

AFRICAN UNION
الاتحاد الأفريقي



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ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION
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DECISIONS AND DECLARATIONS

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**DECISION ON THE VISION AND MISSION OF THE AFRICAN
UNION AND STRATEGIC PLAN, PROGRAMME AND
BUDGET OF THE COMMISSION**

The Assembly:

1. **ACCEPTS** in principle the Vision and Mission of the African Union and Strategic Plan of the Commission which are consistent with the main thrusts identified by us within the framework of the process initiated in Sirte and in the formulation of the NEPAD Programme and which constitute guidelines for action for the integration of Africa;
2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Executive Council as contained in its Decision EX.CL/Dec.93 (V);
3. **COMMENDS** the Commission for the work carried out and the quality of the documents prepared;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take necessary measures to finalize the documents, taking due account of the observations and corrections made by Member States;
5. **MANDATES** the Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled to be held at the latest in November 2004 to adopt the prioritized programmes, to consider and adopt the Programme - Budget for 2005 in conformity with the approved "Solidarity Budget".

DECISION ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE PROTOCOL
RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEACE
AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION
Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (III)

The Assembly:

1. **WELCOMES** the entry into force of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC), on 26 December 2003;
2. **APPROVES** the measures taken by the Executive Council to operationalize the Peace and Security Council;
3. **CONGRATULATES** the Fifteen Members of the PSC, elected by the Executive Council at its Fourth Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, from 15 to 16 March 2004;
4. **TAKES NOTE** of the activities undertaken by the PSC, between March and June, and **URGES** all its members to strengthen their capacities to shoulder the responsibilities of their membership;
5. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to take the necessary measures to operationalize all aspects of the Protocol including in particular the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System, the African Standby Force and the Military Staff Committee, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the areas of peace and security, and to report to the 6th session of the Executive Council and the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly on the progress made in this direction;
6. **URGED** Member States, which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Protocol as soon as possible.

**DECISION ON THE AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE
(ASF) AND THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE (MSC)**
Doc. EX.CL/110 (V)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the meeting of Ministers of Defence held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 – 21 January 2004;
2. **APPROVES** the Policy Framework Document, on the establishment of the African Standby Force (ASF) and the Military Staff Committee (MSC);
3. **APPEALS** to the International Cooperating partners of the AU, in particular the G8, the EU and the UN, as well as the bilateral partners, to provide the support required to facilitate the establishment of the ASF and the MSC. In this respect, the Assembly **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to undertake the necessary consultations with all partners concerned;
4. **ENDORSES** the proposal by the Ministers of Defence and Security to establish, within the framework of Article 14.2 of the Constitutive Act of the AU, a specialized Technical Committee comprising Ministers responsible for Defence and Security of the AU, to work with the Peace and Security Council, in the implementation of the Common African Defence and Security Policy and in addressing the complex issues of peace and security on the continent;
5. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to take all steps required for the implementation of the Policy Framework document.

DECISION ON THE DRAFT PROTOCOL TO THE OAU CONVENTION
ON THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF TERRORISM
Doc. EX.CL/111 (V)

The Assembly,

1. **ADOPTS** the Protocol to the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism as an additional Protocol to the Convention;
2. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take the required steps for the speedy entry into force of the Protocol to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention and the Algiers Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa.

DECLARATION ON EQUATORIAL GUINEA
Doc. Assembly/AU/2 (III)

The Assembly:

1. **EXPRESSES** its concern over the recurrence of the phenomenon of mercenarism and its consequences on the security and stability of African countries;
2. **CONDEMNS** the acts of mercenarism perpetrated against the Government of Equatorial Guinea on 7 March 2004;
3. **COMMENDS** South Africa, Angola and Zimbabwe for their cooperation with Equatorial Guinea which made it possible to foil this destabilization attempt;
4. **URGES** all countries of the Continent to take the necessary steps to combat the planning and preparation of acts of mercenarism on their territories. In this regard, the Assembly **CALLS** on Member States to promote greater exchange of information and adopt appropriate legislations against mercenarism;
5. **REAFFIRMS** the commitment of the African Union to combat the phenomenon of mercenarism, in compliance with the OAU Convention on the Elimination of Mercenarism in Africa;
6. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit this Decision to the United Nations Security Council, for the adoption by this organ of a resolution on mercenarism.

**DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW
PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)**

The Assembly:

1. **WE**, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting at the 3rd Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 6 to 8 July 2004;
2. **RECALLING** our decision regarding the then New African Initiative, now the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), taken at the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in July 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia (AHG/Decl.1(XXXVII));
3. **RECALLING FURTHER** our decisions on the Implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) taken at the Inaugural Session of the African Union Assembly in Durban, South Africa from 8 to 10 July 2002 (Assembly/AU/Decl.1(1), and at the 2nd Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique from 10 to 12 July 2003 (Assembly/AU/Decl.8(II));
4. **NOTING WITH APPRECIATION** the Progress Report presented to us by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC), H.E. President O. Obasanjo of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, describing the developments in the NEPAD programmes and activities since our last meeting in July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique;

Progress Report

5. **ENDORSE** the Progress Report and **COMMEND** the HSGIC and its supporting structures for their coordination and catalytic role in facilitating the implementation of NEPAD priority programmes and projects across the African regions and more specifically through cooperation and collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
6. **MANDATE** the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee of NEPAD, supported by the NEPAD Steering Committee and the NEPAD Secretariat, to continue their vital work of ensuring the implementation of NEPAD programmes;
7. **URGE** that the programmes identified in each priority area be urgently implemented and that each region and Member State, through the RECs, provide assistance and financial support in the further development and implementation of these programmes and in the continued popularization of NEPAD amongst all sectors of society on the African continent;

Programme Implementation

8. **NOTE** the progress made in the implementation of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), in particular:
- The Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme (MAPP), for which the World Bank has committed to supporting by providing US\$500 million,
 - The development of a tracking mechanism to monitor the commitment by African governments to allocate 10% of national budgets to agriculture.
 - The FAO is providing funding to 49 countries for medium-term investment programmes to fast-track the implementation of CAADP,
 - A CAADP companion on forestry, fisheries and livestock is being developed, as well as a nutrition programme,
 - The review on the Food Reserve System has commenced.
9. **FURTHER NOTED** the progress made in the implementation of the short term action plan for infrastructure (STAP), particularly the fact that:
- The African Development Bank (ADB) has approved financing for 9 investment projects amounting to US\$580 million;
 - The World Bank has approved financing for STAP projects amounting to US\$570 million;
 - The fibre-optic submarine cable on the East Coast of Africa, and the e-Schools projects have reached advanced levels of implementation.

African Peer Review Mechanism

10. **NOTE** the significant progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), particularly the fact that nineteen member states have now acceded to the APRM and another three have expressed interest in joining, and the fact that the country review process has started in Ghana and Rwanda and will shortly commence in Mauritius and Kenya;
11. **CALL** on all member states that have not yet done so to acceded to the APRM;

Development of Priority Sector Strategies

12. **NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** the work done to develop the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and **MANDATE** AU Commission and the NEPAD

Secretariat to work closely with partners, in particular the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Bank, the UNDP, and UNEP and other international organizations to develop a programme of work in this regard that will enable member states to use the strategy as a framework for integrating disaster risk reduction into national development processes;

13. **ENDORSE** the Tourism Action Plan developed by the NEPAD Secretariat and adopted by the African Ministers of Tourism and the Executive Council;
14. **CALL** on African Ministers of Tourism to form a Steering Committee of Ministers of Tourism to guide the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, as well as RECs and Member States in the implementation of the Tourism Action Plan;
15. **WELCOME** the African Productive Capacity Initiative (APCI) and the African Productive Capacity Facility (APCF) adopted by the 16th Conference of African Ministers of Industry and **CALL ON** the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, with the support of development partners, particularly UNIDO, to assist member states in the implementation of the strategy;
16. **FURTHER WELCOME** the development of a NEPAD Science and Technology strategy by the African Ministers of Science and Technology;
17. **CONGRATULATE** UNESCO for the work that has been done in support of the Human Resource Development aspects of the NEPAD programme;

