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الاتحاد الأفريقي



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DECISIONS, DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTION

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**DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE
AFRICAN AIR TRANSPORT MARKET¹**

Doc. EX.CL/1067(XXXII)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ministerial Working Group on the establishment of a Single Air Transport Market (SAATM) within the framework of the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063;
2. **RECALLS:**
 - i) the *Declaration on the Establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market* Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XXIV) adopted at the Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 31 January 2015;
 - ii) The Solemn Commitment declared by AU Member States to the Implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the establishment of SAATM by 2017 at the Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 31 January 2015;
3. **MINDFUL OF** the aspirations of:
 - a) The Constitutive Act of the AU adopted at the Thirty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in Lomé, Togo on 11 July 2000 with entry into force in 2001;
 - b) The Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (also known as the Abuja Treaty) adopted at the Twenty-Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Abuja, Nigeria on 3 June 1991 with entry into force on 12 May 1994;
 - c) The Decision relating to the Implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on the Liberalization of Access to Air Transport Markets in Africa endorsed at the Thirty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in Lomé, Togo on 12 July 2000;
4. **CONVINCED** that the realisation of SAATM is vital to the achievement of the long-term vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa under the AU Agenda 2063; that it will bring about the enhanced connectivity across the continent leading to sustainable development of the aviation and tourism

¹ Reservation entered by the Arab Republic of Egypt

industry with immense contribution to economic growth, job creation, prosperity and integration of Africa;

5. **AFFIRMS** that the following twenty-three Member States have declared their Solemn Commitment to the immediate implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the establishment of SAATM:

1. Benin
2. Botswana
3. Burkina Faso
4. Cape Verde
5. Congo
6. Côte d'Ivoire
7. Egypt
8. Ethiopia
9. Gabon
10. Ghana
11. Guinea
12. Kenya
13. Liberia
14. Mali
15. Mozambique
16. Niger
17. Nigeria
18. Rwanda
19. Sierra Leone
20. South Africa
21. Swaziland
22. Togo
23. Zimbabwe

6. **DECIDES** to:

- i) establish SAATM for African Airlines within the framework of Agenda 2063 on this 29th Day of January 2018 among the Member States that have declared their Solemn Commitment as of to-date and for those that join later;
- ii) appoint Regional Champions of the Single Air Transport Market;

7. **WELCOMES** the launch of SAATM;

8. **FURTHER REQUESTS:**

- i) Member States to abolish any provisions in their Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASAs) for intra-African air services that are contrary to the

provisions of the Yamoussoukro Decision. As the market goes into operation, Member States and the industry expect that the intra-African market will operate without the need for bilateral air service agreements between Member States. To enhance the objectives of Agenda 2063 towards Boosting Intra-Africa Trade (BIAT) and fast tracking of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) in relation to air transport, Member States are encouraged to go beyond the market access provisions of the Yamoussoukro Decision in order to accelerate the attainment of the objectives of the SAATM;

- ii) that subject to safety and security concerns of the aviation authorities of Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Executing Agency, eligible airlines of Member States and nationals operating under SAATM shall be entitled to file and fly on the basis of their own economic considerations and without any hindrance;
- iii) the Commission shall submit to the Assembly an updated status of implementation and revised objectives of the Single market by January 2019;
- iv) the Commission, the RECs and the Champions, in collaboration with other air transport stakeholders, take effective steps to engage the African States who are not yet members to sign on to the Solemn Commitment;
- v) the Commission to expedite completion of the activities on the SAATM Road Map, ensure awareness and dissemination of key continental aviation frameworks especially the Yamoussoukro Decision Regulatory and Institutional Texts, the African Civil Aviation Policy (AFCAP), as well as undertake capacity building of Member States and RECs on application and domestication of those instruments;
- vi) the Commission to work on a framework of establishing the single African sky architecture by 2023 that will strengthen aviation safety, security as well as ensure efficient and harmonised seamless air navigational and communication systems;
- vii) the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other funding partners to expedite the mobilisation of resources for the operationalisation of the Executing Agency to enable it adequately carry out its functions in the management and supervision of the established SAATM;

9. **CALLS UPON** the RECs and all development partners including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, AfDB, the African Airlines Association, the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the European Civil Aviation Commission/Conference, the Arab Civil Aviation Commission, USA Department of Transport, Federal Aviation Administration and National Transport Security,

Civil Aviation Authorities of Partner States, the International Air Transport Association, the Airports Council International, the European Union, the World Bank, the World Tourism Organisation to recognise and support the smooth operationalisation of SAATM under Agenda 2063;

10. **EXPRESSES** its profound appreciation for the excellent work accomplished by the Ministerial Working Group on the establishment of SAATM.



DECISION ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

Doc. Assembly/AU/4(XXX)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the status of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) negotiations submitted by H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger and Leader of CFTA process and endorses the recommendations therein;
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the achievement made in concluding the negotiations on the Agreement Establishing the Continental Free Trade Area and the Protocol on Trade in Services of the CFTA by the agreed date of December 2017;
3. **REQUESTS** the African Union Ministers of Trade (AMOT) to conclude outstanding negotiations on the Protocol on Trade in Goods and its Annexes and the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures of Dispute Settlement by March 2018;
4. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to be represented by Ministers at the African Union Ministers of Trade meetings;
5. **DECIDES** that the title of the legal instrument shall be “The Agreement on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”;
6. **FURTHER DECIDES:**
 - a) to hold an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly on 21 March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda, to consider, adopt and sign the AfCFTA Legal instruments and the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area;
 - b) to hold an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council on 19 March 2018 in Kigali, to consider the AfCFTA Legal instruments for submission to the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly.
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to convene an Extraordinary Session of the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs to consider the said instruments prior to the Summit;
8. **AUTHORISES** the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) to approve a supplementary budget to hold the Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council and the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly on 19 and 21 March 2018, respectively;

9. **TAKES NOTE** of the consultations with the Group of Seven countries² on the level of ambition of tariff liberalisation and **ENCOURAGES** the Leader on CFTA to continue until there is a broadbased consensus;
10. **REQUESTS** H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, to provide leadership to the CFTA Eminent Persons from the public and private sector appointed by the Commission, and **ENCOURAGES** him to continue the good work, both in the implementation of the CFTA Agreement and in the negotiations of phase 2 issues regarding competition, investment and intellectual property rights;
11. **CALLS UPON** Member States to start the second phase of negotiations and continue nationwide stakeholder sensitization activities so that all African citizens are fully aware and own the process of establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.



² The Republic of Djibouti, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Zimbabwe.

**DECISION ON THE HOSTING OF THE AFRICAN
MINERALS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**
Doc. EX.CL/1075(XXXII)

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Decision **EX.CL/Dec.857(XXVI)** of January 2015 on the establishment of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) as a Specialized Agency of the African Union to coordinate the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision that was adopted by Decision **EX.CL/Dec.471(XIV)** of the January 2009 Summit;
2. **DECIDES** that further consultations be undertaken and report to the next June/July 2018 Assembly Session;
3. **CALLS UPON** Member States to expedite the signature and ratification of the AMDC Statute;
4. **APPRECIATES** the success of the ongoing transition for the AMDC from UNECA to the Commission and **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue engaging partners on resource mobilization to ensure the sustainability of the AMDC.



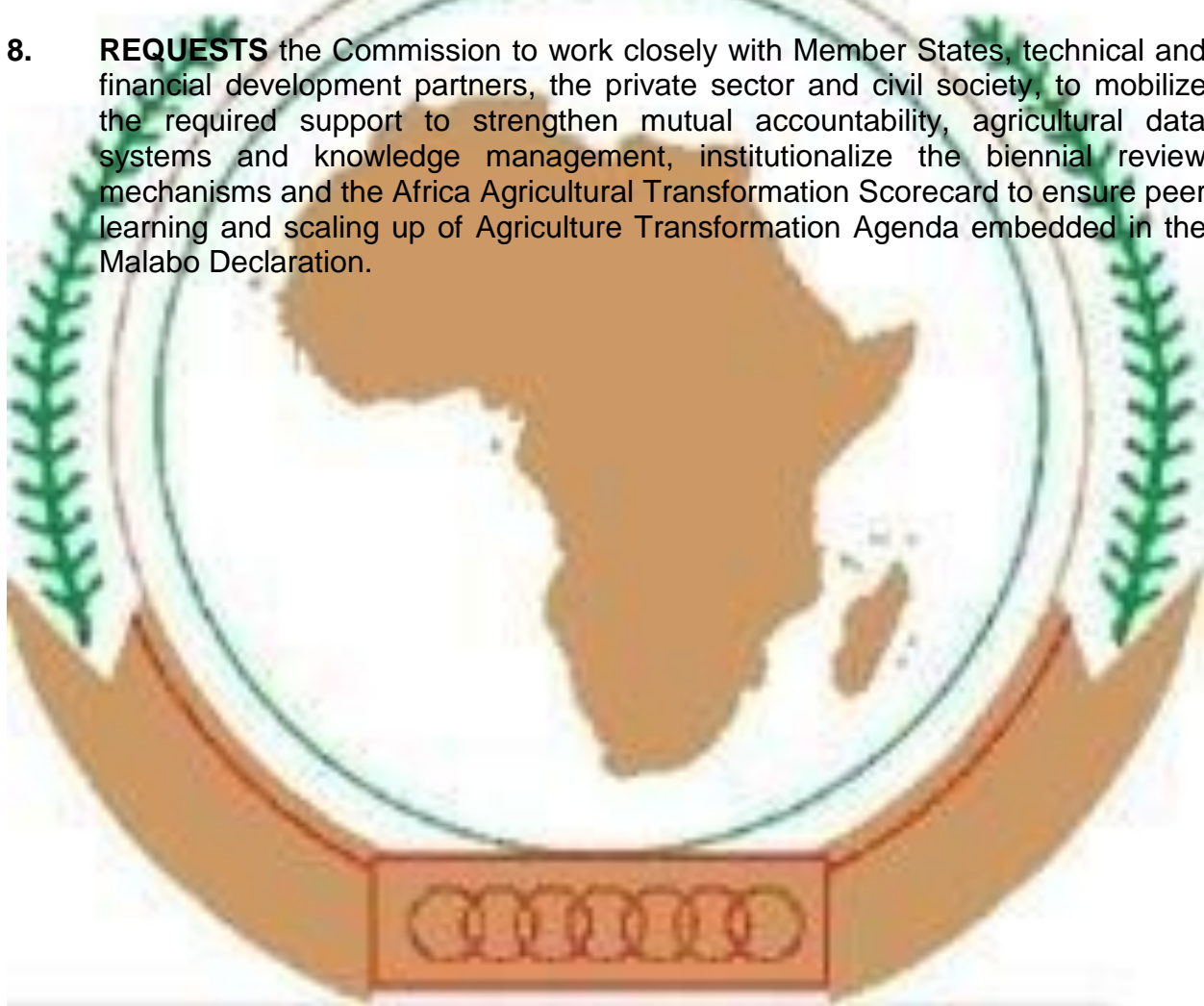
**DECISION ON FAST TRACKING CAADP-MALABO COMMITMENTS FOR
ACCELERATING AGRICULTURE TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA THROUGH
BIENNIAL REVIEW MECHANISM AND AFRICA AGRICULTURAL
TRANSFORMATION SCORECARD**

Doc. Assembly/AU/15(XXX)

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Decision **Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XXIII)** adopting the Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods in Africa and which also calls on the Commission and NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), in collaboration with partners, to conduct on a biennial basis, beginning from year 2017, Agricultural Review Process, and report on progress to the Assembly at its January 2018 Ordinary Session;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the Inaugural Biennial Review Report on the Implementation of the June 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, and the highlights of its findings on Intra-African Trade for Agriculture Commodities and Services: Risks and Opportunities;
3. **RECOGNISES** the efforts of the Commission in mobilizing key stakeholders and development partners to build partnership with Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for establishing a mechanism for monitoring, evaluation and reporting, in a more aligned manner, on the progress made in implementing the commitments of the Malabo Declaration;
4. **COMMENDS** the positive response of Member States in conducting self-assessments, inclusive validation process and providing information for the preparation of the inaugural report to the Assembly of the African Union on the progress in achieving our common goals on agricultural transformation in Africa; while noting challenges faced by Member States in collecting and compiling quality data to report progress on all goals and targets set in the commitments of the Malabo Declaration;
5. **NOTES** with satisfaction the enormous efforts invested by Member States in implementing Declaration **Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XXIII)** to accelerate achievement of commitments made in the Malabo Declaration; while recognizing that, for the insufficient performances shown by Member States in several cases to reach the common set goals, considerable efforts and attention are still needed to rally itself to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) implementation by domesticating the Malabo commitments in National Agriculture Investment Plans;

6. **RECOMMITS** to take further actions in implementing the Africa Agriculture Transformation Agenda within the CAADP framework by increasing investment finance for agriculture, strengthening institutional capacity for implementation, improving coordination mechanisms to achieve concrete results and impacts leading to shared prosperity and improved livelihoods for African citizens;
7. **CALLS UPON** all Member States to mobilize adequate technical and financial resources in supporting agricultural data systems, monitoring and evaluation systems and strengthen mutual accountability structures to trigger evidence based planning for agriculture transformation;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to work closely with Member States, technical and financial development partners, the private sector and civil society, to mobilize the required support to strengthen mutual accountability, agricultural data systems and knowledge management, institutionalize the biennial review mechanisms and the Africa Agricultural Transformation Scorecard to ensure peer learning and scaling up of Agriculture Transformation Agenda embedded in the Malabo Declaration.



