

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

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DRAFT 50th ANNIVERSARY PROCLAMATION

DRAFT PROCLAMATION

We, Heads of State and Government of the African Union meeting in Addis Ababa, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the OAU/AU which was created on 25 May 1963.

Recalling with pride and esteem, the historical role and efforts of Founders of the Pan-African Movement and nationalist movements, whose vision, wisdom, solidarity and commitment have enabled us to get where we are today;

Reaffirming our commitment to the ideals of Pan-Africanism and Africa's aspiration for unity and commending the founders of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) as well as the African people on the continent and in the Diaspora for their successful struggle against colonialism, oppression and apartheid;

Stressing our commitment to construct a united and integrated Africa,

Taking into account the vision of our Union and affirming our determination to "build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena";

Determined to take full responsibility for the realisation of this vision.

Guided by the principles of the Constitutive Act of our Union, in particular that of gender equality and a people centred Union, as well as our Shared values.

ACKNOWLEDGE THAT:

- I. **The Organisation of African Unity** overcame internal and external challenges over the years, persevered in the quest for continental unity and solidarity; contributed actively to the liberation of Africa from colonization and apartheid; provided a political and diplomatic platform to generations of on continental and international matters; and elaborated frameworks on Africa's development and integration agenda.
- II. **The African Union** carried forward the continental struggle for development, self-determination and integration; formulated a vision for our Union; agreed that the ultimate goal of the Union is the construction of a united and integrated Africa; it instituted the principle of non-indifference to intervene in Member States in order to protect the lives and rights of African citizens; and laid the groundwork for the entrenchment of the rule of law, democracy, respect for human rights and gender equality in Africa.
- III. That with regards to the implementation of the integration agenda, the involvement of people in the affairs of the Union, peace and security, the alignment between our institutional framework and the vision of the Union and

Africa's position in the world, challenges still remain that are obstacles to the realization of our vision.

WE HEREBY PROCLAIM:

A. *On the African identity and renaissance*

Our unflinching believe in our common destiny, our Shared Values and commit to the development of the African identity; the celebration of unity in diversity and the institution of the African citizenship.

Our commitment to strengthen AU programmes and Member States institutions aimed at reviving of our cultural identity, heritage, history and Shared values, and undertake henceforth to implement our decision for all Member States to fly the AU flag and sing the AU anthem along with our national flags and anthems.

The uniqueness of Africa's history as the cradle of humanity, marked by slavery, deportation, dispossession, apartheid and colonization, and our struggles against these evils, have shaped our common destiny and enhanced our solidarity with peoples of African descent.

As part of advancing our African identity we will promote and harmonize the teaching of African history in all our schools and educational institutions.

B. *On the integration agenda*

Our commitment to Africa's political, social and economic integration agenda, and in this regard speed up the process of realizing the objectives of the African Economic Community and undertake steps towards the construction of a united and integrated Africa. Building on existing commitments and instruments, we undertake in particular:

- the speedy implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area, free movement of people and goods, with focus on integrating local and regional markets.
- realise progress on the construction of a united Africa through the implementation of our common continental governance, democracy and human rights frameworks and move with speed towards the integration and merger of the RECs as the building blocks of the Union.

C. On the agenda for social and economic development

Our commitment to place the African people, in particular women and the youth, as well as the persons living with disabilities, at the centre of our endeavours and to eradicate poverty. In this regard we undertake to:-

- Develop our human capital as our most important resource through education and training, especially in science, technology and innovation.
- Eradicate disease, especially HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.
- Accelerate Africa's infrastructural development, linking African peoples, countries and economies; and as a driver of human, social, cultural and economic development. In this regard, we commit to meet our strategic targets in transport, ICT, energy and other social infrastructure by committing national, regional and continental resources to this end.
- Own, use and develop our natural endowments and resources through value addition, as the basis for industrialization, intra-Africa trade and tourism, in a manner that foster economic integration, development and growth to the benefit of the African people,
- Preserve our arable land for current and future generations and develop our agricultural production and agro-processing in order to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, and to achieve food security and self-sufficiency;
- Make our development agenda responsive to the needs of our peoples, anchored on the preservation of our environment for current and future generations, including the fight against desertification and mitigation of the effects of climate change, especially with regards to island states and land-locked countries.

D. On peace and security

Our determination to achieve the goal of a conflict-free Africa, to make peace a reality for all our people and to rid the continent of wars, civil conflicts, human rights violations, humanitarian disasters and violent conflicts We pledge not to bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans. In this regard we undertake to:-

- Address the root causes of conflicts, put an end to impunity and strengthen national and continental judicial institutions and

accountability in line with our collective responsibility to the principle of non-indifference;

- Deal, with recurrent and emerging sources of conflict including piracy, narco-human trafficking, all forms of extremism including terrorism, transnational organized crime and missing no opportunity to push forward the agenda of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peace support, national reconciliation and post-conflict reconstruction and development;
- We recommit to a nuclear-free Africa and call for global nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy;
- Undertake the effective implementation of agreements on landmines and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

E. On democratic governance

Our determination to anchor our societies, governments and institutions on respect for the rule of law, human rights and dignity, popular participation, the management of diversity, inclusion and democracy. In this regard we:

- Reiterate our rejection of unconstitutional change of government, and any attempts to seize power by force.;
- Undertake to strengthen governance, and the capacities of our institutions to meet the aspirations of our people;
- Foster the participation of our people through democratic elections and accountability in the management of public affairs.

F. On African determination to take its destiny into its own hands

We must claim responsibility for our own destiny. We pledge to foster self-reliance by mobilizing our domestic resources, on a predictable and sustainable basis to strengthen institutions and advance our continental agenda.

We pledge to fully complete the decolonization process in Africa, protect the rights to self-determination of African peoples under colonial rule, and to resist all forms of influences adverse to the interests of the continent.

Pledge to fully implement continental and universal frameworks to eliminate the root causes that give rise to the plight of internally displaced persons and refugees in Africa.

G. Africa in the world

To take its rightful place in the political, security, economic, and social global governance towards the realization of Africa's Renaissance. We undertake to:

- Continue the global struggle against all forms of racism and discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances;
- Further advance international cooperation to promote and defend African interests.

As Heads of State and Government, mindful of our responsibility, we pledge to act together with our Peoples and the Diaspora to realize our vision of Pan Africanism and African Renaissance.

We pledge to articulate the above ideals and goals in the context of developing the Continental Agenda 2063, through a people-driven process for the realization of our vision for an integrated, people-centred, prosperous Africa at peace with itself.

Adopted by the 21st Ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, Addis Ababa, 27 May 2013.

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