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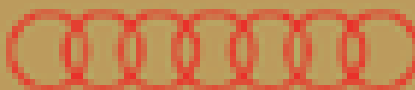
**15TH EXTRAORDINARY AFRICAN UNION HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT
AND PLEDGING CONFERENCE**

27 May 2022

MALABO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.(XV)

**MALABO DECLARATION OF THE 15TH EXTRAORDINARY AFRICAN
UNION HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT AND PLEDGING CONFERENCE**



We, the Heads of State and Government, meeting at our 15th Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 27 May 2022,

RECALLING previous Decisions, in which bold commitments to reinforce Africa's humanitarian architecture, particularly;

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- (i) Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.828(XXXV) of February 2022 on the dates and venue for the Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference,
 - (ii) Assembly Declaration, Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XXXII) of February 2020, Addis Ethiopia, which called on the Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and the AU Commission to work closely with the AU leader of the 2019 Theme of the Year, H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea, in convening a Continental High-level Conference on the Humanitarian Situation in Africa linked to AU theme for 2020 on silencing the guns;
 - (iii) The Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.719(XXXII) of February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the Fourth 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;
 - (iv) Assembly Declaration, Assembly/AU/Decl.8(XXXII) on the 2019 theme of the Year: "The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa", and recommendations in addressing challenges of forced displacement in the continent;
 - (v) The Kampala Solemn Declaration adopted during the first African Union Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), on 23 October 2009, in Kampala, Uganda;
 - (vi) Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.604(XXVI) of January 2016, establishing an African Humanitarian Agency;
 - (vii) The Sirte Declaration AU/Decl.2(XIII), adopted by the Assembly in July 2009 on Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security;
 - (viii) Assembly Decision AU/Dec.351 (XVI) of January 2011, establishing the AU Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development to enhance structural transformation to prevent relapse into conflicts;

- (ix) Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 813(XXXV) of February 2022, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during the 35th Assembly of the African Union on the theme of the year 2022 on “Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on The African Continent: Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development.”

CONSIDERING:

- (i) Agenda 2063: The Africa We want Agenda, which encapsulates our Aspirations for the future to boost the continent’s economic growth and development, and its emphasis on African solutions to African problems;
- (ii) The Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness, and its strategic priorities for the reform of Africa’s humanitarian action, to make it more effective, timely, and relevant;
- (iii) The Africa Climate change and Resilient Development Strategy and Plan of Action (2022-2032) and African Green recovery action plan (2021-2027), which aim to counter the negative consequences of climate change, leverage the capacities, and opportunities to facilitate the attainment of the agenda 2063 Vision;
- (iv) The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which outlines clear targets and priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks: commitments by Member States and the AU Programme of Action, 2015 – 2030;
- (v) Resolution 48/13 of 2021 of the Human Rights Council, on consequences of climate change on millions of people, especially persons and groups in vulnerable situations;
- (vi) The 2013 Abuja Declaration and its priority areas on health in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the increasing humanitarian needs and protracted displacements in Africa due inter alia, to armed conflicts, the growing effects of climate change and natural disasters, terrorism, and violent extremism; amidst structural forces that shape the future of our continent, namely demographic evolution, economic evolution, environmental context and technological development.

NOTING that protracted armed conflicts and violent extremism constitute one of the main causes of forced displacement of massive populations, causing considerable humanitarian tragedies that needs our urgent attention as well as pose a threat to the development agenda stipulated in Africa’s Agenda 2063 and UN Sustainable Development Goals by disrupting livelihoods, transport and health systems, social

protection nets, markets, and other social amenities; impeding timely humanitarian assistance, and further aggravating the needs of the communities that are in most cases dealing with multi-layered shocks and leading to increased poverty and humanitarian needs.

ACKNOWLEDGE and **APPRECIATE** the member states hosting large numbers of Refugees, Asylum seekers and Migrants on their territories and encourage them to continue supporting these vulnerable members of our societies, in the spirit of Ubuntu and African solidarity, while efforts are being made to deal with the root causes and find durable solutions and to forced displacement in Africa. To this end, **URGE** for increased burden sharing and deeper appreciation of the enormous challenges borne by host countries supporting large numbers of refugees.

DEPLORE human rights violations, including gender-based violence as well as exploitation and violence against children which have been on the rise amidst the increased humanitarian crises in which most vulnerable groups including women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities among others are most affected **ADDITIONALLY CONCERNED** regarding the discrimination against migrants and xenophobia, particularly in the context of pandemics and crisis.

COGNIZANT that climate disasters are increasing in frequency and magnitude contributing to vulnerability, human mobility, and displacement, and pose an increased risk to the livelihoods, wellbeing, and human rights of displaced persons, many of whom live in countries most affected by climate change.