**DECISION ON OUTCOMES OF COP 23/CMP 13 AND AFRICA'S ENGAGEMENTS
AT THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE AT COP24/CMP 14**

Doc. Assembly/AU/9(XXX)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of Gabon, and Chairperson of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on the outcomes of the global Climate Change negotiations at the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the 13th Meeting of the Parties serving as the Conference of the Parties to its Kyoto Protocol, and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (COP 23/CMP13/CMA1.2); and **ENDORSES** the recommendations therein;
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** with appreciation of the CAHOSCC preparatory meeting held in New York, and that facilitated the adoption of the CAHOSCC Key Messages;
3. **SALUTES** the diligence of the Members of CAHOSCC for the commendable political directive and guidance they provided that has concretised Africa's solidarity and Pan-Africanism at the negotiations and contributed to the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as a result of a strong united voice;
4. **COMMENDS** the work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN), the Commission, Pan African institutions such as NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and that of partners such as UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC Secretariat, the World Bank, as well as other relevant institutions and development partners for supporting Africa in addressing the crucial issue of Climate Change;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the efforts of the Commission along with Pan-African and other relevant institutions and development partners; the African Parliamentarians; the Civil Society Group, including the women and youth groups; the Media and all friends and collaborators in the implementation of climate actions for the realization of Agenda 2063;
6. **RECOGNIZES** the efforts of the Commission, in collaboration with NPCA, Pan-African Parliament, AfDB and UNECA that jointly organized an Africa Day high-level and technical side event on 15 November 2017 at COP 23/CMP13/CMA1.2 along with the Central African region: ECCAS, Gabon, Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo;

7. **APPLAUDS** Fiji in collaboration with Germany for successfully hosting COP 23/ CMP13/CMA1.2 and **APPRECIATES** Germany for the additional contribution of €50 million to the Adaptation Fund announced at the meeting and **ALSO RECOGNISES** France for jointly hosting the One Planet Summit along with other key Partners in December 2017 and for mobilizing more resources to implement laudable initiatives and projects for climate action as part of the implementation of the Paris Agreement;
8. **URGES** developed country Parties to scale up the current levels of climate finance, through agreement among Parties on concrete pathways and accounting methodologies for achieving the collective goal by developed countries to mobilize USD 100 billion a year by 2020 and beyond, while striking a balance in the allocation of financial resources between adaptation and mitigation as a trust-building effort in the negotiations, and including a significant increase in grant-based support for adaptation and adequate support for capacity building and technology transfer;
9. **STRESSES** the importance of initiating substantive negotiations, immediately and prior to the completion of the Paris Work Programme, on the long-term finance goal for the post-2025 period, so as to ensure scaled up, additional and predictable levels of public finance to implement developing countries' ambitious nationally determined contributions;
10. **FURTHER URGES** the Parties and the COP23 and COP24 Presidencies to expedite action on consultations involving specific needs and special circumstances of Africa, as mandated by COP22 to urgently reach consensus for support to the African populace, especially the most vulnerable communities such as women, youth and children to benefit from the implementation of the Paris Agreement;
11. **CALLS ON** all Parties to work together as 2018 is crucial in the context of Talanoa Dialogue and the need to advance work on the pre-2020 agenda and agree on the details of the 'Paris Rulebook', which will be announced at COP24 in Poland to deliver Planet Earth from the looming danger of slow and insufficient actions to deliver progress on the support to the developing countries especially Africa in the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); and **ALSO URGES** Member States to facilitate the AMCEN and AGN members to participate in all negotiation processes towards the Talanoa (Facilitative Dialogue) and COP 24;
12. **FURTHER URGES** partners to support African countries in the implementation of their NDCs and laudable continental initiatives such as the High-Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCAA) with components on Gender Women and Youth Programmes on Climate Change; Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme Phase 2; and Africa Climate

Resilient Investment Facility (Afri-Res) as well as the regional initiatives such as the African Adaptation Initiative; Africa Renewable Energy Initiative as well as the 3 Climate Commissions on Sahel, Congo Basin and Island States; and the Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative among others;

13. **COMMENDS** the CAHOSCC members for their personal commitments in maintaining the unity of purpose and providing political directives; AMCEN for its guidance; and the tireless efforts of AGN in remaining focused around Africa's Common Position, and Key Political Messages, the Commission, AfDB, UNEP, UNECA, AMCEN Secretariat and other development partners that have supported the negotiators for Africa to continue to speak with one voice;
14. **ENCOURAGES** CAHOSCC Members to participate at all CAHOSCC meetings at the Heads of State and Government level;
15. **CALLS ON** partners, UN and international organizations to support the continental, regional and national efforts on the implementation of NDCs in Africa;
16. **APPROVES** the recommendation that Egypt and Mali join CAHOSCC on the ground of strong commitment during their tenures as members of the Committee;
17. **REQUESTS** the AfDB, UNECA, UNEP, other UN and International Agencies / Organizations and development partners to support the Commission, AMCEN and the African Group of Negotiators and African States at all levels in the implementation of this Decision.



**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE LEADER OF
THE AFRICAN UNION HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON LIBYA**

Doc. Assembly/AU/7(XXX)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya;
2. **EXPRESSES** its deep concern over the persistent political impasse and the security situation in Libya, which perpetuates the suffering of the Libyan people, undermines the legal institutions of the country and poses a challenge to security and stability in neighbouring countries and in the entire region;
3. **REAFFIRMS** the urgent need to engage Libyans in an inclusive national reconciliation process in order to establish the requisite conditions for Libyans to determine the future of their country;
4. **UNDERScores** the need for Africa to preserve African unity and solidarity as well as regional understanding in the search for a lasting solution to the Libyan crisis;
5. **NOTES** with appreciation the efforts made by the United Nations Special Representative to Libya, Mr. Ghassan Salame, in the implementation of the objectives defined in the United Nations Action Plan and expresses satisfaction over his commitment, during his visit to Addis Ababa, on 15 January 2018, towards strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union for the restoration of peace and stability in Libya;
6. **STRESSES** in this regard, the importance of renewing and strengthening collaboration between the African Union, neighbouring countries and the United Nations in resolving the Libyan crisis, in order to reach a broad consensus on the objectives to be achieved and the initiatives to be carried out;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to re-launch the efforts of the Contact Group on Libya, in close cooperation with the United Nations, in order to pool the efforts of the international community on the issue and support the efforts of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya;
8. **EXPRESSES**, once again, its appreciation to H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, Leader of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya, to the African Union Special Representative, H.E. Mr. Jakaya Kikwete, as well as to neighbouring countries, for the efforts made towards achieving lasting peace in Libya;

9. **REQUESTS** the High Level Committee to pursue its contacts with all relevant stakeholders in order to achieve tangible progress;
10. **INVITES** to this end, the Commission to provide the necessary resources for the accomplishment of the mandate of the High-Level Committee.



**DECISION ON THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF
TEN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AS AFRICAN
CHAMPIONS OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Doc. Assembly/AU/11(XXX)

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.572 (XXV) establishing a Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government as African champions of Education, Science and Technology;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report presented by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and **ENDORSES** the recommendations therein;
3. **CONGRATULATES** H.E. President Macky Sall, as the first Chairperson, and **ENDORSES** H.E. Beji Caïd Essebsi, President of the Republic of Tunisia as the first Vice-Chairperson, and H.E. Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi as the second Vice-Chairperson of the Committee of Ten;
4. **REITERATES** the core value of Education, Science and Technology as a formidable tool for achieving Agenda 2063, *the Africa We Want*, of a people driven inclusive prosperity, peace and integration;
5. **FURTHER REITERATES** the need to enhance investments in Education, Science and Technology as pillars for harnessing demographic dividends;
6. **ENDORSES** the list of ten Heads of State and Government as the first team of ten champions for Africa's Education, Science and Technology:

| Northern Africa | Central Africa | West Africa | East Africa | Southern Africa |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| •Egypt •Tunisia | •Chad •Gabon | •Senegal •Sierra Leone | •Kenya •Mauritius | •Malawi •Namibia |

7. **COMMENDS** the ten Heads of State and Government for accepting this important responsibility;
8. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the Republic of Malawi for offering to host the first Education Summit of the Committee of Ten.

DECISION ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Doc. EX.CL/1068(XXXII)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of the Decisions of the Assembly on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the recommendations of the Open-ended Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the International Criminal Court (*The Open-ended Ministerial Committee*);
2. **REITERATES:**
 - i) the unflinching commitment of the African Union and its Member States to combat impunity and promote democracy, the rule of law and good governance throughout the entire continent, in conformity with the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
 - ii) its previous decisions on the deferral or termination of proceedings against President Omar Al Bashir of the Republic of The Sudan in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute;
 - iii) the need for all Member States, in particular, those that are also State Parties to the Rome Statute, to continue to comply with the Assembly Decisions on the warrant of arrest issued by the ICC against President Al Bashir of The Sudan pursuant to Article 23 (2) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and Article 98 of the Rome Statute of the ICC;
3. **EXPRESSES:**
 - i) deep concern with the decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber II of the ICC on the legal obligation of the Republic of South Africa to arrest and surrender President Al Bashir of The Sudan, which is at variance with customary international law and **CALLS ON** Member States of the African Union, particularly those that are also State Parties to the ICC, to oppose this line of interpretation of their legal obligations under the Rome Statute;
 - ii) the need for Member States to strengthen national and continental judicial and legislative mechanisms to deal with impunity in order to ensure that justice is served in a fair manner;
 - iii) concern at the slow pace of ratification of the Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol of the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights adopted in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 27 June 2014 and **ENDORSES** the Action Plan for the Ratification of the Malabo Protocol and in this regard, **URGES** all Member States to ratify the Protocol on

Amendments to the Protocol of the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights (Malabo Protocol);

4. **TAKES NOTE** of the sovereign decision made by the Republic of Burundi to withdraw from the ICC effective October 27th, 2017, and **CONDEMNS** the decision by the ICC to open an investigation in the situation prevailing in the Republic of Burundi as it is prejudicial to the peace process under the auspices of the East African Community, and constitutes both a violation of the sovereignty of Burundi and is a move aimed at destabilising that country;

5. **REQUESTS:**

- i) the African States Parties to the Rome Statute to request the ICC Assembly of States Parties to convene a working group of experts from its member states to propose a declaratory/interpretative clarification of the relationship between Article 27 (irrelevance of official capacity) and Article 98 (Cooperation with respect to waiver of immunity and consent to Surrender) and other contested issues relating to the conflicting obligations of States Parties to cooperate with the ICC;
- ii) the African Group in New York to immediately place on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly a request to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the question of immunities of a Head of State and Government and other Senior Officials as it relates to the relationship between Articles 27 and 98 and the obligations of States Parties under International Law;
- iii) the Commission to review its standard agreements on hosting of AU Summits and other high-level meetings, to ensure that any ambiguity concerning the provision of privileges and immunities of representatives of Member States are addressed;
- iv) the African Group in New York and The Hague to request the next Assembly of States Parties of the ICC to withdraw from its agenda the consideration of the Draft Action Plan on Arrest Strategies;
- v) the African Group and the Commission to ensure that decisions of the AU Policy Organs are conveyed during the discussions on Universal Jurisdiction in the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and to make recommendations to the Summit on how to move this discussion forward, in view of the apparent impasse in the Sixth Committee.

**DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF ONE (1) MEMBER OF THE
AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY BOARD ON CORRUPTION**

Doc. EX.CL/1069(XXXII)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election of One (1) Member of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (the Board) by the Executive Council;
2. **APPOINTS** Ms. Amal Mahmoud Ammar (Egypt) as Member of the Board for a term of two (2) years.

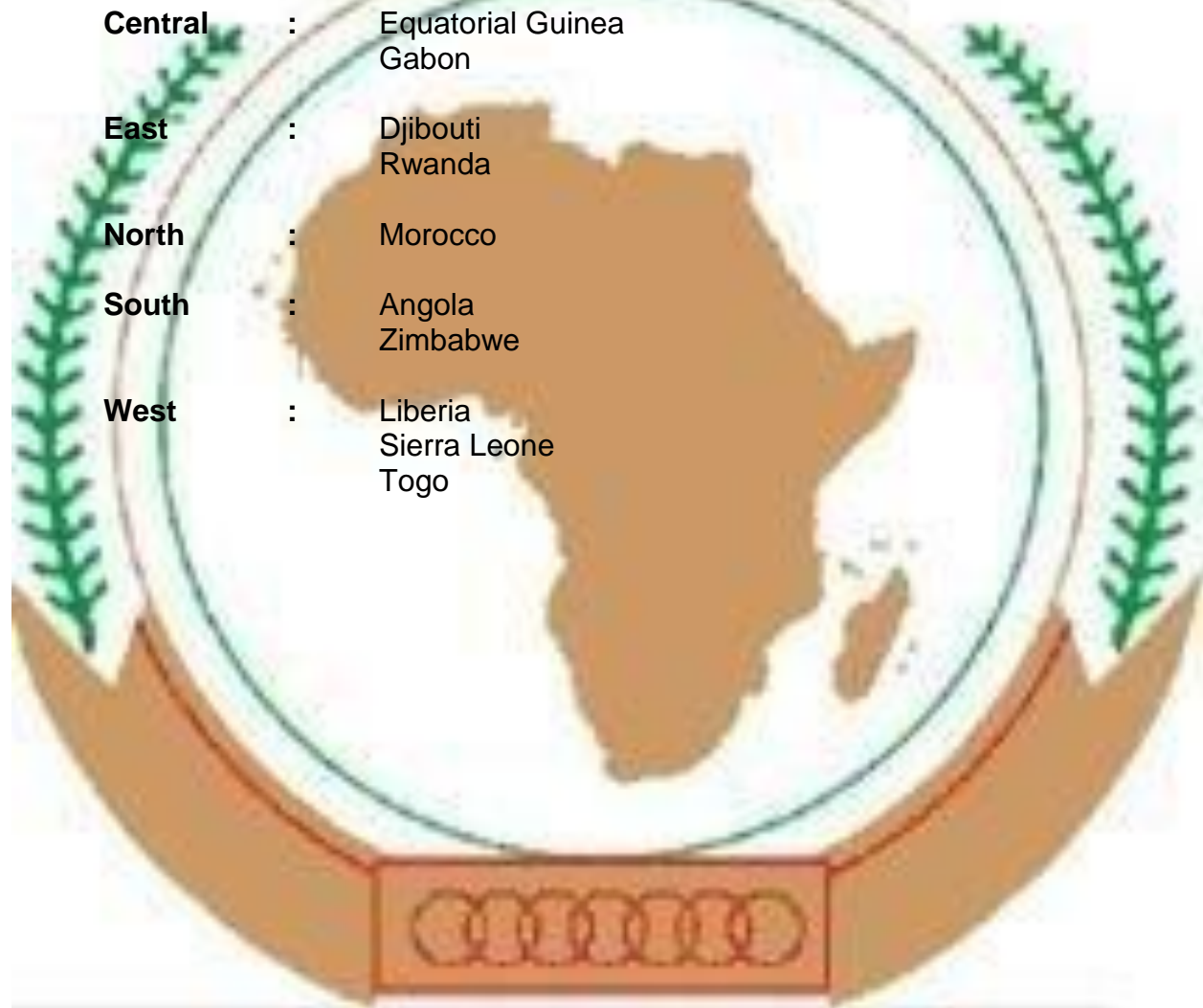


**DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF TEN (10) MEMBERS OF
THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

Doc. EX.CL/1070(XXXII)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election of Ten (10) Members of the Peace and Security Council by the Executive Council.
2. **APPOINTS** the following Members for a term of two (2) years:



**DECISION ON ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT
OF THE PAN-AFRICAN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

Doc. EX.CL/1071(XXXII)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election of the President and Vice-President of the Pan-African University (PAU) Council by the Executive Council;
2. **APPOINTS** Mr. NZINZI Pierre Dominique (Gabon) as President of the PAU Council for a term of three (3) years;
3. **DECIDES** that the Vice-President of the PAU Council will be elected at the Thirty-Third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for June/July 2018.



