

**AFRICAN UNION**

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**UNION AFRICAINE**

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Heads of State and Government Retreat  
16 July 2016, Kigali, RWANDA

CONCEPT NOTE

## **FINANCING THE AFRICAN UNION AND ITS AGENDA**

Rev.3

## Background

The need for the continent to move towards greater self-reliance in funding its programmes and institutions has been a long-standing Pan African aspiration, and subject of a number of Summit decisions, since the transition from the OAU to the AU in 2002. On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the OAU/AU in May 2013, the Assembly in its Solemn Declaration, reaffirmed its commitment and pledged to foster self-reliance and self-sufficiency, undertaking to '*mobilise our domestic resources, on a predictable and sustainable basis to strengthen institutions and advance our continental agenda.*'

Thus, following the presentation and adoption of the High Level Panel report on *Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union*, chaired by President Obasanjo, to the Assembly in 2013 (?), a number of subsequent decisions have been taken and are in the process of being implemented to give effect to this aspiration.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in January 2016 once again deliberated on these issues, and in its decision on '*The Scale of Assessment and Implementation of Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union* (Assembly/AU/Dec.602(XXVI),

- 2. Requested the Executive Council through its Committee on Contributions and Scale of Assessment to continue to develop modalities for the implementation of the Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union and report on progress to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2016.
- 6. Requested the AU Commission to convene a Retreat of Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Finance, to examine the financing of the Union before the July 2016 Summit.
- 7. Also requested the Commission to Report on the Implementation of this decision to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in July 2016.

## Objectives of the Retreat

In furtherance of this decision, and after consultations with the Chairperson of the Union, the Retreat will be organized on 16 July on the eve of the Kigali Summit in order to:

- a) consider progress and challenges with regard to the implementation of decisions on financing the Union and its programmes, and in particular the decisions on the Scale of Assessment, Alternative Sources of Financing, including sustainable and predictable financing of the AU Peace Fund;
- b) to consider recommendations to the Twenty Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly regarding the next steps to take this process forward.

## Approach to the Retreat

A Retreat format is less formal than regular meetings, to allow for frank and considered discussions. In addition, it should take a strategic approach to issues, focusing on the particular, but also providing the context so as to move the issues forward.

## Participation in the Retreat

The Assembly decision identified participants as Heads of State and Government, as well as Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Finance.

### AFRICAN UNION HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT RETREAT ON FINANCING THE AFRICAN UNION AND ITS AGENDA

### DRAFT PROGRAMME

16 July 2016, 14:30-17:30

14:00	Opening and start of Retreat
14:30	Welcome remarks by the Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. President of the Republic of Chad Idriss Deby
14:40-15:15	<b>FINANCING THE AFRICAN UNION AND ITS AGENDA: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND PROPOSALS</b>  Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductory remarks: <i>Chairperson of AU Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma</i></li><li>• Financing Agenda 2063 and the African Paradox: <i>Dr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary, UNECA</i></li><li>• Financing in Africa, a Private Sector Perspective: <i>Mr. Acha Leke, Director and Member of the McKinsey Global Institute Council;</i></li><li>• Implementation of Summit decisions on Financing the African Union and revitalising the AU Peace Fund: <i>Dr. Donald Kaberuka, AU Special Envoy on the Peace Fund</i></li></ul>
15:15-17:30	Discussions and deliberations
18:00-18:15	Presentation of Draft Retreat Outcome document and Recommendations
18:30	Closing



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