NOTING that the drought in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region further exacerbate other existing shocks such as conflict, flash flooding, receding of lakes, rivers and the sea, desert locust infestations, leading to increased humanitarian needs, food insecurity and malnutrition.

CONCERNED over the series of climate-related disasters in the recent years affecting the Southern African region, which vary in frequency and severity including El Nino drought and tropical storms, floods and cyclones that have led to loss of lives, destructions of homes, properties, infrastructure, social amenities and relocation and displacements of people to safer areas.

FURTHER NOTING WITH CONCERN, the worsening food insecurity and rising food prices across the continent caused by the impact of climate disasters, conflicts, as well as socio-economic conditions due to the impact of COVID-19 and an outbreak of pests such as fall-army worm and desert locust; as well as including the recent conflict in Europe which further exacerbate the food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition nutrition security, especially for people in humanitarian crises.

COGNIZANT that the COVID-19 pandemic has, in particular, exacerbated humanitarian needs and stretched health systems and delivery of health services in humanitarian situations, this is in addition to Africa's already increasing burden of diseases as noted

by the rising rates of non-communicable diseases, emerging and re-emerging infections, and endemic diseases.

NOTING that the continent cannot achieve meaningful human capital and socio-economic development, integration, peace, and stability unless the root causes of forced displacement are decisively addressed.

RECOGNIZING that refugees, IDPs who are mainly women and children and humanitarian operations have faced funding shortfalls over time, thereby increasing the burden on host countries especially for protracted caseloads. **FURTHER RECOGNIZE** and **APPRECIATE** the work of the national societies and volunteer networks on the ground who are auxiliary to governments and are involved in preparing and responding to disasters in Africa.

ACKNOWLEDGING that financial resources allocated to address humanitarian concerns are inadequate to address increasing humanitarian needs caused by climate change, natural disasters, conflicts, and macro-economic conditions in Africa.

URGE Member States who have not done so to sign, ratify and implement the 1969 OAU Convention on Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugees Problems in Africa; the 2009 Convention on Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa as well as implement the 2016 AU Common African Position in Humanitarian Effectiveness and the AU Humanitarian Policy Framework

REAFFIRM our commitment to effectively address the humanitarian challenges in Africa, through the establishment and speedy operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency, and to provide it with all necessary resources, which will facilitate an effective and holistic African response towards the humanitarian needs on the continent.

RESOLVE to engage the International Community, and all stakeholders to support Africa's efforts in dealing with humanitarian challenges.

Hereby declare to undertake the following:

1. On Humanitarian challenges in Africa

- a) Increase investments in preventive intervention through Early Warning and Anticipatory Actions as a means to save lives and protect livelihoods;
- b) Strengthen the continental frameworks, tools and guidelines that will ensure protection, humanitarian assistance and sustainable solutions to climate induced displacements in Africa;
- c) Reinvigorate creative measures for the achievement of durable solutions to protracted displacement situations, including the speedy signature, ratification and implementation of relevant AU and international legal instruments;

- d) Respect and ensure respect for International Humanitarian Law in conflict situations both by States and non-state actors;
- e) Prioritize the sensitization of military personnel in the treatment of the most vulnerable, especially women and children, as responders to humanitarian emergencies during conflicts situations, especially in line with international humanitarian law standards, codes and conducts.
- f) Establish clear and concise monitoring and evaluation, data collection and reporting frameworks, tools and guidelines for refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs;
- g) Ensure timely and inclusive humanitarian response mechanisms to humanitarian crises when they occur and address the root causes of forced displacement including conflicts, terrorism, disasters, climate change and unconstitutional change of Government.
- h) Conscious of national security dynamics posed by the prolonged reception of refugee communities; as well as the environmental degradation and resource conflict that can be caused by large refugee population, And the debt crisis in Africa which limits the fiscal space available to African countries to provide safety nets for their own citizens as well as the large refugee population.
- i) Call for the documentation of Africa's contributions on humanitarian action relevant to the preservation of International Peace and Security, and the creation of African Humanitarian Support Index to monitor, evaluate, and record Africa's endeavour. Further calls for the definition of a compensatory index that values and aggregates host country's contributions to refugees/migrant situations.