Millennium Development Goals

18. **NOTE** that, at current rates of development, many African countries are unlikely to meet the Millennium Development Goals due to lack of resource flows and, therefore, **RESOLVE** to undertake the necessary measures to enhance the development of expanded and integrated national development plans and related policies, as well as fast-track the adoption of NEPAD programmes, including reforms and increased investments in key areas such as agriculture, infrastructure, health, human resource development and education, as a means towards achieving the MDGs;
19. **NOTE FURTHER** the centrality of Agriculture in Africa's Development and the multiple constraints associated with this sector, **AND REAFFIRM** our commitment and determination to raise food production, reduce hunger and transform rural Africa by way of developing and launching Africa's Green Revolution;
20. **WELCOME** the support provided by international partners and **CALL UPON** the international community to significantly scale up support and

resources to member states and RECs in efforts aimed at achieving the MDGs within the framework of national development programmes;

- 21. FURTHERMORE CALL ON** all international partners to honour their expressed commitments to supporting African development by significantly increasing their contributions under the IDA-14 replenishment process, providing grants as opposed to loans and granting accelerated and scaled-up debt relief; similarly the ADF is called upon to provide financial support to NEPAD programmes;

Integration of NEPAD into AU Structures and processes

- 22. FINALLY, WELCOME** the Report presented by the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union and **MANDATE** the Chairperson to continue, in consultation with the Chairperson of the HSGIC, to operationalise the Decision taken at our last Summit in Maputo relating to the integration of NEPAD into AU structures and processes.

DECISION ON THE LAUNCHING AND THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT
Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (III)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the President of the Pan-African Parliament and **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** for the measures taken by the Commission in ensuring the successful launching of the Pan-African Parliament on 18th March 2004;
2. **CONGRATULATES** the President of the Pan-African Parliament, Honourable Amb. Gertrude Ibengwe Mongella and the Four Vice-Presidents elected at the inauguration of the Parliament and **PLEDGES** its full support for their efforts in fulfilling their mandate as provided for in the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament;
3. **DECIDES** that the seat of the Pan-African Parliament shall be in South Africa;
4. **ENDORSES** the Decision EX.CL/Dec.98(V) of the Executive Council relating to the budget of the Pan-African Parliament for the period July to December 2004.

**DECISION ON THE CONFERENCE OF INTELLECTUAL
FROM AFRICA AND THE DIASPORA**
(Dakar, 6 - 9 October 2004)
Dec. Assembly/AU/5 (III)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora;
2. **WELCOMES** the preparatory work accomplished by the Commission;
3. **COMMENDS** the President of Senegal and his African Peers who have made personal commitments to ensure the success of this all important meeting;
4. **APPEALS** to all Heads of State of the Continent and the countries of the Diaspora to work towards the success of this Conference and, if possible, to attend personally.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON ON
THE AU SYMBOLS COMPETITIONS (FLAG, EMBLEM, ANTHEM)**
Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (III) Rev.1

The Assembly:

1. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the 4th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in March 2004 to retain the Emblem and Flag of the former OAU and adopt them as the new AU Flag and Emblem;
2. **DECIDES** to select the Rearranged (revised) version of the Anthem of the former OAU as the new AU Anthem;
3. **ACKNOWLEDGES** and thanks all those who submitted entries to the AU Symbols Competitions as well as the Panel of Judges.