DECISION ON THE LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council for the consideration and adoption of the Draft Legal Instruments;
2. **ADOPTS** the Legal Instruments as follows:
 - a) Statute of the Trust Fund for victims of Hissene Habre crimes;
 - b) Amendment to Articles 10 and 14 of the Statutes of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC);
 - c) Statute of the African Institute for Remittances;
 - d) Institutional and Regulatory Texts of the Yamoussoukro Decision;
 - e) Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to Free Movement of Persons, Rights of Residence and Right of Establishment and its Implementation Roadmap;
 - f) African Union Model Law for the implementation of the African Union Convention for the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;
 - g) Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disability in Africa;
 - h) Statute of the African Space Agency.
3. **CALLS ON** Member States to sign and ratify the above Legal Instruments, where applicable, to enable them to enter into force.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON ITS
ACTIVITIES AND THE STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA**

Doc. Assembly/AU/6(XXX)

The Assembly,

1. **URGES** the Malagasy parties to favour consensus with a view to establishing the conditions for a calm political climate that is conducive to the organisation of free, transparent and credible elections, in strict conformity with the provisions of the Malagasy Constitution. In that respect, the Assembly **CONGRATULATES** the Chairperson of the Commission on his efforts to support Madagascar in the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, and **ENCOURAGES** his High Representative to pursue and intensify his interaction with all the stakeholders in Madagascar;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the launching by the Commission, in close collaboration with the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), in Khartoum, from 8 to 10 October 2017, of the consultative process towards the development of a regional strategy for peace and security in the Horn of Africa, in line with the decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 472(XX) adopted in January 2013, in which the Assembly reiterated its support for a regional and holistic approach to resolving challenges to peace, security and stability in the Horn of Africa, in support of IGAD;
3. **WELCOMES** the signing, on 21 December 2017, by the South Sudanese stakeholders of an Agreement of Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access, and **COMMENDS** IGAD for leading the High Level Revitalization Forum, which presents a unique opportunity for the implementation of the Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS), in line with the Communique of the 720th meeting of the PSC, held at ministerial level, in New York, on 20 September 2017. The Assembly **CONGRATULATES** IGAD and the Chairperson of the Commission for their efforts that led to that achievement, towards finding a lasting solution to the conflict that continues to devastate South Sudan. The Assembly **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** over the repeated violations of the Agreement by the parties, resulting in further deterioration of the already dire humanitarian situation caused by the ongoing conflict, and **DEMANDS** all warring parties to immediately put an end to all military actions and comply scrupulously with their commitments, as contained in the Agreement of 21 December 2017. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the AU High Representative for South Sudan, Alpha Oumar Konare, former President of Mali, and the Chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission [JMEC], Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana, for their collective efforts towards implementation of the ARCSS. The Assembly **WELCOMES** efforts by Presidents Yoweri K. Museveni of Uganda and Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt that led to the Cairo Declaration and the Entebbe Agreement aimed at reuniting the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). Furthermore, the Assembly

COMMENDS the Transitional Government of National Unity (ToGNU) for formally accepting the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Hybrid Court for South Sudan. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the enhanced coordination efforts between the IGAD, the AU and the UN;

4. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the significant decrease of hostilities between the Government of Sudan and the rebel forces in Darfur and **COMMENDS** the Government of Sudan for extending the unilateral ceasefire as announced on 8 October 2017 and **ENCOURAGES** the armed movements to also reciprocate the overture meant for maintaining peace and stability in Darfur. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the United Nations African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for the progress made on the first phase of the reconfiguration exercise and **URGES** the Mission to ensure the second phase is also completed in June 2018, in line with the schedule outlined in the relevant PSC communiqués and press statements, as well as UN Security Council resolutions. In this regard, the Assembly **UNDERSCORES THE NEED** to reflect in the UNAMID reviewed mandate the new configuration in Darfur to ensure that the Mission's priorities are aligned with the realities on the ground, including the much-needed support for reconstruction and stabilization;
5. **COMMENDS** the rapprochement between the Republics of South Sudan and Sudan, in line with the Cooperation Agreement of 2012, and as a step further towards the objective to achieve two states at peace with each other. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** Sudan and South Sudan to enhance their cooperation towards reinforcing good neighbourliness and addressing border insecurity. The Assembly **CALLS FOR** greater commitment by the two countries for the resolution of the issues relating to the Two Areas of Blue Nile and South Kordofan and Abyei.
6. **COMMENDS** the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and all Somali stakeholders for the continued gains being made towards consolidating peace, stability and reconciliation in Somalia, with the support of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and partners. The Assembly **FURTHER COMMENDS** the efforts deployed towards reconciliation to enhance the working relations between the FGS and its Federal Member States (FMS), which augurs well for the consolidation of peace and stability in Somalia. In this context, the Assembly **HAILS** the visits undertaken by H.E. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo, President of Somalia, to central and northern regions of Galmudug and Puntland for consultations with the stakeholders in these areas. The Assembly **REAFFIRMS ITS FULL SUPPORT** to the FGS, as well as its determination to spare no efforts towards achieving lasting peace, security and reconciliation in Somalia. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the progress made to date in the fight against the al-Shabaab terrorist group, thanks to the joint efforts by AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces (SNSF). In this regard, the Assembly **ENCOURAGES** AMISOM to remain resolute and steadfast in discharging its mandate. Furthermore,, the Assembly **UNDERLINES THE**

URGENT NEED for AMISOM to be provided with a predictable and sustainable funding and the requisite equipment to enhance its capacity, including force enablers and multipliers, with a view to enabling it to more effectively discharge its mandate, in line with the conclusions of the AU-UN Joint Review and in the spirit of the UN-AU Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed on 19 April 2017. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the appointment by the Chairperson of the Commission and the UN Secretary General of Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria, and Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, former UN Under Secretary General in charge of Peacekeeping Operations, to recommend to the AU and the UN the best options for predictable and sustainable funding for AMISOM and the Somali security forces.

7. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the electoral process in the DRC, notably the announcement on 5 November 2017 of an electoral calendar setting the date of 23 December 2018 for the holding of the provincial, legislative and presidential elections, and **URGES** AU Member States with the necessary logistical capabilities, to generously make them available to the DRC for the success of the electoral process. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the AU, SADC, ICGLR, and the United Nations to continue to work together for coherent and effective financial, logistical and security support to the DRC, and **INVITES** the international community to give the necessary support for the holding of elections within the timeframe as announced on 5 November 2017. The Assembly **EXPRESSES ITS FULL SUPPORT** for the efforts of the Chairperson of the Commission with the Congolese authorities, and **URGES** them to take measures aimed at defusing political tension. The Assembly **CALLS UPON** all the Congolese parties to exercise utmost restraint in that regard and **CONDEMNS** all forms of violence and **DEEPLY DEPLORES** the loss of human lives;
8. **REAFFIRMS** the leading role of the AU in the efforts to implement the African Initiative in the CAR and **URGES** all armed groups to put an end to violence and the use of weapons throughout the territory. The Assembly **CALLS UPON** CAR neighbouring States, members of the Facilitation Panel, to fully cooperate and work towards the success of the Initiative by taking internal steps to control and prevent the movements of armed groups in their territories. The Assembly **STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE** of complementarity between MINUSCA and the African Mission for Central Africa (MISAC), with a view to restoring State authority and the adherence of armed groups to Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration and Repatriation (DDRR) programmes. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the Government of the CAR to continue its recovery and peacebuilding efforts despite the many challenges the country faces, and the partners to continue to provide their support in the reconstruction of the CAR;
9. **REAFFIRMS** the commitment of the AU to a peaceful resolution of the political situation in Burundi through an inclusive dialogue on the basis of the Arusha Agreement of 28 August 2000 and the Constitution of Burundi and **APPEALS** to

the Burundian authorities to initiate all constitutional reforms through a broad consensus of all stakeholders. The Assembly **AWAITS** the result of the efforts of the East African Community (EAC) Facilitator, former President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, under the leadership of the EAC Mediator, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and **EXPRESSES** its readiness to deploy the High Level Committee of Heads of State on Burundi. The Assembly **CALLS, ONCE AGAIN**, on the Government of Burundi to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on the activities of the AU Human Rights Observers and Military Experts;

10. **CALLS UPON** the Bissau-Guinean stakeholders to abide by their commitments and **URGES** them to comply with and implement the 2016 Bissau Roadmap and Conakry Agreement, so as to resolve the crisis and ensure a successful and timely conduct of the upcoming 2018 legislative elections. The Assembly **UNDERScores** the primary responsibility of the President of the Republic to promote the compliance with the necessary conditions for an inclusive and genuine dialogue to bring about peace and stability in the country and **URGES** all stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau to refrain from actions that could further ignite the crisis. The Assembly **REITERATES ITS SUPPORT** to the mediation efforts being deployed by the ECOWAS, including the role being played by the ECOMIB in maintaining and enhancing stability in Guinea-Bissau. The Assembly, recognising the critical role of the mission in the resolution of the crisis and restoration of peace and stability in Guinea Bissau, **CALLS FOR** the renewal of ECOMIB mandate, as well as for joint efforts to mobilize financial resources to support the continuation of its operation in the country;
11. **COMMENDS** the progress made thus far in the implementation of the 20 June 2015 Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali which resulted from the Algiers process. In this context, the Assembly **FURTHER COMMENDS**, in particular, the efforts deployed by the Government of Mali in the conduct of political dialogue with other stakeholders, which led to the adoption of a Roadmap of priority actions to be taken with a view to accelerating the peace process. The Assembly also **URGES** the signatory parties of the Agreement to persevere in its implementation, as well as implement the said Roadmap, particularly with respect to demobilization, disarmament and reintegration, and security in order to contribute to the fight against terrorism;
12. **URGES, ONCE AGAIN**, the Malian parties to redouble their efforts with a view to ensuring the speedy implementation of the provisions laid down in the Agreement, and **WELCOMES** the signing of a Ceasefire Agreement on 23 August 2017 and the commitment to the Cessation of Hostilities, signed on 20 September 2017, by the armed groups that are signatories to the Algiers Agreement. The Assembly **FURTHER URGES** the Malian parties to reach a consensus for the organization of the upcoming election in 2018. The Assembly **COMMENDS** MINUSMA for the work accomplished and **RENEWS THE AU'S SUPPORT** for its stabilization efforts in Mali, and **REITERATES ITS SUPPORT** to Resolution 2374(2017), within the framework of international efforts to

accelerate the process for the implementation of the Algiers Agreement. The Assembly **EXPRESSES, ONCE AGAIN, ITS DEEP CONCERN** at the continuous deterioration of the security situation in Mali and the Sahel region due to continuation of the scourge of terrorism and organized transnational crime, and **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** all terrorist attacks against civilians and Malian and international forces;

13. **WELCOMES** the operationalization of the G5 Sahel Joint Force and requests the Commission and Member States to provide support for the Force in its mission to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime in the Sahel. In that regard, the Assembly **CALLS ON** the international community to support the organization of the High-Level International Conference on the Sahel to be held on 23 February 2018 in Brussels;
14. **REITERATES** that terrorism and violent extremism continue to represent the most dangerous threat to peace, security and stability in Africa and **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the terrorist attacks perpetrated in Africa. The Assembly **RENEWS** its total rejection and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms. In this regard, the Assembly **WELCOMES** all efforts being deployed on the continent to fight and defeat terrorist groups, including the convening in Addis Ababa, on 10 December 2017, of the joint meeting of the Nouakchott and Djibouti processes, which are both platforms for sharing information and intelligence in AU counter terrorism efforts. The Assembly **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of all support that the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services in Africa (CISSA) and the newly operationalized AU Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) are providing to Member States and RECs/RMs, with a view to enhancing capacities in their fight against terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization in the continent. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) for their continued fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group. The Assembly **REQUESTS** the Commission, working closely with partners, to continue to deploy necessary efforts towards mobilizing additional and adequate support for the MNJTF, based on the need expressed by the countries of the region, with a view to assisting them in filling its capability gaps. The Assembly **FURTHER CALLS** for the fulfilment of the pledges made by partners in support of the MNJTF. The Assembly **CALLS ON** all AU Member States and the international community at large to extend the necessary assistance to the countries of the region confronted with a dire humanitarian situation. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the progress made in operationalizing the G5 Sahel Joint Force to combat terrorism and organized crime in the Sahel, as well as the pledges made by different partners, including the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 2391(2017). The Assembly **CALLS UPON** the international community as a whole to continue efforts to ensure sustainable and predictable funding for the G5 Sahel Joint Force, and **LOOKS FORWARD** to the outcomes of the Conference on the Sahel scheduled to be held in Brussels in February 2018, to mobilize additional resources to support efforts of the countries of the

region. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA) for the sustained gains made in the fight against the LRA, and **WELCOMES** the partnership between the AU and the UN in these efforts;