2. On Climate Change, Disasters and Forced Displacement in Africa

- a) Demonstrate strong commitments and establish governance systems at national, regional, and continental levels, including through the establishment of a relevant frameworks, policies, guidelines and tools of a continental civilian capacity for disaster preparedness and response to address disasters and displacements of people affected by climate change;
- b) Enhance the capacity of state institutions in preparedness and response efforts, given that humanitarian needs are expected to increase due to extreme weather events such as challenges of droughts in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel and the Southern region;
- c) Increase investments in Multi-Hazard Early warning and Early Response systems and prevention strategies focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction as provided for in the Sendai Framework;

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- d) Call on Member States and other stakeholders to work towards multi-sector and well-coordinated approaches that reinforce complementarity and inclusive planning from all stakeholders;
 - e) Call upon state parties to the international conventions and treaties on climate change including the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and Paris agreement to uphold their commitments in availing adaptation finance, technology transfer and means of implementation of climate actions, within the framework of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, to avoid any secondary consequences;
 - f) Welcome the Arab Republic of Egypt's hosting COP27 on behalf of Africa in November 2022, extend full support and encourage Member States to use the opportunity to voice Africa's interest and highlight challenges of climate change and natural disasters and their impact on displacements in Africa;
 - g) Establish an African Alliance, based on experience sharing and coordinated actions, regionally and continentally, to address climate change through the implementation of relevant African initiatives to strengthen resilience measures and adaptation on the continent;
 - h) Engage the various partners concerned to accelerate the reduction of Greenhouse gas emissions and to ensure an adequate transfer of technologies within the framework of partnerships for a sustainable resilience of the continent in the face of the various physical effects of extreme weather events.

3. On Food Security and Nutrition situation in Humanitarian Situations in Africa

- a) Address the underlying deep-rooted causes of food insecurity and malnutrition;
- b) Prioritize investments in food and nutrition security data and information systems;
- c) Establish social protection safety nets that are inclusive and nutrition-sensitive should be adapted and strengthened to meet the needs of communities affected by crises;
- d) Identify preventive and adaptative approaches that focus on enabling communities to cope with the adverse effects of climate change, support small holder farmer support including women and Youth as part of addressing agriculture inequalities; and transformation of agricultural sector to provide continuous food supply and quality for Africa;

- e) Actively engage local actors at community in identifying the needs and durable solution to food security and nutrition challenges, including those that focus on building communities' resilience;
- f) Promote multi-faceted approaches that focus on increased investment for nutrition as well as effective implementation of policies and strategies, that lead to long term development including eradication of poverty;
- g) Build a sustainable and resilient agri-food system to ensure food sovereignty;
- h) Revitalize the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and mobilize resources to achieve the program's goals in developing Member states capacities in boosting agricultural productivity;
- i) Encourage the implementation of the Maputo and Malabo Declarations under the flagship of the CAADP for Food Sovereignty in Africa;
- j) Call for support for the operationalization of African adaptation initiatives, in particular the Adaptation of African Agriculture and the three climate commissions created on the side lines of COP22 in Marrakech, which are dedicated to conduct a continental policy of sustainable development to reduce the risks of disasters and develop early warning systems".

4. On Covid-19 and Health Challenges in Humanitarian Space in Africa

- a) Implement the many lessons learnt from COVID-19 and Ebola response as well as other pandemics experienced in Africa. One of this lesson is that investment in healthcare systems is a critical instrument to secure economic development;
- b) Highlight the importance of boosting the African continent infrastructure and capabilities in vaccine manufacturing and the technology transfer to enable the continent to face any upcoming future; health emergencies;
- c) Strengthen logistics and supply chain in humanitarian crises, in order to increase access to health services to migrants, displaced persons, and refugees in remote and difficult to reach areas;
- d) Ensure that health systems are more 'migrant-sensitive' by including refugees and displaced persons and provide an opportunity for multi-sectoral engagement;
- e) Ensure that humanitarian health policies and health responses provide inclusive, equitable, affordable, and timely interventions for migrants, refugees and displaced persons as well as facilitate access to essential health services including health education, disease prevention, and palliative health services;

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- f) Prioritize maintaining a minimum information and health care package for reproductive health, maternal health care including emergency obstetric services, pre and postnatal care as well as prevention, treatment, care, and support for sexually transmitted infections including HIV, victims of human trafficking, specialized care for survivors of sexual violence among women and children as most vulnerable displaced populations;
 - g) Prioritize social protections and health insurance as an important instrument to achieve universal access to key health and social services, including basic primary health care, health education, nutrition, and environmental health;
 - h) Strengthen Africa CDC to respond to health crises, strengthen public health workforce in humanitarian settings and strengthen community health systems;
 - i) Support establishment of the Africa Medicines Agency (AMA) as an important agency that will ensure quality and safety of medical and pharmaceutical technologies/products as well as provide for equitable access and affordable medicine including to migrants, refugees, and displaced persons;
 - j) Strengthen Health Information Systems through research, data collection and data analysis;
 - k) Advocate for greater financing for health in fragile settings and equitable supply of COVID-19 vaccines, vaccine manufacturing, and vaccine procurement from African vaccine manufacturers;
 - l) Always ensure that the safety of health care workers who are at the front line is paramount to the continuity of health services delivery the society and even more so in humanitarian context where communities are already faced with limited access to health care;
 - m) Enhance public health communications, community engagements and accountability approaches, that are vital to encourage acceptance of public health measures among communities;
 - n) Ensure that essential health services especially for women and children are fully gender sensitive and geared towards meeting their specific needs.