**DECISION ON AIDS WATCH AFRICA (AWA) AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
ABUJA AND MAPUTO DECLARATIONS ON MALARIA, HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS
AND OTHER RELATED INFECTIOUS DISEASES
IN AFRICA**

The Assembly:

- 1. TAKES NOTE** of:
 - a) The presentation by the Representative of the Chairman of AIDS Watch Africa;
 - b) The presentation by the Commissioner for Social Affairs of the AU; and
 - c) The recommendations of the Executive Council as contained in the Decision EX.CL/Dec.104 (V).
- 2. URGES** Member States to ensure effective implementation of their commitments in accordance with the 2000 Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on Roll Back Malaria, the 2001 Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases as well as the 2003 Maputo Declaration on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases in Africa and to report on progress made;
- 3. DECIDES** to reposition AWA's Secretariat within the Social Affairs Department of the AU Commission for a more effective coordination of AWA's roles and activities;
- 4. URGES** AWA to ensure that best practices amongst Member States in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Other Related Infectious Diseases are identified, propagated and adopted by all;
- 5. REQUESTS** the Chairman of AWA to report on progress made to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

**DECISION ON THE COUNCIL OF THE FUTURE
OF THE AFRICAN UNION
Doc. Assembly/AU/12 (III)**

The Assembly:

- 1. TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission;
- 2. DECIDES** to refer the matter to the Executive Council for further consideration with the view to making appropriate recommendation to the Assembly.

**DECISION ON THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE
EDUCATION OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN AFRICA (CIEFFA)**

Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (III) Add.1

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the presentation on the International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa (CIEFFA);
2. **RECALLS** the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action (1993) as well as the Harare Programme of Action for the Decade for Education in Africa (1997-2006) which recommend that quality and equity be taken into account in the education of girls in national development plans;
3. **FURTHER RECALLS** the Kampala Declaration (1996) and the Platform of Action for strengthening the power of women and girls through education;
4. **WELCOMES** the establishment and operationalization of CIEFFA under the aegis of UNESCO, as an institution for the promotion of Education of girls and women in Africa;
5. **RECOGNIZES** the need for the African Union to endow itself with structures such as CIEFFA to attain the objectives and keep with the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, particularly its Articles 3(k) and 4(l);
6. **APPROVES** the principle of making CIEFFA an institution for the entire Continent under the aegis of the African Union;
7. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission, in close collaboration with the Director General of UNESCO and other partners interested in the mission and objectives of CIEFFA, to take all the necessary measures to carry out the requisite studies on the operational modalities of the future CIEFFA under the aegis of the AU; these institutional and technical studies should also include proposals for the revision and adoption of the Statutes of the Centre as well as details on its legal status;
8. **LASTLY, REQUESTS** the Chairperson to submit a report of the said studies to its next session, for a final decision to be taken.

DECISION ON THE SEATS OF THE AFRICAN UNION

The Assembly:

- 1. TAKES NOTE** of the proposal submitted by the Great Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;
- 2. DECIDES** that the AU Commission is an integral part of the Headquarters of the Union as stipulated in Article 24 of the Constitutive Act;
- 3. DECIDES** that the Organs of the Union should be located in different regions of Africa on the basis of the principle of geographical distribution;
- 4. FURTHER DECIDES** that the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Court of Justice should be integrated into one Court;
- 5. REQUESTS** the Chairperson to work out the modalities on implementing Paragraph 4 above and submit a report to our next Ordinary Session.

DECISION ON THE FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION
ON THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF GLOBALISATION
Doc. Assembly/AU/11 (V) Add.6

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report, entitled “A Fair Globalisation: Creating Opportunities For All” by the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation established by the International Labour Organization, Co-Chaired by President Benjamin William Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania and President Tarja Halonen of Finland;
2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that Africa, through NEPAD, recognizes that the continued marginalisation of Africa from the benefits of globalisation process and the social exclusion of the vast majority of its peoples constitute a serious threat to global stability;
3. **ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES** the imperative for concerted effort at the national, regional and global level to reform and to recreate a fair and inclusive process of globalisation;
4. **WELCOMES** the Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation as an important contribution to the necessary adjustments required for the realization of the vision of the AU, including NEPAD, and the Millennium Development Goals and for strengthening policy coherence as well as the spirit of globalisation for people;
5. **REQUESTS** that the Report be given wide study and support in the regional and international organizations, including the United Nations, as a document articulating some of the concerns for the development of Africa and her people and **INVITES** African States to consider supporting some of its recommendations as common position in furtherance of the collective interests of Africa;
6. **DECIDES** that the Report constitute part of the Agenda for consideration by the Extraordinary African Union Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation to be held in Ouagadougou on 7 – 9 September 2004.