15. **WELCOMES** the ongoing progress in Côte d'Ivoire on the path of consolidation of peace and stability in the country, and **ENCOURAGES** the Ivorian authorities to continue with the reform of the security sector and the deepening of the national reconciliation;
16. **EXPRESSES, ONCE AGAIN**, its deep concern over the persistent political impasse and the security situation in Libya, which continues to prolong the suffering of the Libyan people, undermine the country's legal institutions and pose a challenge to security and stability in the neighbouring countries and the whole region. The Assembly **REAFFIRMS** the imperative to engage the Libyans in an Inclusive National Reconciliation process in order to create the conditions conducive for the Libyans to determine themselves the future of their country and **STRESSES THE NEED** for Africa to preserve the African unity and solidarity, as well as the regional harmony in the search for a lasting solution to the Libyan crisis. The Assembly **FURTHER STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE** of renewing and enhancing cooperation between the African Union, the neighbouring countries and the United Nations in the resolution of the Libyan crisis, with a view to reaching a broad consensus on the objectives to be attained and the initiatives to be taken. The Assembly **REQUESTS** the Commission to re-launch the efforts of the Contact Group on Libya, in close cooperation with the United Nations, in order to bring together the efforts of the international community on the question and in support of the efforts of the AU High Level Committee on Libya and the AU High Representative on Libya. The Assembly **EXPRESSES, ONCE AGAIN**, its appreciation to H.E. Mr. Denis SASSOU NGUESSO, President of the Republic of the Congo, Chairman of the AU High Level Committee on Libya, members of the Committee, the AU High Representative on Libya, H.E. Mr. Jakaya KIKWETE, as well as to the neighbouring countries for their efforts to establish a lasting peace in Libya;
17. **EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT** for the re-launching of the negotiation process between Morocco and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) with a view to reaching a durable solution consistent with letter and spirit of the relevant OAU/AU decisions and UN resolutions. The Assembly **REITERATES ITS CALL** on the two Member States, to engage, without pre-conditions, in direct and serious talks facilitated by the AU and the UN for the holding of a free and fair referendum for the people of Western Sahara. While the AU stands ready to operationalize, if and when necessary, its Committee of the Heads of State and Government on Western Sahara, the Assembly **CALLS ON** the two parties to fully cooperate with the AU High Representative for Western Sahara, former President Joaquim A. Chissano of Mozambique, and the Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Horst Köhler. The Assembly **REQUESTS** Morocco,

as an AU Member State, to allow the AU Observer Mission to return to Laayoune, Western Sahara, as well as to allow an independent monitoring of human rights in the Territory. The Assembly **REITERATES** its repeated calls, in particular its declaration adopted at its 24th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, from 30 to 31 January 2015, on the Crans Montana Forum, a Switzerland-based organization, to desist from convening its meetings in the city of Dakhla, in Western Sahara and **APPEALS** to all Member States, African civil society organizations and other relevant actors to boycott the upcoming meeting scheduled to take place from 15 to 20 March 2018³;

18. **REITERATES ITS CALL** to Member States and the RECs/RMs to prioritize support for and implementation of post-conflict reconstruction development activities in those areas emerging from conflict. The Assembly, while welcoming the holding by the Commission of the N'Djamena conference on stabilizing the Lake Chad Basin, **CALLS ON** the PSC to continue mobilizing support, including from the private sectors and international financial institutions, in support of countries emerging from conflict with a view to preventing relapse and advancing regeneration of resilience, as well as enhancing development;
19. **RECALLS** its previous decisions emphasizing the need to prioritize preventive diplomacy and mediation in approaching crisis and conflict situations and **STRESSES THE NEED** to enhance the AU's prevention capabilities and tools, in the context of silencing the guns by 2020. In this respect, the Assembly **REQUESTS** the PSC, working closely with the Commission and the Panel of the Wise, and taking note of the annual programme of the Panel, to explore, within the context of the PSC Protocol and all other AU relevant instruments, innovative ways and means to enhance preventive approaches in efforts aimed at promoting peace, security and stability;
20. **REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT** for greater participation and responsibility of women in peace efforts in Africa. In this regard, the Assembly **TAKES NOTE** of efforts being made towards finalizing a Continental Results Framework for monitoring and reporting on delivery by Member States on commitments and implementation progress on Women, Peace and Security. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the steps taken to operationalise "Pan African Network of Women Mediators" (FemWise-Africa), as a subsidiary body of the Panel of the Wise, in particular the convening of its General Assembly on from 13 to 14 December 2017, in Constantine, Algeria. The Assembly **ALSO REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT** to ensure protection of children in conflict situation in Africa and **TAKES NOTE** of the activities being undertaken to this effect and **INVITES** the Chairperson of the Commission to expedite the nomination of a Special Envoy for the protection of children in conflict situations;

³ Reservation entered by the Kingdom of Morocco

21. **UNDERLINES** the need for Africa to continue building the ongoing efforts to revitalize the AU Peace Fund which is a strategic asset in the continent's efforts to lead and control its peace and security agenda through availing predictable and sustainable funding. In this context, the Assembly **ENCOURAGES** all Member States to continue deploying efforts towards the revitalization of the AU Peace Fund and **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to those Member States which have already made their contribution to the Fund;
22. **COMMENDS** the African Members of the UN Security Council (A3) for their coordinated collective efforts in defending and promoting common African positions and concerns within the UN Security Council, including the regular briefings to the PSC by the Coordinator of the A3 Group. In this context, the Assembly **STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE** for the A3 to continue to work as a coherent and coordinated group, speaking with one voice and to further strengthen their consultations with other members of the UNSC and the Africa Group in New York, and to continue keeping the PSC regularly informed of the results of these efforts. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the Republic of Zambia for the successful hosting of the 5th High Level Seminar, in Livingstone, from 4 to 5 December 2017 and **ENDORSES** its Conclusions as attached to the Report of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa.



**DECISION ON THE SECOND REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY
COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
AFRICAN UNION MASTER ROADMAP OF PRACTICAL STEPS FOR
SILENCING THE GUNS IN AFRICA BY THE YEAR 2020**

Doc. Assembly/AU/8(XXX)

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** the Organization of African Unity/ African Union (OAU/AU) 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted on 25 May 2013, in which the Assembly of the Union pledged not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020, as well as decision Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII) by which the 28th ordinary session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 – 31 January 2017, adopted the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020. The Assembly **FURTHER RECALLS** decision Assembly/AU/Dec.645(XXIX) by which the 29th ordinary session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 4 -5 July 2017, adopted the Inaugural Report of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the Implementation of the African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020;
2. **COMMENDS** the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for its efforts in implementing decision Assembly/AU/Dec.645(XXIX), through, among others, the launching at its 716th meeting held on 4 September 2017, of the “Africa Amnesty Month” for the surrender and collection of illegally owned weapons/arms, in line with the African and international best practices. The Assembly **UNDERLINES** that observance of the African Amnesty Month is one of the major steps towards achieving the goal of silencing the guns in Africa by the Year 2020, and **ENCOURAGES** Member States to implement activities foreseen under the Africa Amnesty Month in September each year and to actively engage in public awareness campaigns, including through their national media, in order to effectively educate the people on this issue with a view to ensuring their full cooperation and support, as well as success of the process;
3. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the PSC and all Member States, as well as the AU Organs, the RECs/RMs, the UN, the CSOs and think tanks for the efforts thus far deployed in implementing the AU Master Roadmap and **URGES** them to continue in their efforts;
4. **URGES** Member States and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs) to submit their reports to Council, through the AU Commission, on the actions taken in implementing the Africa Amnesty Month, by November each year, to further popularize it within the communities, with a view to ensuring maximum participation of all citizens in the continent;

5. **RECOGNIZES** that lack of dedicated research, which accounts for huge gaps in the data, particularly on illicit weapons, illicit financial flows, arms and drug trafficking, drug production, illegal exploitation of natural resources and migration, among others, remains one of the main challenges, while such data is required to further strengthen the efforts to silence the guns in Africa. In this regard, the Assembly **APPEALS** to Member States to mobilize resources to address the challenge and **CALLS ON** the academia and private sectors in Africa to redouble their efforts to make contributions through research, publicity and mobilization towards effective implementation of the AU Master Roadmap;
6. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to continue with their efforts to further improve their governance institutions and processes, robustly combat corruption, take measures to arrest illicit financial flows, mobilize action to mitigate negative effects of climate change, environmental degradation and boost economic activities, including employment creation, especially in favour of the youth and women;
7. **STRESSES THE NEED** for Member States to deploy the required efforts on the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap, particularly by paying due attention to all the five key aspects raised in the AU Master Roadmap, namely political, social, economic, environmental and legal aspects to enable Africa and its people to see the actual trends in the AU Master Roadmap implementation process and address gaps where they appear in the run-up to the year 2020;
8. **ENCOURAGES** the RECs/RMs to fully mainstream implementation of the AU Master Roadmap in their activities, including setting dedicated focal points, and/or special envoys on silencing the guns, with a view to enhancing coordination of efforts with the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns;
9. **APPEALS** to Member States to demonstrate sustained political commitment and engagement, and **EMPHASIZES** the need to be consistent in the application of the AU norms and instruments in the prevention and resolution of conflicts in the continent, with a view to ensure the creation of requisite conditions for silencing the guns in Africa, which will facilitate realization of a conflict-free continent in line with the letter and spirit of Agenda 2063;
10. **WELCOMES** the appointment of Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, by the Chairperson of the Commission as the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa, and **CALLS UPON** Member States, the RECs/RMs, the UN and all partners, to extend their cooperation and support his activities in assisting Africa and its people to silence the guns in Africa by the year 2020. The Assembly **FURTHER STRESSES** the urgent need for the AU to mobilize funding in support of the activities of the High Representative to enable him carry out his mandate, particularly galvanizing efforts of all stakeholders to scale up activities in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap.

**DECISION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE TENTH ORDINARY MEETING
OF THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON DEFENCE, SAFETY AND SECURITY**

The Assembly,

1. **WELCOMES** the convening of the Tenth Ordinary meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 9 January 2018;
2. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/ Dec.589(XXVI), adopted by the 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly, held from 30 to 31 January 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which directed that “the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) will continue its mandate pending the AMANI AFRICA II Field Training Exercise After Action Review scheduled for Maputo, Mozambique in March 2016 and the Evaluation Mission to be undertaken by the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms to verify the state of readiness of the Regional Standby Forces”;
3. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to Member States, the Commission and Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs) for successfully conducting the After-Action Review in Maputo in 2016;
4. **COMMENDS** the successful conduct, between June and December 2017, of the Verification, Confirmation and Validation of African Standby Force (ASF) pledged capabilities, as conducted by the AU Commission and RECs/RMs, and **FURTHER COMMENDS** the Independent Panel of Experts led by Professor Ibrahim Gambari for its contribution in this context;
5. **RECOGNIZES** the progress made by the East African Standby Force (EASF), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in operationalizing their respective standby forces and **ACKNOWLEDGES** the efforts of the North Africa Regional Capability (NARC) towards operationalizing its standby force;
6. **TAKES NOTE** of the operationalization of the African Standby Force Continental Logistics Base in Douala, Cameroon, including its inauguration by the AU Commission and the Government of the Republic of Cameroon on 5 January 2017, as a major step in the development of the ASF. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the efforts of the Government of Cameroon in supporting this endeavour to advance peace, security and stability in Africa, as well as the Commission for its efforts in finalizing the acquisition of the African Standby Force Command, Control, Communication and Information Systems (ASF C3IS);

7. **ENDORSES** the Declaration of the Tenth Ordinary meeting of the Specialised Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security and the outcomes contained therein;
8. **DECIDES** that all stakeholders should support the realisation of the full operationalization of the ASF, and harmonise the activities of ACIRC with the Framework of the ASF and enhance cooperation with all ad-hoc coalitions namely, MNJTF, Group of Five Sahel Joint Force and RCI-LRA. In this context, the Assembly **URGES** the PSC to continue mandating and deploying the ASF for AU Peace Support Operations, including the use of ad-hoc coalitions, in line with the AU Constitutive Act.



DECISION ON PROGRESS ON MATERNAL, NEW BORN AND CHILD HEALTH (MNCH)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the 2017 Report on the Status of Maternal, New Born and Child Health (MNCH) in Africa and **ENDORSES** recommendations contained therein;
2. **REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT** towards ending preventable maternal, child and adolescent deaths in the continent by 2030;
3. **RECOGNISES** that targeting vulnerable populations, as defined within national contexts and policies, and addressing equity and coverage gaps of key health services and implementing cost-effective, high impact interventions in a multi-sectoral approach improves maternal new-born child and adolescent health;
4. **COMMITTS** to providing strong and visible leadership via effective policy making and legislation, budgeting and increased accountability for the health of women, children and adolescent;
5. **ALSO COMMITTS** to the provision of universal health coverage and to prioritize evidence based, high MNCH impact interventions and services for women, children and adolescents;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to include in the next MNCH Report, progress in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present report.



