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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 website: [www. www.au.int](http://www.au.int)

Closing Statement

by

Hon. Neal Rijkenberg, Minister of Finance, Kingdom of Eswatini

To be Delivered at the

**Virtual Ministerial Session on the Member States Consultation on the
Draft Common African Position on Debt (CAP)**

9 October 2025

**Your Excellency, H.E. Francisca Tatchouop Belobe,
Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade,
Tourism, Industry and Minerals of the African Union
Commission,**

Honorable Ministers of Finance Present,

**Distinguished Representatives of Central Banks and
Debt Management Offices,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we come to the conclusion of this important Ministerial Session, allow me to express, on behalf of the Bureau of the Specialized Technical Committee and on my own behalf, my deep appreciation to all Honorable Ministers, delegations, and the African Union Commission for your active participation, your constructive engagement, and your unwavering commitment to this collective effort.

Today's meeting marks an important milestone in our journey to define and consolidate a Common African Position on Debt, a framework that gives meaning to our shared vision of a continent that is fiscally sovereign, resilient, and capable of financing its own development priorities.

Distinguished Honorable Ministers,

We have had rich and substantive exchanges on the revised draft of the CAP, reflecting the spirit of partnership and consensus that has characterized this entire process. Through our deliberations, we have confirmed Africa's unity of purpose and our collective determination to ensure that debt becomes a tool for transformation rather than a burden of constraint.

I wish to commend the African Union Commission, particularly the Department of Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals, under the leadership of H.E. Commissioner Francisca Tatchouop Belobe, for the dedicated and inclusive process through which this important document has been developed. The Commission's technical rigor and openness to Member States' inputs have ensured that the final CAP reflects the diversity of national experiences while maintaining the coherence of a unified continental position.

Distinguished Honorable Ministers,

The discussions today have reaffirmed the significance of the Common African Position as both a policy and advocacy instrument. It consolidates Africa's key priorities, ensuring debt sustainability, improving transparency and

accountability, enhancing domestic resource mobilization, and calling for reforms in the global financial architecture. These principles lie at the heart of Africa's economic transformation agenda and are essential for achieving the aspirations of Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want.

As Chair of the STC Bureau, I am pleased to note that this meeting has successfully endorsed the Common African Position on Debt, paving the way for its formal submission to the Policy Organs of the African Union, including the Executive Council and, ultimately, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. Once adopted, the CAP on Debt will serve as the Union's official policy framework guiding Africa's engagement on debt and sustainable financing issues.

In the immediate term, and in line with the decision reached at the 8th STC in Johannesburg, the CAP will also be advanced at the Fourth Finance and Central Bank Ministers' Meeting of the G20, to be held from 15 to 16 October 2025 under South Africa's Presidency of the G20. This is a critical opportunity for Africa to articulate a unified, evidence-based, and principled position on global debt reform, fiscal space, and equitable access to finance. I am confident that, through the African Union Commission and Member States' continued coordination, Africa's message will be delivered clearly, assertively, and with one voice.

Distinguished Honorable Ministers,

This process has demonstrated that Africa's strength lies in its unity and shared commitment to the common good. We have shown that when we work together, our collective

voice carries weight, our policies gain credibility, and our vision becomes actionable. The Common African Position on Debt is therefore more than a policy framework, it is a symbol of Africa's solidarity and its readiness to lead in shaping global solutions that reflect fairness, inclusivity, and shared prosperity.

Distinguished Honorable Ministers,

As we close this meeting, allow me to reiterate the Bureau's appreciation to all Member States for their valuable contributions, to the Commission for its continued leadership and support, and to our regional and international partners for their collaboration throughout this process. The task ahead of us is to ensure that this Position translates into concrete outcomes, stronger institutions,

sustainable debt practices, and development financing that leaves no country behind.

Let us carry forward the momentum from this meeting, working hand in hand to ensure that Africa's debt narrative is defined by ownership, innovation, and accountability. Together, we can make the Common African Position on Debt not only a statement of intent but a living instrument that transforms the financial future of our continent.

With these remarks, I wish to thank you all for your participation, and I now declare the Virtual Ministerial Session on the Member States Consultation on the Draft Common African Position on Debt officially closed.

I thank you