOR THE HOSTING OF THREE IMPORTANT PAN-AFRICAN INSTITUTIONS IN YAOUNDE



**Yaoundé, Cameroon, 6 April 2018:** The African Union Commission (AUC) represented by Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) and the Cameroon Government represented by H.E Mr. Lejeune Mbella Mbella, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Cameroon, have signed today, three important Host Agreements of the following African Union (AU) Institutions:

- 1- The Agreement for hosting the Pan African University (PAU) Institute for Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences;
- 2- The Agreement for hosting the African Monetary Fund (AMF); and
- 3- The Agreement for hosting the African Union Sport Council.

Initially scheduled to take place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 4:00 pm, in the banquet room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yaoundé, Cameroon, the signing ceremony was finally done **few minutes after midnight on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018**, following very hectic working sessions between the high Officials technically guided by the legal experts from the two parties with the view to polish and finalise the three legal instruments for signature.



Worth noting that, with the signing of these important Host Agreements, an important page of the history of the Continental Organisation was once again written in a bid to operationalize the three important institutions of the African Union headquartered, in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

However, the road to this hilarious achievement was very long ...it took over ten years of discussion for the AU policy Organs to finally adopt the Decision establishing the three

AU Institutions and over five years of negotiations to finally approve the Host Agreement which was concretized today with the official signing ceremony of the three legally binding documents between the AU and Cameroon, in the presence of the Diplomatic Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Representatives of the different ministries concerned with the three newly established Panafrican Institutions, the media and invited guests.

Speaking on behalf of H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission, Prof. Anyang Agbor began by expressing her sincere gratitude to the Republic of Cameroon for its unflinching support to the Pan African ideals, its proactive and exemplary role in the continent and its multi-faceted support to the African Union organs. “My gratitude goes more especially to the Head of State, President of the Republic of Cameroon H.E. President Paul Biya for his visionary and wise leadership and to the Prime Minister, H.E. Philemon Yang, for his stewardship of the Government policy in favour of the continental initiatives”, underlined the AU Commissioner for HRST. She also expressed the AUC’s appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Cameroon for demonstrating serious interest and commitment to host the Rectorate of the Pan African University.

Commissioner Anyang Agbor further acknowledged the authorities of the different concerned ministries for their contribution to the continental programs on hand, and for their determination in following up the various Host Agreements and facilitating the procedures required for the finalizations and signing of the three Host Agreements.

These include: the Ministers of External Relations; Higher Education; Basic Education; Lands, Survey and State Property; Economy, Planning and Regional Development; Finance; Sports and Physical Education.

“AUC is cognizant of the efforts that the Republic of Cameroon deployed in availing the necessary infrastructure and facilities to these entities. The AUC renews its commitment to fully support the Republic of Cameroon in operationalizing the three entities whose Host Agreements have been signed today” she stated..



The Commissioner also emphasised that, the signing of the three Host Agreement is special because it is taking place barely a few days after the signing by 44 AU Member States of relevant instruments for the Establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).



This, she said, is a major milestone in the operationalisation of a fully integrated and united Africa, in tune with the desire of Kwame Nkrumah and other founding fathers of the African Union, as rightly recalled by H.E Dr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) during the Kigali Summit.

The AU Commissioner seized the opportunity during the signing ceremony to call upon AU Member States to ratify the AfCFTA in order to foster inter-

African trade. (See complete speech of HRST Commissioner on the AU website: [www.au.africa](http://www.au.africa) ).

Speaking later, the Cameroonian Minister for Foreign Affairs referred to the signing of the three Host Agreements as “a symbolic ritual of very particular importance”. He said the signing ceremony between the Cameroon Government and the African Union should be interpreted as a sign of the common desire of the two parties to strengthen their collaboration and cooperation, thereby striving through AU bodies and institutions, to create the best possible conditions of carrying out their activities in the territory of Cameroon. “This will also contribute to the architecture of the Pan African Organisation in the field of support for economic, social and cultural development of its Member States”. The Minister said the Agreements demonstrates Cameroon’s firm and unwavering commitment to the Africa integration endeavours, by hosting in its territory, the seats of three complementary institutions of the Pan-African Organisation.