DECISION ON DRAFT PROGRAMME BUDGET
FOR THE 2005 FINANCIAL YEAR
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The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **MANDATES** the Executive Council to consider and adopt the programme budget for the 2005 Financial Year during its Extraordinary Session scheduled for November 2004;
3. **ENDORSES** the proposal by the Executive Council for the establishment of high level Permanent Committee of budgetary and financial Experts and **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to examine the matter in detail and submit appropriate recommendations thereon to the next session of the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL COUNCIL (ECOSOCC)**

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The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council;
2. **ADOPTS** the draft Statutes of ECOSOCC;
3. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to take urgent measures for the launching and operationalisation of ECOSOCC;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Executive Council to take appropriate measures to define, at the earliest opportunity, the meaning of the African Diaspora.

**DECISION ON THE 17TH ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE
AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**
Doc. EX.CL/109 (V)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the 17th Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;
2. **REQUESTS** all the organs concerned to take the necessary steps to provide the Commission with the human, financial and material resources needed for its smooth functioning in keeping with Article 41 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and submit a report thereon to the 7th Ordinary Session;
3. **URGES** all Member States to cooperate with the ACHPR, and the various mechanisms it has put in place, and implement its decisions in compliance with the provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;
4. **NOTES** that some ACHPR reports on the State Parties are presented without their observations; and **INVITES** ACHPR to ensure that in future its mission reports are submitted together with the comments of the State Parties concerned and to indicate the steps taken in this regard during the presentation of its annual activity report;
5. **SUSPENDS** the publication of the 17th Annual Activity Report in accordance with paragraph 4 above pending the possible observations by the Member States concerned;
6. **INVITES** all the State Parties concerned to submit to the ACHPR the reports due by virtue of Article 62 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

DECISION ON THE CANDIDATURE OF DOCTOR JACQUES DIOUF
FOR THE POST OF FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Standing Nomination Committee for the African Candidatures in the International System;
2. **RECALLS** decision EX.CL/Dec.86 (IV) adopted in March 2004 by which the Executive Council decided to support the Candidature of Doctor Jacques Diouf of the Republic of Senegal, for his re-election to the post of Director General of the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO), whose term of office expires in 2005, date provided for elections at the 33rd Session of this Institution in Rome;
3. **DECIDES TO SUPPORT** the Candidature of Dr. Jacques Diouf;
4. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to follow up this issue and to report thereon to the Assembly at its next Session.

**DECISION ON SUPPORT TO THE CANDIDATURE OF
MR KOÏSHIRO MATSUURA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNESCO**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the presentation of Mr. Koïshiro Matsuura, Director General of UNESCO, on cooperation between NEPAD and UNESCO;
2. **WELCOMES** the priority accorded by UNESCO to the economic, social and cultural development of the African Continent in its fields of competence;
3. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the excellent state of cooperation existing between the African Union and its programme NEPAD and UNESCO;
4. **SUPPORTS** the candidature of Mr. Koïshiro Matsuura for a second term as Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), to enable him to pursue his action and strengthen the priority UNESCO gives to the Continent;
5. **REQUESTS** Member States of the AU, particularly those representing Africa in the Executive Council and the General Conference, to fully support the candidature of Mr. Koïshiro Matsuura.