DECISION ON THE AFRICAN LEADERS FOR NUTRITION (ALN) INITIATIVE

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.4(XXIII) on Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and sustainable development in Africa; and Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XXIII) - the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods;
2. **MINDFUL** that food security without improved nutrition will not deliver the desired inclusive socio-economic outcomes; as the number of those affected by hunger and malnutrition has not decreased over the past few years;
3. **COMMENDS** Member States that have made progress in ending child stunting and addressing underweight and **ENCOURAGES** others to do the same;
4. **REAFFIRMS** its commitment to end hunger by 2025 through strengthening development policies as an effective investment in the human capital of Member States; and **RECOMMIT** to end child stunting by reducing stunting to 10% and underweight to 5% by 2025 and in particular, focusing on the first 1000 Days as the only window of opportunity during which permanent and irreversible physical and mental damage would be avoided;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the on-going advocacy efforts by the African Union Nutrition Champion, His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho;
6. **ENDORSES** the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) Initiative by the African Development Bank and the Commission, as laid out in the concept document, which will establish the political leaders' initiative to overcome all forms of malnutrition on the continent and elevate nutrition-related matters on the continental and global political agenda as driver for economic growth and sustainable development in Africa. **RECOMMENDS** the ALN to establish dialogue with African Leaders for new financial and policy commitments on Nutrition to deliver the socio-economic, and health returns;
7. **URGES** the ALN to continue the dialogue and strengthen the advocacy efforts in support of improved nutrition, including through supporting the AU Nutrition Champion, His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho to advance the Implementation of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2015-2025) and the ARISE Initiative;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit biennial report to the Assembly on the activities and progress made by the ALN.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOLEMN DECLARATION
ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA (SDGEA)**

Doc. EX.CL1053(XXXII)

The Assembly,

1. **ADOPTS** the Eleventh Member State and Twelfth Chairperson Reports on the Implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA),
2. **APPEALS** to the three Member States that are yet to submit their initial reports to do so urgently. These are: Cape Verde, Central African Republic and Guinea Bissau;
3. **ALSO APPEALS** to Member States which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women (Maputo Protocol) and those who have ratified, to accelerate its domestication and implementation;
4. **CALLS UPON** Member States to implement all the commitments made in the SDGEA;
5. **ALSO CALLS UPON** the Commission to accelerate the alignment of its policies, programmes and reporting tools for gender equality with Agenda 2063.



DECISION ON THE REPORTS OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS

The Assembly,

1. **COMMENDS** H.E. Prof. Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea and the outgoing Chairperson of the Union, for appointing Heads of State and Government Leaders to champion and advocate continental strategic issues;
2. **CONGRATULATES** the Leaders who presented progress reports:
 - i) H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, Leader on the Institutional Reform of the African Union;
 - ii) H.E. Prof. Alpha Condé, President of The Republic of Guinea, Coordinator of Renewable Energies in Africa and Chairperson of The Board of Directors of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) On Operationalization of AREI and Implementation Status;
 - iii) H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, Leader on Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Issues;
 - iv) H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, Leader and Chairperson of the High Level Committee on Libya;
 - v) H.E. Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Leader and Chairperson of the Committee of Ten (C10) on the United Nations Security Council Reform;
 - vi) H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South African, Leader on African Union-United Nations Cooperation;
 - vii) His Majesty Mohamed VI, King of Morocco, Leader on the Migration Issue;
 - viii) H.E. Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Gabonese Republic and Chairperson of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC);
 - ix) H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Leader on the Implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP);
3. **COMMENDS** the Leaders for their relentless efforts and invaluable contributions in advancing continental priorities within the framework of Agenda 2063 and **ENCOURAGES** them to continue advocating towards the achievement of Africa's aspirations and goals;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue supporting the Leaders in their work and report on the outcomes in the Annual Report of the African Union and its Organs.



DECISION ON CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO

The Assembly,

1. **REITERATES** its commitment to the fight against all forms of colonialism in Africa in accordance with the OAU/AU legal instruments and decisions, in particular, the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted at the 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly in May 2013, which reaffirmed the need to ensure the completion of the decolonisation process in Africa;
2. **RECALLS** the United Nations (UN) Resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965 in relation to the continued unlawful occupation by the United Kingdom of the Chagos Archipelago, which forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius and over which the Republic of Mauritius is unable to effectively exercise its sovereignty. **FURTHER RECALLS** UN Resolution 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966 and Resolution 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967 which reiterated that any disruption of the territorial integrity of colonial territories in the decolonization process would be contrary to the UN Charter;
3. **RENEWS** its commitment to UN Resolution 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965 which reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Mauritius to freedom and that the UK Government should implement UN Resolution 1514 (XV) fully and **invited "the administering Power to take no action which would dismember the Territory of Mauritius and violate its territorial integrity."**
4. **RECALLS** the previous OAU/AU resolutions and decisions on the Chagos Archipelago, in particular the Assembly Resolutions: Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXV) adopted in June 2015 in Johannesburg as well as Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XXVIII) adopted in January 2017 in Addis Ababa;
5. **TAKES NOTE** of the resounding success at the vote taken at the UN General Assembly on 22 June 2017 for the adoption of Resolution 71/292 requesting the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to give an Advisory Opinion on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965, introduced by the Republic of the Congo on behalf of the Member States of the UN that are members of the Group of African States;
6. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the AU's request for an extension of the deadline of 30 January 2018 for the submission of a written statement by the AU to the ICJ in relation to the Advisory Opinion requested by the UN General Assembly Resolution 71/292 (2017) on the "**Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965**" as well as the ICJ Order granting the new deadline of 1st March 2018 and 15 May 2018 for written submissions in accordance with Article 66 of the ICJ Statute;

7. **DECIDES** to fully support the Republic of Mauritius by all means in order to ensure the completion of the decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius and enable the Republic of Mauritius to effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia;
8. **CALLS UPON** Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and all AU partners to make written submissions in support of the completion of the decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius to the ICJ within the deadline set by the ICJ Order;
9. **CALLS UPON** the United Kingdom to expeditiously put an end to its unlawful occupation of the Chagos Archipelago, in accordance with well-established principles of international law and the relevant decisions of OAU/AU and pertinent decisions of the UN;
10. **COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the Commission for the efforts exerted to make an AU submission and succeeding in bringing in the extension for the deadline and **REQUESTS** him to carry out the necessary campaign to bring more AU and UN States and other Organisations to support the call for the complete decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius as well as to make submissions in accordance with Article 66 of the ICJ Statute;
11. **DECIDES** to remain seized of the matter and **REQUESTS** the Commission to report on the progress and implementation of this decision to the Assembly in June/July 2018.



**DECISION ON THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR
AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)**
Doc. Assembly/AU/12(XXX)

The Assembly,

1. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the Report by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal;
2. **REAFFIRMS** the continued relevance and uniqueness of accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2063 and, the vehicle to enhance multi-sectoral and integrated approach to deliver transformative results as enshrined in the NEPAD Programme and the role that the NEPAD Agency plays and that will be reinforced in the proposed transition of the NEPAD Agency into the African Union Development Agency;
3. **REASSERTS** the essential role played by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) in the provision of political leadership and strategic direction to the NEPAD programme;
4. **TAKES NOTE** of the implementation of key national, regional and continental programmes and projects as reflected in the NEPAD Agency Results-based Performance Report for January-December 2017 **SPECIFICALLY NOTING** the progress of implementing key continental policies and frameworks such as Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF), Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan of Africa (PMPA), and Rural Futures;
5. **COMMENDS** the NEPAD Agency for the development and implementation of the Blueprint (policy framework) to Implement Rural Development Policies in Africa” and **FURTHER REQUESTS** the NEPAD Agency, with the support of development partners, to develop projects and programmes for the operationalisation of the Blueprint through the application of geo-spatial planning and remote sensing technologies;
6. **RECOGNIZES** sustainable tourism as one of Africa's engines of growth and development and **APPRECIATES** the contributions of the NEPAD Agency and its partners towards sustainable tourism in Africa, through the implementation of the NEPAD Tourism Action Plan (TAP) of 2004 the progress made in the development the NEPAD Policy Framework on Youth Employment in Africa. **REQUESTS** the NEPAD Agency and development partners to update the Tourism Action Plan, as well as to create programmes and projects to support the domestication of the tourism-related sections of Agenda 2063;

7. **RECALLS** the Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.488 (XXI) and Assembly/AU/Dec.508(XXII) and **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the NEPAD Agency's 5% Agenda campaign by the Continental Business Network (CBN), aiming to increase investment allocations by African institutional asset owners, like Pension and Sovereign Wealth Funds, into African infrastructure from its current low base of about 1.5% of assets under management to a more impactful 5%;
8. **WELCOMES** and **ENDORSES** the final version of the Model Law for Trans-boundary Infrastructure Projects in Africa (PIDA Model Law) developed by UNECA in response to the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 563 (XXIV) and calls on Member States to consider the PIDA Model Law as part of the tools for enhancing private sector investment in transboundary infrastructure in Africa and **REQUESTS** NEPAD Agency, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Regional Economic Communities to assist Member States in domesticating the Model Law within their respective national legislative bodies;
9. **RECALLS** the Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.601 (XXVI) of January 2016, in which the year 2017 was themed "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investments in Youth", and **TAKES NOTE** of the ongoing development of the Skills and Employment for Youth (SEFY) strategy by the NEPAD Agency, strategy for implementing various continental policy frameworks and to support national development policy planning, as well as engage private sector to drive inclusive economic growth and wealth creation;
10. **COMMENDS** the NEPAD Agency and the African Union Commission, in cooperation with the Government of Germany, for establishing the Skills Initiative for Africa Finance Facility hosted at the NEPAD Agency in 2017, **INVITES** other African Member States to work with the NEPAD Agency for the extension of the Skills Initiative for Africa Funding Facility for funding of projects related to Technical Vocation and Education Training (TVET), including development and rehabilitation of TVET facilities;
11. **COMMENDS** the NEPAD Agency for establishing the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) and **WELCOMES** the efforts by African Heads of states and government to become actively involved in the development and implementation of regional and continental infrastructure projects; **WELCOMES** Namibia's accession into PICI;
12. **COMMENDS** progress made on the efforts initiated by Member States and partners to tackle TB as a multi-sectoral regional challenge such as the Southern Africa TB and Health Systems Support Project which is galvanizing efforts of Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia, and other SADC countries. **WELCOMES** efforts towards establishing regional centres of excellence on TB control and setting up a recognition scheme for private sector's contribution to TB

control. **CALLS UPON** Member States and partners to expand such efforts to cover more countries in order to enhance impact. **EMPHASIZES** on the need for increased financial and technical commitment, and accountability for disease surveillance, innovative prevention, detection and treatment of TB from both domestic sources and international partners. **COMMITTS** to target efforts towards fighting TB where it matters most, in the vulnerable communities and hot spots for the spread of the diseases such as mining communities, transport corridors, correctional facilities, migrants and refugees towards ending TB by 2030;

13. **REQUESTS** the NEPAD Agency to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation function in order to effectively deliver tangible and visualized results and guide the implementation of continental development frameworks as stipulated in Agenda 2063;
14. **APPLAUDS** the enriched quality of the technical work of the NPCA team under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki;
15. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made so far, **DECIDES** to harmonise the outcomes of the HSGOC meeting and the outcomes of the current Session of the Assembly on institutional reform of the AU, and to continue consultations and report to the Summit in June/July 2018.



**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE AFRICAN
PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the 27th Summit of the Forum of Heads of States and Government of the African Peers Review Mechanism (APRM) held on 27 January 2018;
2. **CONGRATULATES** H.E. Idriss Déby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad for his election as the new Chairperson of the APR Forum, and **COMMENDS** H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, for his sterling leadership of the mechanism, including its revitalisation, during his tenure as the Chairperson of the APR Forum;
3. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.527(XXIII) adopted by the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014, on the integration of the APRM into the African Union structures;
4. **ACKNOWLEDGES** progress made in the implementation of the integration decision and actions taken by the Chairperson of the Commission and APRM Secretariat to fast-track the process;
5. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.631(XXVIII) adopted by the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2017, on the Revitalisation of the African Peer Review Mechanism;
6. **REITERATES** that the APRM remains the premier homegrown, African good governance tool conceived in 2003 and voluntarily acceded to by thirty-seven (37) Member States representing 67% of AU Member States, more than half of whom twenty-one (21) have undergone the review;
7. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the peer review Reports of Sudan, Liberia and Uganda, as well as the Progress Report of Sierra Leone; and **CONGRATULATES** the four (4) Member States as well as the Panel of Eminent Persons that led the review work;
8. **FURTHER CONGRATULATES** the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the APRM Secretariat for his comprehensive progress report on the Operationalisation of the APRM Expanded Mandate emanating from the Institutional Reforms led by H.E. Paul Kagame and the Assembly Decision on the Revitalisation of the APRM;
9. **WELCOMES** steps taken to position the APRM as an early warning tool for conflict prevention on the continent, in the context of harmony and synergy

between the APRM, the African Peace and Security Architecture, and the African Governance Architecture;

10. **APPRECIATES** the Panel of Eminent Persons for their resilience and commitment to the process;
11. **URGES** Member States that have not so far acceded to the APRM to do so, and those that have done so to honour their annual contributions;
12. **CONGRATULATES** The Gambia and The Comoros for their accession as new members of the APRM, and **ENCOURAGES** more Member States to emulate this good example;
13. **ADOPTS** the Assembly Declaration on the 15th Anniversary of the APRM, and **REQUESTS** the Commission to collaborate with the APRM in celebrating this event throughout the year.



