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**REPORT OF THE 2ND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ALL AFRICA  
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DECENTRALIZATION (AMCOD),  
MAPUTO MOZAMBIQUE, 8 – 11 August 2011**

## **REPORT ON THE 2ND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ALL AFRICA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (AMCOD)**

### **Introduction**

1. The All Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralization and Local Development brings together the Ministers of Member States of the African Union responsible for decentralization and local development. Founded in 2000, on the sidelines of the Second Africities Summit held in Windhoek, Namibia, it attracted the attention of our continental organization for the first time during the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2007. At that Assembly session, on a proposal by the Republic of Cameroon, the Assembly adopted Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.158(VIII) on the Transformation of the All Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralization and Local Development (AMCOD) into a Structure of the Union as part of the restructuring of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs). Since the adoption of that important decision, AMCOD has already met twice in ordinary session and once in extraordinary session at ministerial level. Although this report focuses on the Second Ordinary Session of AMCOD, it recalls the achievements of previous sessions.

### **Achievements of previous sessions**

2. The First Ordinary Ministerial Session of AMCOD was held in Yaounde, Cameroon in May 2008. It was followed in September 2010 by an extraordinary session held in the same city. The ordinary session of May 2008 allowed the Ministers responsible for decentralization in the various Member States of the African Union to establish a platform for dialogue and policy formulation while the extraordinary session in September 2010 allowed them to complete the legal and institutional architecture of AMCOD. Indeed, during the extraordinary session the revised statutes, guidelines for a strategic action plan and the principle of both a permanent seat and an annual financial contribution were adopted. These achievements provided AMCOD with an operational framework approved by Member States, which enabled it to move on to new prospects opened up by the Second Conference.

### **Outcomes of the Second Ordinary Session**

3. The Second Ordinary Ministerial Session of AMCOD was hosted from 8 to 10 August 2011 by the Republic of Mozambique which will be its chair until 2014. It was held under the theme "Financing Decentralization, Service Delivery and Local Development". Like the previous ministerial meetings, it was supported by the African Union Commission which took part in it. It further recorded a high participation of Member States of the African Union. Twenty-eight (28) of these States, namely Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Central African Republic,

Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa were actually involved at various levels. The consistency and importance of participation reveal the degree of ownership of decentralization policies by our Member States.

4. The Second Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers, which was preceded by a Meeting of Experts who not only explored for two days the ways and means of improving the financing of decentralization, local public services and local development, but also identified a number of initiatives to advance the decentralization agenda in Member States, adopted important decisions reflected in the Maputo Final Declaration. Following open and in-depth discussion of the issues on the agenda, the Second Ordinary Ministerial Session of AMCOD adopted an important declaration that reflects the political will to give substance to the outcomes of previous sessions and to include in a sustainable manner the problem of decentralization and local governance in the multi-level continental governance programme.

5. The Maputo Final Declaration not only sanctions a number of decisions on the internal functioning (election of a new Conference Bureau, adoption of Rules of Procedure, appointment of a Permanent Executive, adoption of a Long-Term Strategic Plan of Action and Terms of Reference for the organization of ministerial conferences by host countries and designation of the city of Cotonou, Benin, as the host city for the next ordinary ministerial session of AMCOD in August 2014), but also calls for:

- The development of an African Charter on the Values, Principles and Standards of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development as a binding continental legal instrument;
- The publication every three years of a "Report on the Status of Decentralization and Local Governance" in Africa;
- The establishment of a continental system of recognition of progress in the field of local governance;
- The adoption of an "African Day of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development" as a mechanism for the commemoration and celebration of local efforts to improve the lives of African peoples;
- The development of a document defining the guiding principles for implementation of the theme of the Conference on "Financing Decentralization, Public Service Delivery and Local Development" by the Member States.

6. The successful organization of the second ordinary session illustrates the sound functioning of AMCOD whose decisions fall firmly in line with the African Union agenda on shared values, which they enhance through the prism of local governance. The framework of Specialized Technical Committees will provide a final response to the issue of aligning the Conference institutionally. Already, the implementation of

Conference decisions is essential in the conduct of its business. The Commission will strive to support our Member States in this regard.

**7.** In fact, the second ordinary session of AMCOD held in Maputo last August, at which the African Union Commission participated at both expert and ministerial levels, provided an opportunity to deepen cooperation with the Ministerial Conference. Such cooperation that has increased significantly over the past two years has helped pave the way to align AMCOD with the structures of the Union within the context of implementation of the new framework of STCs, pursuant to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec 158 (VIII) mentioned above.

**EX.CL/692(XX)**  
**Annex**

## **MAPUTO DECLARATION**





## **FINAL DECLARATION**

### **of the Second Ordinary Session of the All Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralization and Local Development**

The All Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralization and Local Development, met in ordinary session on 10 August 2011 at the JOAQUIM ALBERTO CHISSANO International Conference Centre, Maputo, Republic of Mozambique.

This session placed under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency ARMANDO EMILIO GUEBUZA, President of the Republic of Mozambique, was presided over by Mrs CARMELITA RITA NAMASHULUA, Minister of State Administration, Republic of Mozambique, and Chair of AMCOD.

Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the following countries were in attendance: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Sahrawi Republic, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania and Togo.