**DECISION ON THE HOSTING OF THE FOOTBALL
WORLD CUP 2010 IN AFRICA**

The Assembly:

1. **WELCOMES** the decision of FIFA to award the hosting of the 2010 Football World Cup to Africa thus recognizing that this is a momentous occasion for the African Continent;
2. **RECOGNIZES** the spirit of solidarity demonstrated by the contending African countries to secure the hosing of the World Cup for the African Continent;
3. **CONGRATULATES** South Africa on its successful bid to host the World Cup;
4. **MANDATES** the Commission, in collaboration with CAF, to work with FIFA and the host country to develop programmes to deliver a successful World Cup.

**DECISION ON THE PERIODICITY OF THE ORDINARY
SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

The Assembly:

- 1. RECALLS** the provisions of Article 6.3 of the Constitutive Act which stipulates that the Assembly shall meet in Ordinary Session at least once a year;
- 2. FURTHER RECALLS** the provisions of Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly;
- 3. AWARE** of the increasing responsibilities of the Assembly in addressing the challenges facing the Continent;
- 4. DECIDES** that the Assembly shall meet twice a year in Ordinary Session.

DECISION ON DARFUR**The Assembly:**

1. **REITERATES** its serious concern over the prevailing situation in the Darfur Region of The Sudan, particularly the Humanitarian crisis and the continued reports of violations of human rights, including attacks against civilians committed by the Janjaweed militia and other non regular armed groups, and reiterates the need to bring to justice all those responsible for human rights violations in Darfur;
2. **NOTES THAT**, even though the humanitarian situation in Darfur is serious, it can not be defined as a genocide. The Assembly further notes that the crisis should be addressed with utmost urgency to avoid further escalation;
3. **WELCOMES** the measures taken by the GOS to protect the civilian populations, facilitate the work of the humanitarian agencies and NGOs and provide them with unrestricted access to the affected populations. The Assembly welcomes the commitment by the GOS to disarm and neutralize the janjaweed militia and other armed groups and urges the GOS to follow through these commitments;
4. **STRESSES** that the African Union should continue to lead these efforts to address the crisis in Darfur and that the International Community should continue to support this efforts;
5. **COMMENDS** President Deby of Chad for his mediation efforts, undertaken with the support of the AU Commission and other partners. The Assembly calls on all concerned to vigorously pursue their efforts;
6. **WELCOMES** the establishment of the cease-fire commission in El Fashir as of 9 June 2004 and the partial deployment of the AU military observers in the Darfur Region and urges the Commission to expedite the process, including the deployment of the protection force.
7. **DECIDES** to increase the number of AU Observers to a minimum of 80 and decides that the protection force should be deployed immediately. In this regard, the Assembly welcomes the willingness of the GOS to cooperate with the AU Protection Force and its commitment to provide overall protection to the Mission. The Assembly urges the Member States concerned to contribute Observers and troops for the AU Mission as a matter of urgency;
8. **AGREES** that the rebel forces should be cantoned at mutually agreed sites and that the militia and all other outlaw groups should be disarmed by the GOS, and that these two operations shall be carried out simultaneously and monitored by the AU Mission;

9. **UNDERLINES** the centrality of a political solution and agrees that the political dialogue should resume on the scheduled date of 15 July 2004, at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, with the view to reaching a political agreement. Such an Agreement would create conditions for the convening of the all party conference provided for in the N'Djamena Humanitarian Cease-Fire Agreement. The Assembly urges all parties to the meeting to participate at the highest level, to ensure that decision will be reached. In this respect, the Assembly urges the Commission with the assistance of Member States and other partners, to ensure that the rebel movements participate in the meeting at the highest level, to avoid delays;
10. **URGES** the parties to strictly respect the provisions of the Cease-fire agreement and create conditions for the speedy and urgent return of refugees and IDPs. The Assembly urgently appeals to the International Community and Member States to extend full support to this process by providing the much needed humanitarian assistance;
11. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the Agreement signed between the Government of The Sudan and the United Nations which is consistent with the AU Peace efforts;
12. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to follow this matter as a matter of a priority and report to the Peace and Security Council regularly.