Minister LeJeune Mbella Mbella recalled that Cameroon’s commitment to the AU was first evidenced as a founding member of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) followed by the signing recently by Cameroon of the AfCFTA Agreement at the Kigali Extraordinary Summit, the country has had two Secretary Generals of the OAU, namely: Nzo Ekah Ngaki and Aurelien William Eteki Mboumoua and now two Commissioners, namely: Late Mrs. Elizabeth Tankeu in charge of the department of Trade and Industry and now Prof. Sarah Mbi Enow Anyang Agbor in charge of the HRST department of the AU.

The Minister also appreciated the fact that Cameroon was chosen by the AU to host the Continental Logistics Base of the African Standby Force in Douala as well as the Inter-



African  
Phytosanitary  
Council in Yaoundé.  
Before concluding  
his speech, the  
Minister conveyed a  
message of  
appreciation of H.E  
Mr. Paul Biya,  
President of the  
Republic of  
Cameroon through  
the Commissioner,  
to H.E Mr. Moussa  
Faki Mahamat,  
Chairperson of the  
AUC for making this  
dream come true by  
sending a strong AU

delegation to Yaoundé to concretise the signing of the three important pan-African institutions.

According to H.E Jacques-Alfred Ndoumbe-Eboule, Permanent Representative to the AU and UNECA, and Overall Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in Addis Ababa, the signing of the Host Agreements of three important AU institutions is a historical moment for Cameroon. The Cameroonian Ambassador to Ethiopia was represented at the signing ceremony by Dr. Simon Pierre Omgba Mbida, First Secretary at the Cameroon Embassy. It is worth noting that the Cameroon Embassy in Addis Ababa played a crucial part in working closely with the AU for the follow-up and concretization of the establishment of the above pan African institutions.

Prominent in the delegation from the AU Headquarters that witnessed the historical moment was Dr. Rene Kouassi, Director for Economic Affairs of the AUC; Prof. Mahama Ouedraogo, Director of HRST; Prof. Kassa Belay, Rector of the PAU, Mr. Mohamed Salem Khalit , Office of the Legal Counsel at the AUC who was working very closely in consultation with Amb. Dr. Namira Negm, AUC Legal Counsel to finalise the legal instruments; Mrs. Lina Kessy, Ag. Head of the AU Sports Council; and Mrs. Esther Azaa Tankou, Head of Information Division at the AUC.

## **NOTE TO EDITORS**

### **ON THE HOSTING OF RECTORATE OF THE PAN AFRICAN UNIVERSITY:**

The African Union Assembly Decision: **/AU/Dec.290 (XV)** adopted during the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the AU on 27 July 2010, in Kampala, Uganda created the Pan-African University (PAU).

During the Twenty Fourth Ordinary Session of the AU Summit held in Addis Ababa in January 2015, the AU Head of State and Government selected the Republic of Cameroon as the host country for the Pan-African University Rectorate; following the Assembly Decision **/AU/Dec.552 (XXIV)**. Cameroon was then granted the right to host the PAU Rectorate after expressing its willingness and readiness to participate fully in the functioning of the Pan-African University Rectorate and to grant it the privileges and immunities necessary for the execution of its mandate;

### **ON THE AU FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:**

The Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at their meeting of 11 July 2000 in Lomé, Togo, adopted the **Constitutive Act** establishing the African Union. The Decision to establish the **African Union** was based on the commitment and determination expressed by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government to promote unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among African peoples and States;

The Heads of State and Government of the OAU Member States were determined to meet the many challenges facing their continent and peoples in the light of social, economic and political changes taking place in the world as well as looking for alternative sources to finance the activities of the Union. To that effect, they decided to create three financial institutions of the African Union as part of its Organs. They are: the African Investment Bank hosted in Tripoli, Libya; the African Central Bank hosted in Abuja, Nigeria; and the African Monetary Fund hosted in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

#### **ON THE AFRICAN UNION SPORTS COUNCIL:**

The African Union Decision EX.CL/Dec. 543(XVI) adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in January 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia established an architecture for Sport in Africa, the African Union Sports Council, a Specialized Technical Office of the African Union to take over the role of coordination, organization and management of sports on the continent after the dissolution of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa.

The AU decision EX.CL/Dec.680 (XX) adopted by the Twentieth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council endorsed the offer by the Republic of Cameroon to host the Headquarters of the African Union Sports Council and requested the Commission to conclude a new Host Agreement with Cameroon for the hosting of the institution following the willingness expressed by the Government of the Republic of Cameroon to host the African Union Sports Council and to grant its officials , staff members and experts the immunities and privileges as are necessary for the functioning of the African Union Sports Council .

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