



AFRICAN UNION SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (AU-STC. No.8) TUNIS 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 Fifth Ordinary Session held on 20 December 2024 in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia,

REAFFIRMING the decisions of the First, Second, Third and Fourth 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 Second Meeting of the Bureau of the Fourth Ordinary Session of AU-STC. No.8 on held on 19 December 2024 in Tunis, Tunisia,

RECALLING the outcomes of the First Africa Urban Forum and the need to implement its recommendations and 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 Celebration of the African Public Service Day (APSD) and the operationalization of the First African Urban Forum, as well as the African Charters on Public Service and Decentralization under the AU-STC. No8 mandate,

MINDFUL OF the role of effective public service delivery in advancing Africa's developmental priorities, including Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

FURTHER REAFFIRMING our commitment to the principles and values of the two Charters- the African Charter on the Values and Principles on Public Service and Administration and the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development as frameworks for strengthening governance, ethical public service, decentralization and sustainable administration on the continent.

FURTHER RECALLING the outcomes of previous sessions, which emphasized the need for resilient institutions, effective decentralization, and stronger urban governance

EXPRESS our profound gratitude and appreciation to the People and Government of Tunisia for its hospitality in hosting the Fifth Ordinary Session of the AU-STC.No.8 on

NOW THEREFORE, this Ordinary Session:

1. **Takes note** of the report of the AU-STC. No8 Secretariat on the activities implemented from 2023-2024,
2. **Commends** the out-going Bureau for effectively steering the work of the AU-STC.No.8 for the period 2023- 2024
3. **Elects** the members of the Fifth Bureau of the AU-STC.No.8 as follows :

POSITION	COUNTRY	REGION	SECTOR
Chairperson	Uganda	Eastern Region	Human Settlements and Urban Developr
1 st Vice-Chair	Congo	Central Region	Public Service and Administration
2 nd Vice-Chair	Senegal	Western Africa	Décentralisation and Local Government
3 rd Vice-Chair	Lesotho	Southern Region	Human Settlements and Urban Development
Rapporteur	Tunisia	Northern	

4. **Welcomes** and **congratulates** the new Bureau as it assumes office.
5. **Decides** that the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Vice Chairs of the AU-STC.No.8 Bureau will be the Chairs of the Public Service and Administration, Decentralization and Local Government, Human Settlements and Urban Development Sub-Committees respectively subject to any amendments that may be made by Bureau members.
6. **Encourages** Member States to continue supporting the work of the AU-STC No.8 through voluntary contributions.
7. **Urges** the AUC-PAPS to make provision for the AU-STC No 8 in their overall resource mobilization strategies.
8. **Take note** of the proposal for the transfer of Human Settlements and Urban Development from the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security to the Department of Infrastructure and Energy and recommend to fully respect the due process in this regard, by the different appropriate audience of the African Union mindful of the leadership transition in February 2025.

9. **Takes Note with appreciation** the AU-STC.No.8 work plan for the period 2025-2026 and requests the AUC in collaboration with key institutional partners to effectively facilitate its implementation and to report progress regularly to the Bureau and Member States.
10. **Encourages** member states to champion the ratification of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration, promote its domestication, and encourage the use of the State Parties Assessment Tool (SPAT) for implementation and reporting to the AUC.
11. **Calls on** Member States which have not signed or ratified the Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development to expedite the process of signature and ratification to enable the entry into force of the Charter
12. **Further calls** on the African Union to designate Urbanization as a theme in the coming years.
13. **Commends** the Ethiopian Government for the outstanding hosting of the First Africa Urban Forum from 4 to 6 September 2024.
14. **Commends** Egypt for its remarkable success in hosting the World Urban Forum in Cairo in November 2024 as this marks the second time in 22 years that the African continent has hosted the WUF and **Recognizes** the significant strategic participation of Member States in this forum.
15. **Requests** the AUC to hold the second session of the African Urban Forum in 2026 prior to the World Urban Forum and request the Secretariat to engage with the bureau of the AU-STC No.8 on the operational matters in preparation for the Africa Urban Forum,
16. **Calls** on all Member States to prioritize children and young people centered slum transformation initiative to address increasing informality in the continent.
17. **Calls** on Member States to constitute a high level national focal team for the AUSTC. No.8 in line with the AU-STC. No.8 Brazzaville Declaration.
18. **Invites** Member States to volunteer to host and join the inaugural commemoration of the Africa Urban Development Week in 2025.
19. **Endorses** the outcome of the Africa Urban Forum (AUF) and **Encourages** Member States to implement the commitments of the Africa Urban Forum Declaration with focus on establishing National Urban Forums to facilitate

inclusive national urban policies and territorial planning aligned with Nationally Determined Contributions.

20. **Welcomes** the decision to have an inaugural commemoration of the Continental Africa Day of Decentralization from 2026 as well as the proposals from Libya and Rwanda to host this important continental event.
21. **Establishes** the African Decentralization, Local Governance and Development Award Program to be operationalized on 10 August 2026 and **Request** Member States to actively participate in the inaugural award programme.
22. **Requests** the AUC PAPS to convene the meeting of the Sub-committee on Decentralization & Local Governance (DLG) to review and validate the 'draft statute' of the African Union High Council of Local Authorities (AU-HCLA).
23. **Urges** the AUC PAPS to expedite the establishment and operationalization of the AU High Council of Local Authorities (AU-HCLA) and **entrust** the AUC with the responsibility of initiating the process of signing the host agreement with the host country (Senegal).
24. **Requests** the Commission to bring this Declaration to the attention of the African Union Policy Making Organs for consideration in February 2025.
25. **Decides** to hold the Sixth Ordinary Session of AU-STC. No. 8 in 2026.

DONE IN TUNIS, TUNISIA ON 20 DECEMBER 2024