**MOTION OF APPRECIATION TO H.E. PRESIDENT JOAQUIM
CHISSANO, OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF THE AU**

The Assembly:

RECOGNISING the important and historic role played by President Joaquim Chissano in the struggle for the liberation of his country as well as the promotion of peace and stability and socio-economic development of Mozambique throughout his tenure as the second President of that country;

RECALLING the commitment and dedication with which President Chissano carried out his responsibilities as Chairperson of the African Union at this early stage of its establishment;

CONSIDERING that President Chissano is approaching the end of his term of office and is committed to handing over the stewardship of his country to a successor to be elected by the people of Mozambique in the elections scheduled for December 2004:

1. **CONGRATULATES** H.E. President Chissano for the meritorious services rendered to his country and the people of Mozambique, and for the exemplary leadership he has demonstrated by resolving to abide by the Constitution of his country to hand over power peacefully;
2. **EXPRESSES** its profound gratitude and appreciation and pays tribute to H.E. President Joaquim Chissano for his dynamic leadership and contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the African Union.

Assembly/AU/Decl.12 & 13 (III)

DECLARATIONS

SOLEMN DECLARATION ON GENDER EQUALITY
IN AFRICA

We, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting in the Third Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6-8 July 2004:

Reaffirming our commitment to the principle of gender equality as enshrined in Article 4 (l) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, as well as other existing commitments, principles, goals and actions set out in the various regional, continental and international instruments on human and women's rights, including the Dakar Platform for Action (1994), the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW - 1979), the African Plan of Action to Accelerate the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action for the Advancement of Women (1999); the Outcome Document of the Twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (2000); UN Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security; and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003);

Standing by our Decision on gender parity taken at the Inaugural Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa implemented during the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, 2003 through the election of five female and five male Commissioners;

Noting with satisfaction that our Decision on gender parity is a historic achievement that does not yet exist in any other continent or regional organizations;

Re-affirming our commitment to continue, expand and accelerate efforts to promote gender equality at all levels;

Determined to build on the progress that we have achieved in addressing issues of major concern to the women of Africa;

Taking cognizance of the landmark decision to adopt the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa during the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique, 2003;

Noting the decision of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to transform the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD) into the African Union Women's Committee (AUWC), which will be located in the Gender Directorate and serve as an Advisory Body to the Chairperson on Gender and Development;

Recognizing that major challenges and obstacles to gender equality still remain and require concerted and collective leadership and efforts from all of us including networks working on gender and development;

Deeply concerned about the status of women and the negative impacts on women of issues such as the high incidence of HIV/AIDS among girls and women, conflict, poverty, harmful traditional practices, high population of refugee women and internally displaced women, violence against women, women's exclusion from politics and decision-making, and illiteracy, limited access of girls to education;

Aware of the policies and programmes we have put in place to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic as well as the current challenges in this campaign;

Concerned that, while women and children bear the brunt of conflicts and internal displacement, including rapes and killings, they are largely excluded from conflict prevention, peace-negotiation, and peace-building processes in spite of African women's experience in peace-building;

Aware of the fact that low levels of women's representation in social, economic and political decision-making structures and feminisation of poverty impact negatively on women's ability to derive full benefit from the economies of their countries and the democratization process;

Aware of the digital divide between the North and the South, men and women and the role of information telecommunication technologies (ICTS) in the advancement of the gender issue as stated in the e-gender Forum Declaration of Tunis, May 2004 in preparation for the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) 2005;

HEREBY AGREE TO:

1. **Accelerate the implementation of** gender specific economic, social, and legal measures aimed at combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic and effectively implement both Abuja and Maputo Declarations on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Disease. More specifically we will ensure that treatment and social services are available to women at the local level making it more responsive to the needs of families that are providing care; enact legislation to end discrimination against women living with HIV/AIDS and for the protection and care for people living with HIV/AIDS, particularly women; increase budgetary allocations in these sectors so as to alleviate women's burden of care;
2. **Ensure** the full and effective participation and representation of women in peace process including the prevention, resolution, management of conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa as stipulated in UN Resolution 1325 (2000) and to also appoint women as Special Envoys and Special Representatives of the African Union;
3. **Launch**, within the next one year, a campaign for systematic prohibition of the recruitment of child soldiers and abuse of girl children as wives and sex slaves in violation of their Rights as enshrined in the African Charter on Rights of the Child;