**DECISION ON THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
OF ASSEMBLY DECISION Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) ON
THE INSTITUTIONAL REFORM OF THE AFRICAN UNION**
Doc. Assembly/AU/3(XXX)

The Assembly,

Recalling Article 9(1) (a) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union on the powers of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Union to determine the common policies of the African Union;

Further recalling the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) on the Outcome of the Retreat of the Assembly of the African Union on the Institutional Reform of the African Union;

Reiterating its commitment to the reform and renewal of the Union as part of the effort to ensure we deliver Agenda 2063 an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in international arena;

Taking note of the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 on the African Union Institutional Reform

Welcoming the direction of the reform and the progress made so far in implementing the AU Institutional Reform Decision;

Commending the work of President Paul Kagame, President Alpha Condé and President Idriss Déby in supervising the implementation of the Institutional Reform process, as well as the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Mahamat Faki, for the progress made in operationalizing the institutional reforms;

Further commending Professor Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo for the excellent work undertaken in coordinating the reform implementation process and Dr. Donald Kaberuka, AU High Representative for Financing the Union for the excellent progress that has been made in advancing the Financing of the Union and Peace Fund agenda;

Having adopted the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) on the African Union Institutional Reform and its addendum.

DECIDES AS FOLLOWS:

On deepening the consultation process

1. That further consultations will take place on matters raised by some Member States in order to deepen the consensus and report to the next Summit;

2. That the Reform Troika shall be expanded to the Bureau of the Assembly and will collaborate with President Kagame in his capacity as Leader on the AU Institutional Reform process;
3. That fifteen (15) Ministers of Foreign Affairs, three per region, shall play an advisory role to the AU reform implementation process.

On women's quotas

4. The Commission shall take specific measures to fully achieve the equal representation of women and men (50/50) in all senior level positions including Political and Special Appointees, Directors and Heads of Divisions by 2025 in the Organs and institutions of the Union;
5. The Commission shall take specific measures to fully achieve the equal representation of women and men in both general service and professional staff positions by 2025 in the organs and institutions of the Union;
6. The Staff Regulations and Rules of the Union shall be amended to ensure enhanced policy direction is provided and programs are designed to implement this decision;
7. The Commission shall report annually to the Assembly and in a standalone report on progress in implementing this decision, including specific measures taken to attain the quotas set for the organs and institutions of the Union in this decision.

On youth quotas and financing of youth empowerment programs in the Union

8. The Commission shall take specific measures to ensure that by 2025, 35% of the AU workforce will be made up of youth;
9. That from 2018 onwards, Member States shall fully finance the Youth Volunteer Program and the Junior Professionals Program from the regular budget of the Union;
10. That Member States shall accelerate the payment of their contributions to the African Youth Fund in line with the July 2017 Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.661(XXIX) on the Establishment of the African Youth Fund;
11. The Commission shall report annually to the Assembly and in a standalone report on progress in implementing this decision, including specific measures taken to attain the quotas set for the organs and institutions of the Union and achieve the financing targets for the youth empowerment programs.

On the Ordinary Summit

12. That the move to one Ordinary Summit shall take effect from 2019 onwards.

On the delegation of budget adoption powers

13. To delegate, in line with the provisions of Article 9.2 of the Constitutive Act, the Assembly's budget adoption powers and functions, to the Executive Council once the move to one Ordinary Summit comes into force;
14. That the Executive Council will adopt the budget of the Union in June/July of every year during a dedicated budget session; and
15. That, in line with the provisions of Article 10 (1) of the Constitutive Act, the June/July budget session of the Executive Council shall be composed of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Finance.

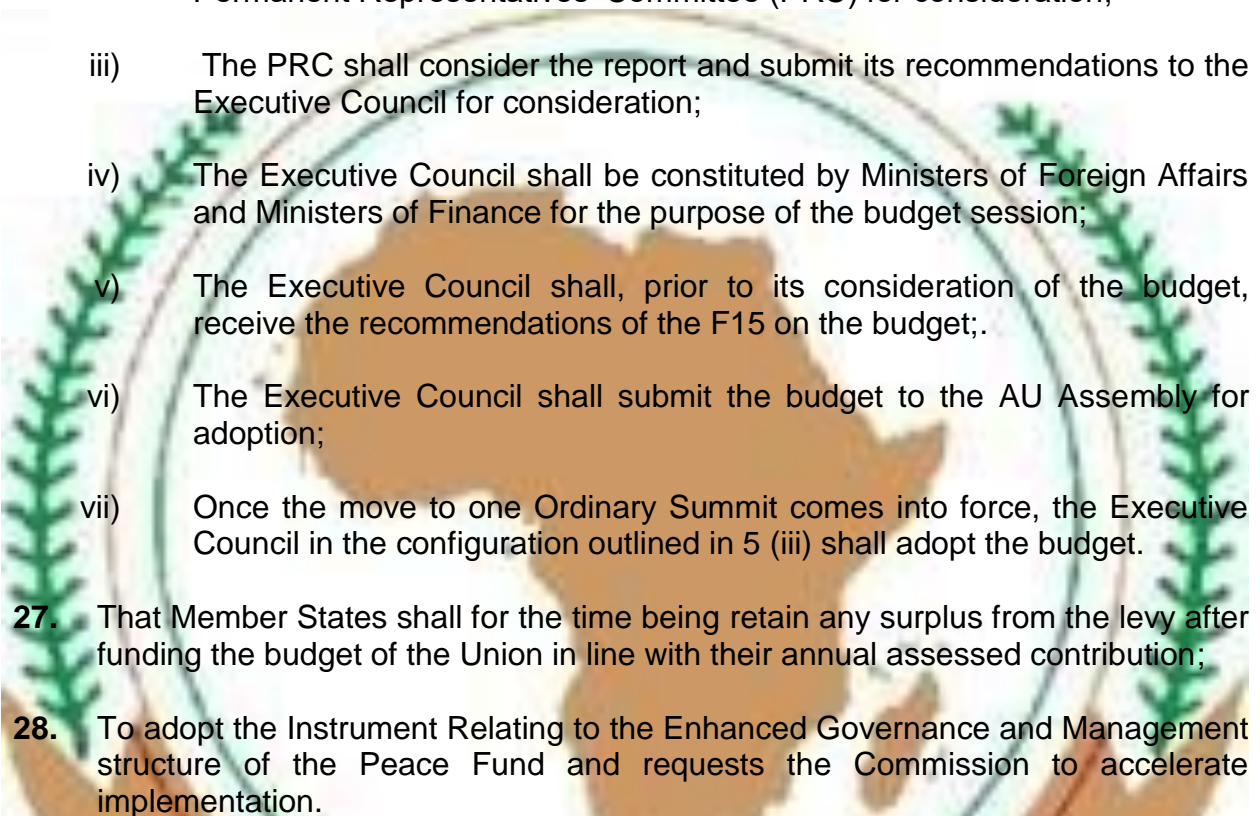
On a mechanism to ensure that legally binding decisions are implemented

16. Decision-making roles shall be properly delineated to ensure the disaggregation of the types of decisions that are taken at Assembly in line with Article 9 of the Constitutive Act and at the Executive Council, in line with Article 13 of the Executive Council;
17. Decisions shall be properly categorized, in line with Rule 33 of the Assembly Rules of Procedures and Rule 34 of the Executive Council Rules of Procedure, the type of decision and the associated obligations in terms of compliance and enforceability should be made explicit in any Decision that is being taken;
18. The financial and other resource implications of any decision being taken shall be provided as part of the supporting proposal;
19. That the capacity of the Office of the Legal Counsel shall be strengthened to ensure the proper categorization of Decisions and enhance the associated drafting of these Decisions;
20. That the co-ordination and monitoring capacity within the Bureau of the Chairperson of the AU Commission shall be strengthened with a focus on communication and information, monitoring, follow-up, reporting and liaison with Member States, AU Organs, institutions and AUC departments;
21. That monitoring and follow up of the implementation of decisions and polices shall become a core part of the Assembly, Executive Council, PRC and AU Commission's business as follows:

- i) The AU Commission and PRC meet monthly on the status of implementation of decisions and policies;
- ii) The June/July- mid-year Co-ordination meeting reviews the status of implementation;
- iii) The Executive Council mid-year meeting reviews of the status of implementation of decisions and policies;
- iv) The January Summit evaluates the status of implementation of decisions and policies and takes decisions on compliance;
- v) That AU Member States shall take all measures to enhance implementation and reporting capacity at the Member State level, including through the designation of focal points;

On Financing the Union

22. That the membership of the Committee of Ministers of Finance shall be expanded from ten (10) to fifteen (15) members, i.e., three (3) Member States per region. In this regard, the Committee will be called the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15);
23. To endorse the F15 budget oversight role and function based on the following six primary duties:
 - i) Comparing the expenditure and the rate of results achievement;
 - ii) Establishing a baseline for the following financial year's budget;
 - iii) Ensuring alignment between the budget and results achieved;
 - iv) Ensuring the link between revenue forecasts and affordability;
 - v) Ensuring that the proposed budget does not pose any unsustainable risk over the long term.
24. To adopt the 'golden rules' that provides a framework for financial management and accountability principles at the African Union;
25. To request the AU Commission to update the AU Financial Rules and Regulations taking into account the newly adopted Golden Rules and mechanisms for the involvement of the F15 on budgetary and financial issues of the Union;
26. That the F15 shall fully participate in the statutory budget process as follows:

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- The seal of the African Union is centered on the page. It features a map of the African continent in brown, surrounded by a green wreath of olive branches. The entire seal is set within a circular frame with a decorative base at the bottom containing five interlocking rings.
- i) Sub-Committees of Programmes and Conferences (CPC) and of General Supervision and Co-ordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters (GSCBFAM) of the PRC shall sit jointly with F15 Technical Experts to examine the budget priorities and proposals;
 - ii) The Sub-Committees shall submit their recommendations to the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) for consideration;
 - iii) The PRC shall consider the report and submit its recommendations to the Executive Council for consideration;
 - iv) The Executive Council shall be constituted by Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Finance for the purpose of the budget session;
 - v) The Executive Council shall, prior to its consideration of the budget, receive the recommendations of the F15 on the budget;
 - vi) The Executive Council shall submit the budget to the AU Assembly for adoption;
 - vii) Once the move to one Ordinary Summit comes into force, the Executive Council in the configuration outlined in 5 (iii) shall adopt the budget.
- 27.** That Member States shall for the time being retain any surplus from the levy after funding the budget of the Union in line with their annual assessed contribution;
- 28.** To adopt the Instrument Relating to the Enhanced Governance and Management structure of the Peace Fund and requests the Commission to accelerate implementation.

**DECISION ON THE DATES AND VENUE OF THE 31ST ORDINARY
SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** its decision **Assembly/AU/Dec.658(XXIX)** adopted at the 29th Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
2. **CONFIRMS** that the dates of the Thirty-First Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, shall be the following:
 - i) Thirty-Sixth (36th) Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC): 25 - 26 June 2018;
 - ii) Thirty-Third (33rd) Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 28 - 29 June 2018;
 - iii) Thirty-First (31st) Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 1 - 2 July 2018.
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to put in place all the necessary measures in order to organize the Thirty-First (31st) Ordinary Session of the Assembly as well as the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC according to the afore-mentioned dates.



**DECISION ON THE SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET
FOR THE 2017 FINANCIAL YEAR
Doc. PRC/Rpt(XXXV)**

The Assembly,

1. **ADOPTS** a Supplementary Budget amounting to **US\$60,929,714** of which **US\$3,179,562** is for Operating expenses and **US\$57,750,152** for the Programmes, including **US\$ 4,790,000** for the payment of backlog of death and disability compensations for AMISOM Troops Contributing Countries (TCCs);
2. **DECIDES** that the Supplementary budget be financed as follows:
 - a) Operating budget of **US\$3,093,878** from Member States and **US\$85,684** from Partners;
 - b) Program budget of **US\$12,532,009** from Member States and the balance of **US\$45,218,143** from Partners.



DECLARATION ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
Doc. EX.CL/1050(XXXII)

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 28 and 29 January 2018,

Taking note of the Report on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East and **Recalling** all previous resolutions and decisions of the Organisation of African Unity/African Union on the situation in Palestine for the maintenance of a lasting peace and security in the Middle East;

Reaffirming our total support for the Palestinian people in their just struggle against Israeli occupation, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas for the restoration of their legitimate right to establish an independent Palestinian State peacefully co-existing with the State of Israel;

Reaffirming our willingness to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations Resolutions calling for the establishment of a Palestinian State based on the June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in implementation of the principle of the two-State solution and UN Resolution 194 on the return of Palestinian refugees;

Reiterating our call for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides with a view to reaching a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, and **Expressing** our support for all initiatives aimed at finding a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict within a fixed timeframe;

Stressing our strong position in support of the Palestinian cause and the African Union's continued search for a just and comprehensive peace for the Palestinian people and **Hoping** that all Member States deploy efforts for the realization of this endeavour in their international relations. And that any cooperation by the countries of the Continent with the State of Israel should not support the occupying entity at the expense of African support for the Palestinian cause;

Further reaffirming, that all settlements built in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights are null and void and illegal, and **Condemning** the policy of land grabbing, demolition of houses and forced displacement of civilians coupled with collective punishment measures;

Condemning Israeli practices against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, and **Rejecting** administrative detention and condemning arbitrary measures and sanctions imposed on detainees, particularly children and women in Israeli prisons, which is deprives them of their minimum rights guaranteed by the international human rights laws and norms on, including the Geneva Convention on the Rights of Women and

Children. **Calling upon** in this regard the Israeli Government to release all Palestinian and Arab prisoners detained in Israeli prisons immediately and unconditionally;

Denouncing Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territories, the escalation and tension caused by the Israeli Government and Israeli settlers as well as the policy of execution implemented in occupied Palestinian territory against unarmed civilians in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. **Calling on** the United Nations Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities by providing protection for the unarmed Palestinian people from the oppressive machinery of occupation in implementation of international laws, conventions and treaties in the occupied territories of the Palestinian State.

HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. **REQUEST** Member States of the Union and **URGE** countries of the world to work towards finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the relevant resolutions of international law and the Arab Peace Initiative. While awaiting the American Peace Initiative in the Middle East, and **CALL UPON** the American Administration to include in the Initiative, equitable solutions to all unresolved issues between the two sides without fragmentation or postponement, in conformity with the relevant international resolutions and references, which could lead to the establishment of two States; an independent Palestinian State with the 4 June 1967 borders and the State of Israel, peacefully co-existing;
2. **EXHORT** Member States of the African Union that have recognised and are maintaining relations with the State of Israel to openly declare that their recognition was based on the 1967 borders, and reiterate their recognition of the State of Palestine within the same borders, and refrain from any action that could undermine the basis of the final two-State solution, particularly transfer of embassies or diplomatic missions represented in Israel to the city of Jerusalem which is an occupied Palestinian territory. **CALL UPON** African States those with missions in Israel not to visit the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem except in coordination with the State of Palestine;
3. **URGE** Member States to take into account, in any cooperation with the State of Israel, that such cooperation does not support the Israeli occupation at the expense of African support for the Palestinian cause, in line with the noble ideals and the noble foundation on which the African Union is established, the first of which is the right of people to self-determination;
4. **COMMEND AND WELCOME** the Palestinian reconciliation and the Unity Government Agreement implemented in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and greatly appreciate the efforts of Egypt to achieve this reconciliation, and the monitoring and supervision of its provisions in order to strengthen the unity of Palestinian ranks and its negotiating position, and contribute to relaxing the

unfair Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and the improvement of the humanitarian conditions of its population;

5. **CALL UPON** Member States to support the State of Palestine in their right to become a full-fledged member of the United Nations and support the efforts made by Palestinians to join international agencies and adhere to international conventions and protocols;
6. **REJECT AND CONDEMN** the settlements by the Israeli occupation force in the occupied territories in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and **CALL UPON** the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council, to trigger the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2334 of 24 December 2016, which Israel is openly violating by building new settlements and extending those that already exist;
7. **DEPLORE AND DENOUNCE** the Israeli policy aimed at Judaizing the city of Jerusalem and changing its historic, legal and demographic character, continuing attacks against sacred Islamic and Christian sites, the imposition of restrictions and tight control of freedom of worship in the Holy City. **CALL ON** the United Nations Organisation to supervise the implementation of the UNESCO Resolution of 26 October 2016 on Jerusalem and ensure the respect of the full implementation of the said Resolution;
8. **REJECT** the decision of the American Administration published on 6 December 2017, which considers Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and believe that this decision constitutes a major obstacle to the achievement of peace. Jerusalem is one of the last issues in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the negotiations between the parties. 26 years ago;
9. **REAFFIRM** that East Jerusalem within the 4 June 1967 borders is the capital of the Palestinian State, in conformity with the resolutions of international law and the previous decisions of the African Union in this regard. And **AFFIRM** the sanctity of holy Christian and Islamic sites in Jerusalem and the freedom of practise of religious rites;
10. **CALL UPON** all African States to put an end to any form of direct or indirect dealings with the illegal Israeli system of colonisation of territories of the Palestinian State, including East Jerusalem, in conformity with the provisions of Paragraph 5 of UN Security Council Resolution 2334, and to take all measures to end such dealings, as was done by the Organisation of African Unity against the Apartheid Regime in South Africa;
11. The African Union **CONSIDERS** that the following Israeli practices and procedures are the hallmarks of a racist regime that call for the immediate intervention of the international community to put an end to the situation, which

is contrary to international law and international humanitarian law, and undermines international moral values:

- The breaking up of the State of Palestine and its geographical contiguity through the confiscation of land for building settlements and the transformation of Palestinian cities into population centres;
- The completion of the building of the separation and annexation wall, and the isolation of all Palestinian cities;
- The linking of settlements constructed by their own road networks and preventing Palestinian citizens from using them;
- The intransigence of asking Palestinians to recognise the Jewishness of the State of Israel;
- The difference in the application of regulations and laws to Israeli and Palestinian citizens.

12. **REJECT** the land and sea blockade imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip, causing the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation there and **REQUEST** that all restrictions imposed on the Gaza Strip be lifted immediately;
13. **REITERATE** the need to ensure international protection of the land and people of the State of Palestine in order to put an end to the occupation and to preserve the possibility of a two-State solution, in pursuant to UN Security Council Resolutions 605 (1987), 672 and 673 (1990) and (1994) based on the Geneva Conventions and **REAFFIRM** their applicability to the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967;
14. **SUPPORT** the Palestinian position in its vision of a final solution to the conflict based on the principle of a two-State solution, while rejecting any fragmented and incomplete solution and provisional temporary State, and refusing to recognise the Jewishness of the State of Israel;
15. **REITERATE** that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories to the June 1967 borders, including the Syrian Golan Heights and territories still under occupation in Southern Lebanon.

DECLARATION ON THE CENTENARY OF NELSON MANDELA

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in our 30th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 28-29 January 2018;

Recalling and **recommitting** ourselves to the noble ideals and values of Nelson Mandela;

Recalling also our decision at the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU Heads of State and Government, declaring 2014-2024 as the Madiba Nelson Mandela Decade of Reconciliation in Africa;

Reaffirming our collective resolve to spare no effort in our efforts to bring about lasting peace in Africa;

Recognising the Centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela;

HEREBY:

1. **OBSERVE** the year 2018 as the Nelson Mandela Centenary;
2. **DECIDE** to convene a meeting in honour of Nelson Mandela at our 31st Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly to be held in Nouakchott Mauritania, 1-2 July 2018;
3. **EXPRESS OUR FULL SUPPORT** for the holding of a Peace Summit under the theme *“Strengthening the role of the UN in the promotion and maintenance of international peace: Building on Mandela’s Legacy”* on the margins of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly on 17 September 2018;
4. **ALSO SUPPORT** the proposal to have a Declaration as an Outcome of the Peace Summit and **CALL ON** the Commission and the African Group in New York to work closely with the relevant stakeholders in the process of drafting and negotiating the Outcome;
5. **REQUEST** the Commission and the Republic of South Africa to carry out necessary consultations with the UN and other relevant parties to ensure the success of the proposed Peace Summit;
6. **URGE** all AU Member States to support and observe the Nelson Mandela Centenary and recommit themselves to the ideals and values espoused by NelsonMandela.

DECLARATION ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 30th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 28 to 29 January 2018;

Acknowledging that the Internet is an essential tool and a dynamic force for economic, social and cultural development, and recalling in that regard Resolution 26/13 of the Human Rights Council;

Also acknowledging that Africa's voice in Internet Governance is critical to the development of Africa's economy and enabling Africa to contribute more effectively to the global economy (and that Africa's economy needs to be significantly extended);

Recalling the commitments made during the Geneva and Tunis World Summits on the Information Society in respect of a shared vision of Internet Governance (IG), which led to the adoption of a Declaration of Principles and a working definition of IG;

Taking into account the concerns raised by allegations of mass surveillance and violations of the right to privacy in the digital environment and **reaffirming** the commitments made in UN General Assembly resolutions 68/167 and 69/166 to respect and protect the right to privacy, including in the context of digital communication;

Noting with concern that less than 20% of Africans are online, that the majority of those not connected are in the rural areas, notably women and the poor, and that the average cost of fixed line and mobile internet exceeds 50% of average per capita income;

Reaffirming our commitment to the need for stability, for the safety of citizens and enterprises, confidentiality of online data security, through the AU Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection, and taking into account the scalability of Africa's Internet infrastructure;

Recalling the commitment of Member States to promote and protect fundamental freedoms, especially the right to freedom of expression and access to information (on and offline), and human and peoples' rights enunciated in instruments of the African Union and of the United Nations **and recognizing** that these rights must be upheld online as well as offline;

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the AU, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and civil society organizations, to strengthen the participation of African countries in global Internet Governance and related public policy discussions, which led to the creation of the African Internet Governance Forum;

Acknowledging the need for localizing Internet Governance discussions and related public policy matters to enable, develop and support local Internet/Digital economy;

Noting with satisfaction the renewal, on 16 December 2015, of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), by the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly which had, in addition, welcomed the Internet Governance Forum's role, as a multiparty forum for discussions on these issues and called for the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group established for the purpose of proposing improvements to the forum (Document A/67/65-E/2012/48 and Corr.1) and the implementation of the texts of the World Summit on the Information Society;

Recognizing that multi-stakeholder processes have become an essential and unique approach to engagement in addressing Internet and other policy development processes and to tackling complex issues;

Conscious that Internet Governance principles should exemplify and uphold the basic tenets of an open, accessible, resilient, inter-operable Internet, which led to its remarkable success today, and that they should also form the foundation for any future engagements of all stakeholders in national, regional and international Internet-related policy making efforts;

We Hereby:

On Internet Governance Principles

1. **REAFFIRM** that Internet Governance should be inclusive, transparent and accessible to all;
2. **INVITE** all stakeholders to harness the potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to help in achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as adopted by the United Nations on 25 September 2015;
3. **ACKNOWLEDGE** the importance of maintaining an open Internet based on open standards development processes, as key enablers for inclusive knowledge and information societies;
4. **REMAIN** committed to facilitating a resilient, unique, universal and interoperable Internet that is accessible to all and will strive to ensure universal and affordable Internet access for all African citizens including people with specific needs;
5. **UPHOLD** the spirit of multi-stakeholder Internet Governance in the Tunis Agenda and **COMMIT** to advance multi-stakeholder approaches that are open, participatory, inclusive, transparent, collaborative, consensus-driven, and that respect cultural, gender and linguistic diversity and which seek to promote

accountability and full participation of governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical community and users. **FURTHER RECOGNIZE** that the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders can vary depending on the issue under consideration;

6. **REQUEST** the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), regional and international organizations involved in Internet and ICT development and regional offices of ECA to play a leading role in, and facilitate, national and regional IGFs in their respective regions;
7. **INVITE** the Commission to reach out to all stakeholders and provide a framework to ensure the active participation of governments, private sector, civil society, and the technical community on a shared footing to Internet Public Policy and Governance related processes/discussions for decision-making.

On Africa's Participation in Internet Governance

8. **REQUEST** the Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and ECA to increase the participation of Member States, Specialized Institutions and RECs in Internet Governance discussions and related public policy processes, including but not limited to those taking place at the UN, AU, ITU, ICANN, IETF, HRC, AFRINIC, ISOC, AfTLD, IGF, Africa IGF, regional and national IGFs;
9. **REQUEST** Member States, Specialized Institutions and RECs to develop in cooperation with NPCA and the Commission mechanisms and channels that allow global debate on Internet Governance to be translated and interpreted into local context and **ENCOURAGE** active and open local and sub-regional contributions from all stakeholders;
10. **ALSO REQUEST** the Commission and NPCA to develop coordination mechanisms with relevant continental institutions such as AFRINIC, AfNOG, AfREN, AfrISPA on matters related to Internet Governance and cyberspace;
11. **ENCOURAGE** Member States to support and encourage the participation of all stakeholders in national and Regional IGFs, which form the foundation stones of the African IGF;
12. **URGE** the Commission and ECA to support the establishment of an Africa Internet Development & Governance Observatory and to put in place mechanisms to track and follow-up on recommendations from the regional and global IGFs and to provide periodic reports to Member States;
13. **URGE** Member States to contribute effectively and take the lead in the establishment of national and regional IGFs and to fully participate in regional IGFs as well as in the African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF).

On development of Africa's Digital Economy

14. **UNDERTAKE** to ensure legal and regulatory environments that will enable growth of Africa's Digital economy through innovative applications and services, making the Internet central to Africa's development agenda;
15. **PROMOTE** local content and put in place the necessary mechanisms to ensure equitable distribution of Internet revenues;
16. **FOSTER** partnerships to stimulate investment in ICT and Internet infrastructure;
17. **UNDERTAKE** to ratify the Malabo Convention to combat cybercrimes while promoting personal data protection and respecting human rights within appropriate legal frameworks. In so doing, we will preserve the integrity and reliability of the regional Internet Infrastructure as well as local users' trust and reliance on the Internet for secure electronic transactions;
18. **REQUEST** the Commission and NPCA, in collaboration with other key stakeholders, to assess Africa's digital economy to determine areas that need strengthening or development of new policies in line with stimulating the growth of Africa's Digital economy;
19. **PLEDGE** to work together in the fight against the inappropriate use of ICTs in a bid to reach a consensus, in the medium term, on the best cyber security mechanisms and practices in Africa;
20. **REQUEST** the Commission to work with Member States, partners and stakeholders to enhance Africa's future participation in new gTLDs rounds by examining the factors hampering participation, facilitating the development of business models relevant to Africa and engaging ICANN to lower the barriers to entry for African stakeholders';
21. **ALSO REQUEST** the Commission to work with Member States, the private sector, and other partners to ensure that Africa develops a robust infrastructure to enable effective participation in the global Internet, particularly DNS, the hosting industry, and ensure that Africans are custodians of their data and information;
22. **FURTHER REQUEST** the Commission to work with relevant stakeholders to develop a common African Program of Action on Internet Governance, which will ensure that the rights of Africans on the Internet are promoted and upheld, and that African concerns are recognized in the global Internet Governance regime;

On Management of Domain Names

23. **UNDERTAKE** to promote the use of country code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs) as elements of national and continental branding and to ensure that ccTLD registries are operated as public-benefit institutions that can create, nurture and support local critical infrastructure and a local community able to attract investments;
24. **UNDERTAKE** to continue promoting the adoption of IPv6 and to lead by example through its adoption and deployment of IPv6 by ccTLD registries, as well as public departments and agencies' network infrastructures;
25. **REQUEST** the Commission to work in collaboration with concerned institutions to reach agreements with ccTLD registries operated by private individuals or operated by entities outside of national jurisdiction to transfer the registries and enable them to operate as public benefit bodies;
26. **FURTHER REQUEST** the Commission to act as a Clearing House for best practices in the management of ccTLD registries in Africa, and to encourage and facilitate the sharing of lessons learned by Member States in securing national ownership of the operation of their ccTLD registries.