The opening ceremony was punctuated by five speeches, including: The welcome address of the Governor of Maputo, Mrs. LUCILIA NOTA HAMA, the welcome address of the Minister of State Administration of Mozambique, Mrs. CARMELITA RITA NAMASHULUA, the address of the outgoing AMCOD Chair Mr. MARAFA HAMIDOU YAYA, a keynote address by the African Union Commissioner of Political Affairs, Mrs. JULIA DOLLY JOINER, and finally the official opening address of the President of the Republic of Mozambique, H.E. Mr. ARMANDO EMILIO GUEBUZA delivered by his Representative, The Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. AIRES BONIFACIO ALI.

### **Deliberations gave the following outcomes:**

- Installation of a new AMCOD Executive Bureau to run its affairs for the next three years;
- Adoption of 8 (eight) decisions on:
  - the appointment of Vice-Chairs representing the five (5) geographical zones of Africa;
  - the Charter on Values, Principles and Standards of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development;
  - the AMCOD Rules of Procedure;
  - AMCOD's Long-Term Strategic Plan for the period 2011 – 2026;
  - Terms of reference on the organization of AMCOD meetings;
  - THE Drafting of a Guiding Framework on the implementation of the conference theme in member countries: *Financing Decentralization, Public Service Delivery and Local Development*;







- The institutionalization of an Africa Day on Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development; and
- the determination of the host country of the third AMCOD ordinary session.

### **With regard to Decisions**

- **Appointment of five Vice-Chairs:** The Conference decided that each geographical zone shall appoint one Vice-Chair who shall be member of the AMCOD Bureau, and who shall lead and coordinate AMCOD activities in their zone, chair meetings, report to the AMCOD Chair, and establish working relations with Regional Economic Communities, Regional Associations of Local Authorities and any other competent regional institutions on decentralization, local governance and local development.
- **The Charter on Values, Principles and Standards of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development:** The Conference undertook to draw up this Pan African legal instrument, and directed AMCOD Chair to consult with the African Union Commission for that purpose.
- **AMCOD Rules of Procedure:** The Conference decided that Rules of Procedure as annexed to this declaration shall be adopted and shall enter into force from 10 August 2011. The Conference further directed AMCOD Chair to submit a copy of the said Rules to the African Union Commission for onward transmission to the Executive Council in accordance with the established procedure.
- **AMCOD Long-Term Strategic Plan of Action for the period 2011 – 2026:** The Conference decided that the AMCOD Long-Term Strategic Plan of Action for the period 2011 – 2026 as annexed to this declaration shall be adopted and shall enter into force from 10 August 2011. The Conference further directed AMCOD Chair to submit a copy to the African Union Commission in accordance with the established procedure.

The Conference further requested the Permanent Executive Secretariat to draw up, under the supervision of AMCOD Chair, a programme to implement the said Strategic Plan and submit it to AMCOD Bureau for adoption after consultation of member countries.

- **Terms of Reference on the organization of AMCOD meetings:** The Conference decided that the Terms of Reference to lay down the modalities for organising AMCOD Sessions as annexed to this declaration shall be adopted and shall enter into force from the fourth AMCOD ordinary session. The Conference further directed the chairperson of AMCOD to submit copy of the terms of reference to the African Union Commission in accordance with the established procedure.







- **AMCOD Working Document on the theme: “Financing Decentralization, Service Delivery and Local Development”:** The Conference decided that a Framework Document shall be drafted to guide the implementation of the conference theme in member countries. The Conference further requested AMCOD Permanent Executive Secretary to draw up, a budgeted operational plan for the said framework document, and to implement it.
- **The Africa Day on Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development:** The Conference undertook to institutionalize the said day as an annual Pan African event, and mandated the Chair of AMCOD to consult with the African Union Commission for the purpose of formalising it.
- Lastly, the Conference decided to hold its **next ordinary session in Cotonou, Benin, in August 2014**. The exact date shall be determined after consultation between the Chair of AMCOD and the authorities of the host country.

#### As regards AMCOD new Bureau

After acknowledging the pivotal role played by Cameroon through Mr. MARAFA HAMIDOU YAYA, Minister of State, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization for a job well done during his tenure as first Chair since the birth of the organization, the Conference appointed a new AMCOD Bureau comprising the following:

- Chairperson: Mozambique
- Vice-Chairpersons for the five geographical zones of Africa:
  - Algeria – North Africa
  - Senegal – West Africa
  - Angola – Southern Africa
  - Cameroon – Central Africa
  - Djibouti – East Africa

At the end of deliberations, African Ministers in charge of Decentralization and Local Development warmly acknowledged the hospitality afforded themselves and their delegations during their stay in Maputo whilst congratulating the outgoing Chair for the quality of work done.

They further expressed profound gratitude to His Excellency ARMANDO EMÍLIO GUEBUZA, President of the Republic of Mozambique, and heartily congratulated Mrs. CARMELITA RITA NAMASHULUA, Minister of State Administration of Mozambique as incoming Chair of AMCOD for her contribution to the success of the second AMCOD ordinary session.

Done at Maputo, 10 August 2011,

The Conference.



2012

# Report of the 2nd ordinary Session of the all Africa ministerial conference on decentralization (AMCOD), Maputo Mozambique, 8 – 11 August 2011

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