4. **Initiate, launch and engage** within two years sustained public campaigns against gender based violence as well as the problem of trafficking in women and girls; Reinforce legal mechanisms that will protect women at the national level and end impunity of crimes committed against women in a manner that will change and positively alter the attitude and behaviour of the African society;
5. **Expand and Promote** the gender parity principle that we have adopted regarding the Commission of the African Union to all the other organs of the African Union, including its NEPAD programme, to the Regional Economic Communities, and to the national and local levels in collaboration with political parties and the National parliaments in our countries;
6. **Ensure** the active promotion and protection of all human rights for women and girls including the right to development by raising awareness or by legislation where necessary;
7. **Actively promote** the implementation of legislation to guarantee women's land, property and inheritance rights including their rights to housing;
8. **Take** specific measures to ensure the education of girls and literacy of women, especially in the rural areas, to achieve the goal of "Education for All" (EFA);
9. **Undertake to Sign and ratify** the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa by the end of 2004 and to support the launching of public campaigns aimed at ensuring its entry into force by 2005 and usher in an era of domesticating and implementing the Protocol as well as other national, regional and international instruments on gender equality by all States Parties;
10. **Establish** AIDS Watch Africa as a unit within the Office of the Chairperson of the Commission who should render annual report on HIV/AIDS situation in the continent during annual Summits; and promote the local production of anti-retroviral drugs in our countries;
11. **Accept to** establish an African Trust Fund for Women for the purpose of building the capacity of African women and further request the African Union Commission to work out the modalities for the operationalisation of the Fund with special focus on women in both urban and rural areas;
12. **Commit ourselves to** report annually on progress made in terms of gender mainstreaming and to support and champion all issues raised in this Declaration, both at the national and regional levels, and regularly provide each other with updates on progress made during our Ordinary Sessions;

- 13. We request** the chairperson of the African Union Commission to submit, for our consideration, an annual report, during our ordinary sessions, on measures taken to implement the principle of gender equality and gender mainstreaming, and all issues raised in this Declaration both at the national and regional levels.

**DECLARATION ON THE ONGOING REVIEW OF THE EU COMMON AGRICULTURAL
POLICY (CAP) AND ITS IMPACT ON TRADE IN COMMODITIES
WITH ACP COUNTRIES**

We, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting in the Third Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 8 July, 2004:

Recalling the Kigali Declaration on the Doha Work Programme and the Kigali consensus on the Post-Cancun Doha Work Programme adopted by the 2nd Ordinary Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Trade held in Kigali from 24 to 28 May 2004, and endorsed by this Assembly;

Having taken note of the ongoing review process of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP);

Considering the crucial role played by agriculture in sustaining the socio-economic fabric of developing, least-developed, land-locked and Small Island Developing States;

Conscious that the development of these countries is heavily dependent on the preferential EU-ACP arrangements governing the access, at guaranteed prices of commodities, in particular banana, rice and sugar to the EU market;

Cognizant of the fact that there is a direct correlation between commodity dependence and poverty levels especially in circumstances of perennial declining prices;

Express great concern at the sharp decline and fluctuation of prices of commodities which has created a crisis in most African commodity exporting countries, the majority of whom are either least-developed countries and/or heavily indebted African countries;

Support the Maputo Declaration adopted by the 4th Summit of the ACP Heads of State and Government on 21 June 2004 and in particular the relevant paragraphs on trade in commodities;

Call on our long-standing development partners of the EU to ensure that the reform of the CAP including the review of the EC sugar regimes does not adversely affect the vital interests of the ACP countries, in particular of those Member States of the African Union;

Request the AU Commission to continuously monitor developments relating to the CAP reform process and periodically report to the Assembly.

2004

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