5. On Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development for refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa

- a) Ensure that recovery and reconstruction efforts in post conflict societies address the demobilization, disarmament, and re-integration of former combatants; the return and reintegration of displaced populations, and grassroots level reconciliation;

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- b) Invigorate measures for the achievement of durable solutions to protracted situations of displacement, including in tackling root causes of forced displacement, especially the growing challenges of terrorism and unconstitutional changes of Government;
- c) Develop regional emergency response plans for refugee and migrant hosting countries, including through their respective Regional Economic Communities, since most refugees' crises are a result of regional conflicts or directly impacting the stability of the regions;
- d) Utilize the capacities and skills of the affected people as innovative approaches in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of towards development-oriented humanitarian programmes;
- e) Strengthen capacities of Member States faced with climate disasters to implement preventive measures and early warning responses to ensure that Africa remains a strong and resilient continent;
- f) Strengthen the African Union Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AU PCRD) Centre in Cairo, Egypt to effectively implement AU PCRD programmes and projects addressing humanitarian and emergency response on the continent;
- g) Promote post conflict reconstruction and development programmes that play a critical role in humanitarian response with regards to saving lives and sustaining lives, maintain basic human dignity, ensuring the ability of state institutions to protect civilians and deliver adequate social services,, supporting the return and reintegration of displaced populations, and helping resuscitate socio-economic activities, particularly in the immediate post-conflict, stabilization and post crisis situations.
- h) Mobilize resources necessary for creating conducive conditions for supporting return, readmission, rehabilitation, reintegration of refugees voluntarily returning to their country of origin;
- i) Ensure Gender mainstreaming in PCRD initiatives, policies, programmes and activities at national, regional and continental levels;
- j) Stresses the importance of building bridges between humanitarian and development projects”;
- k) Highlight the legal responsibility of host countries in the process of registering refugees and internally displaced persons, in order to avoid any exploitation of refugees.

6. On Resource Mobilization and Financing for Humanitarian Action in Africa.

- a) Allocate sufficient resources for the African Humanitarian Agency to enable it to execute its strategic mandate and for effective and timely response to humanitarian crises situations and needs on the continent.
- b) Recall Executive Council Decision EX.CL/567 (XVII) adopted during its 17th Ordinary Session in July 2010 in Kampala, Uganda to “increase Member States contribution to the Refugees and IDP’s Fund from 2% to 4% of the Operational Budget of the Commission gradually with effect from 2023 and request the PRC through its Advisory Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters to work out modalities for its implementation”.
- c) Direct Humanitarian financing towards the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to address the needs by providing durable solutions that are focused on prevention strategies and sustainable development strategies at community, national, regional, and continental levels.
- d) Promote strategic partnerships in resource mobilization and burden sharing and identify other non-traditional financing mechanisms beyond the ‘traditional’ mechanisms to complement the limited humanitarian resources.
- e) Strengthen partnership with the International and Regional Financial institutions and Private sector in humanitarian action with an aim of enhancing greater partnerships in resourcing of humanitarian products and services within Africa, promote Intra-Africa Trade and eventually lead to increased capacities of African manufacturers to produce high standard products.
- f) Use the Malabo Pledging Conference and continue to mobilize predictable, reliable and sustainable resources for humanitarian action based on the Spirit of Pan-Africanism and solidarity to support countries and communities’ large numbers of displaced populations and also to target the affected populations to enable them cope and rebuild their lives during and after situations of displacement.
- g) Work with the international community, UN agencies, multilateral development banks, donor countries and other partners to share the burden of humanitarian assistance particularly for IDPs and refugees by supporting Africa’s humanitarian, peace, and development strategies.

FOLLOW-UP

- a) Call on the AU Commission to follow up on pledges made during the 15th Extraordinary African Union Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference that took place on 27 May 2022, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea attached as an Annex to this Declaration and report to the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

- b) Establish a humanitarian support index to monitor and illuminate the contributions of AU member states and partners in addressing the growing humanitarian crises and hosting of refugees in the continent.
- c) Formulate a Plan of Action for the implementation of the outcomes of this Extra-Ordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference and regularly report to the Assembly.



African Union Commission (AUC)

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Annual Reports, Decisions and Declarations

Assembly Decisions

2022-05-27

Declaration of the 15th Extraordinary African Union Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference held on 27 May 2022, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

Assembly of the Union

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