On Global Internet Governance

27. **URGE** the international community to transform the non-global institutions into more inclusive global institutions that represent all citizens of the world, taking into account the concerns and needs of Africa and other developing countries, while advocating for their continued role as the core of the global Internet governance ecosystem;
28. **REQUEST** the Commission, working through Member States GAC representatives and other stakeholders, to monitor the process of improving IANA adopted in Marrakesh in March 2016;
29. **REAFFIRM** our commitment to work with these organisations and with all partners so that these institutions become more global in their nature.

DECLARATION ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 30th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 28 to 29 January 2018;

Recalling Assembly Decision on the Revitalisation of the African Peer Review Mechanism Assembly/AU/Dec.631(XXVIII), which among others looked “forward to the celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the APRM in 2018, and directs the AU Commission to prepare a draft Declaration in this regard for the consideration of the Assembly at its ordinary session in January 2018”.

Further recalling our commitment to the fundamental principles and objectives of the African Union, as enshrined in the Constitutive Act, the founding instrument of the African Union and comprising, inter alia, the promotion of democratic principles and institutions, popular participation, good governance, human and peoples’ rights; the promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent; and the acceleration of the political and socio-economic integration of Africa;

Reaffirming that the principles and objectives of the APRM are themselves intrinsic to the afore-mentioned principles and objectives of the African Union;

Recalling that at the Inaugural Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in July, 2002, in Durban, South Africa, we adopted a Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance, in which we articulated the same said principles and objectives of the APRM, as well as declared that the AU Member States had separately agreed to establish the APRM on the basis of voluntary accession;

Inspired by the vision of the APRM as an African-owned and African-led platform for self-assessment, peer-learning, and experience-sharing in the pursuit of the highest possible standards of good political, economic and corporate governance as well as broad-based and sustainable socio-economic development;

Recognizing that the primary purpose of the APRM is to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices leading to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional and continental economic integration;

Recalling that the mandate of the APRM is to encourage participating States in ensuring that their policies and practices conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards, and to achieve mutually agreed objectives in socio-economic development contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance;

Reaffirming the commitment to the APRM Base Document AHG/235 (XXXVIII) Annex II of July 2002 in which the APRM is described as an instrument voluntarily acceded to by Member States of the African Union and as an African self-monitoring mechanism; and convinced of the imperative need for the APRM to consolidate itself as the authoritative institution on Governance within the African Union;

Reaffirming our commitment to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance of January 2007, and particularly its principal objective to promote adherence to the universal values and principles of democracy and respect for human rights, thus building on the core principles of the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance;

Recalling that the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance stipulates that the States Parties shall promote and deepen democratic governance by implementing, inter alia, the principles and core values of the APRM;

Acknowledging that the adoption of the APRM Statute at meeting of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government of 26 August 2016 marked a historic step to put the Mechanism on solid legal basis and secure its future as an institution central to our enduring pursuit of transformative governance on the continent;

Stressing that this celebration provides an opportunity for the APRM to take stock of its achievements and the challenges that it has encountered over the past 15 years in the promotion of good governance in Africa;

Reiterating that the APRM remains the premier homegrown, African good governance tool conceived in 2003 and voluntarily acceded to by thirty-seven (37) Member States representing 67% of AU Member States, more than half of whom twenty-one (21) have undergone the review;

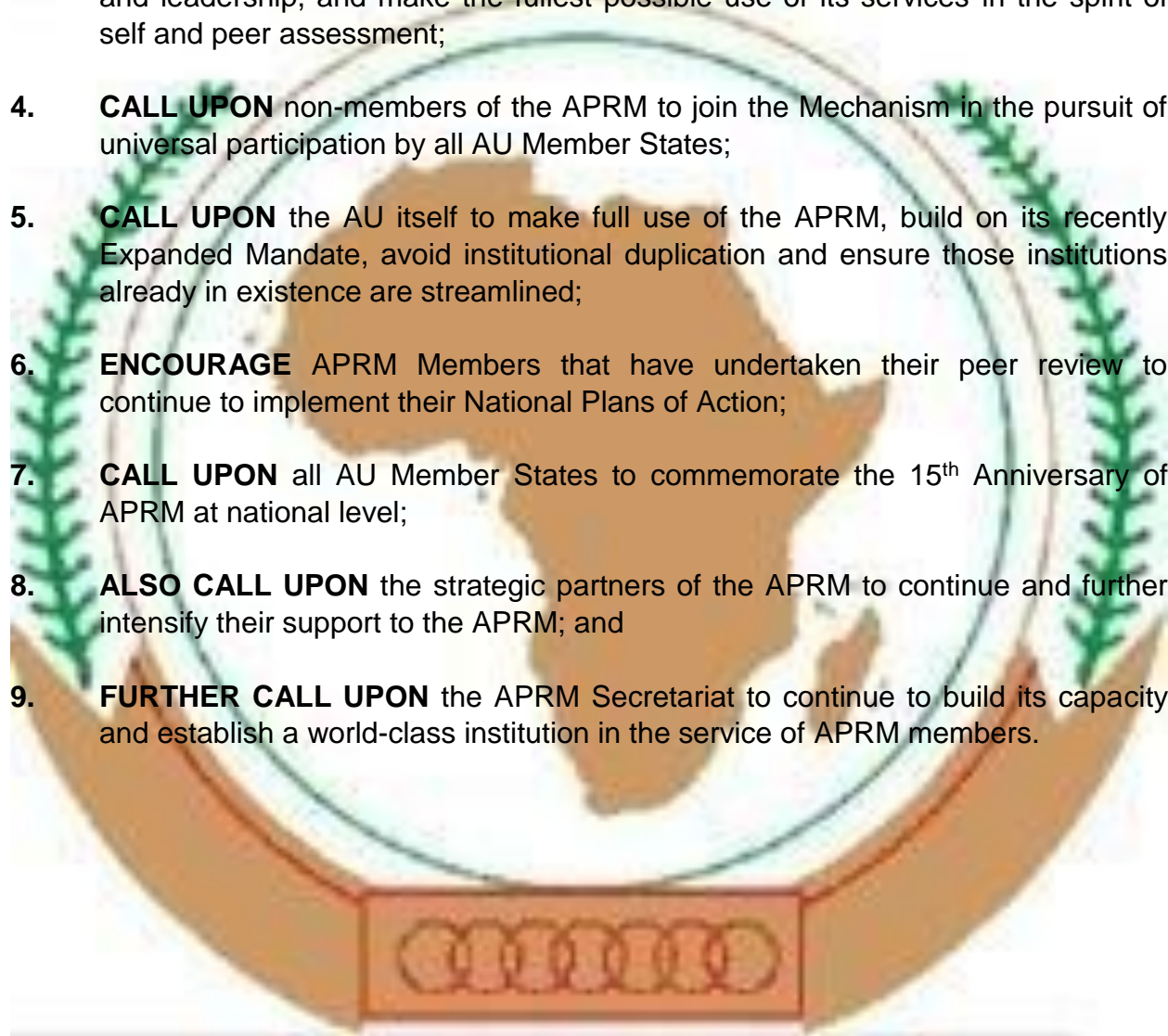
Encouraged by the progress on the Operationalisation of the APRM Expanded Mandate emanating from the Institutional Reforms led by H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and the Assembly Decision on the Revitalisation of the APRM;

Welcoming steps undertaken to position the APRM as an early warning tool for conflict prevention on the continent, in the context of harmony and synergy between the APRM, the African Peace and Security Architecture, and the African Governance Architecture;

Guided by the vision of our Union and affirming our determination to build an Africa of good governance, we:

1. **WELCOME** the accession of The Gambia and The Comoros as new members of the Mechanism;

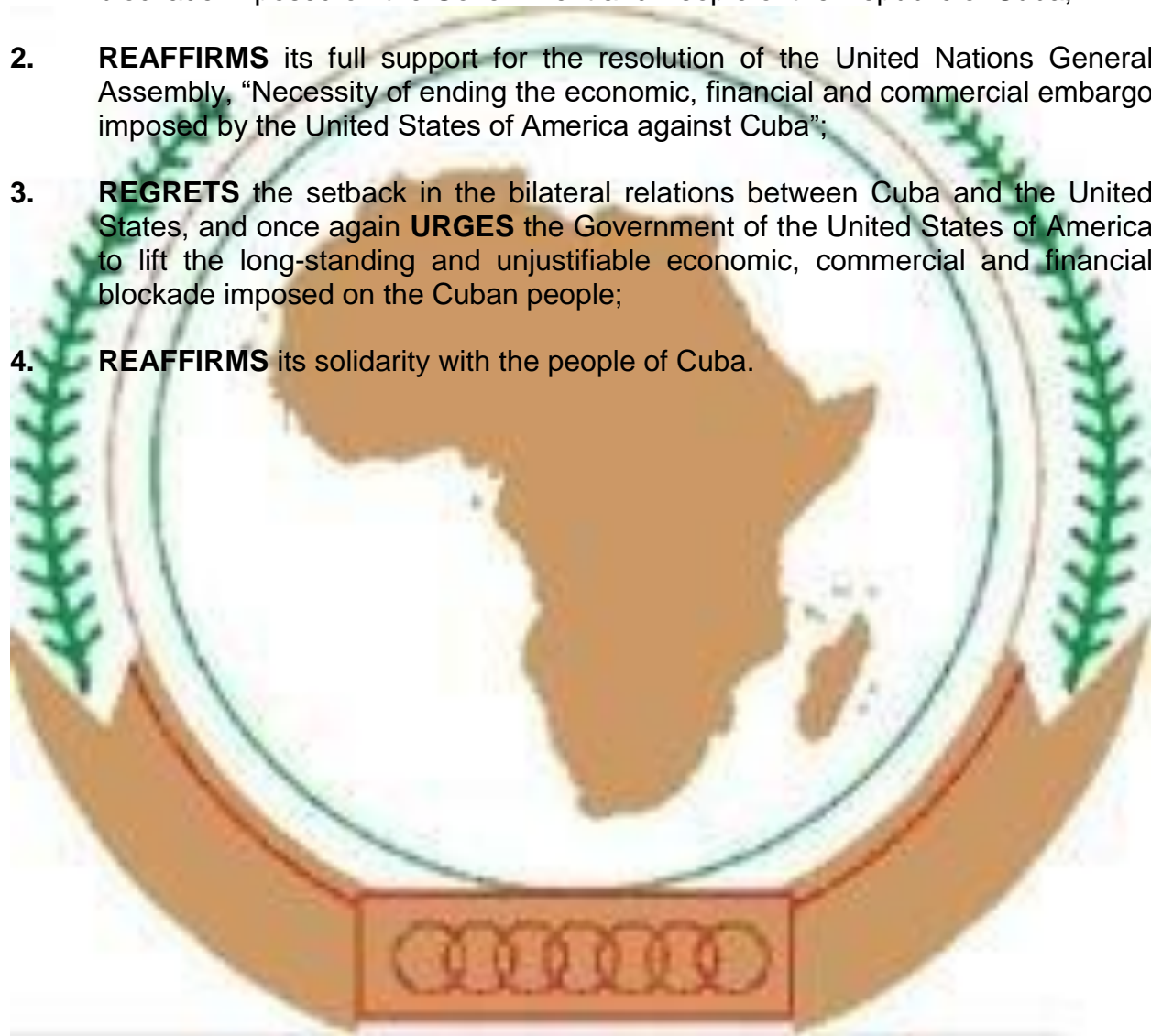
2. **REDEDICATE** ourselves to the cause of good governance in all its four manifestations of good political governance, sound economic governance and management and corporate governance and inclusive and broad-based socio-economic development;
3. **CALL UPON** all members of the APRM to enhance their participation, pay their annual contributions, safeguard the APRM and maintain its African ownership and leadership, and make the fullest possible use of its services in the spirit of self and peer assessment;
4. **CALL UPON** non-members of the APRM to join the Mechanism in the pursuit of universal participation by all AU Member States;
5. **CALL UPON** the AU itself to make full use of the APRM, build on its recently Expanded Mandate, avoid institutional duplication and ensure those institutions already in existence are streamlined;
6. **ENCOURAGE** APRM Members that have undertaken their peer review to continue to implement their National Plans of Action;
7. **CALL UPON** all AU Member States to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of APRM at national level;
8. **ALSO CALL UPON** the strategic partners of the APRM to continue and further intensify their support to the APRM; and
9. **FURTHER CALL UPON** the APRM Secretariat to continue to build its capacity and establish a world-class institution in the service of APRM members.



**RESOLUTION ON “THE LIFTING OF THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL
AND FINANCIAL BLOCKADE IMPOSED ON THE REPUBLIC OF
CUBA BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA”**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the ongoing illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Government and People of the Republic of Cuba;
2. **REAFFIRMS** its full support for the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, “Necessity of ending the economic, financial and commercial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”;
3. **REGRETS** the setback in the bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States, and once again **URGES** the Government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing and unjustifiable economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Cuban people;
4. **REAFFIRMS** its solidarity with the people of Cuba.



African Union Commission (AUC)

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Annual Reports, Decisions and Declarations

Assembly Decisions

2018-01-29

Decisions, Declarations and Resolution Adopted by the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held on 28 -29 January 2018, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Assembly of the Union

African Union Commission

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