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**DECISION ON AU “DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, LACK OF
IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS, AND THE NEED TO UPHOLD
AND RESPECT THE INTEGRITY OF SUMMIT DECISIONS
BY ALL MEMBER STATES OF THE UNION
(Item Proposed by the Republic of Namibia)**

DECISION ON AU “DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, LACK OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS, AND THE NEED TO UPHOLD AND RESPECT THE INTEGRITY OF SUMMIT DECISIONS BY ALL MEMBER STATES OF THE UNION
(Item Proposed by the Republic of Namibia)

PART A: BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

1. The African Union Assembly of Heads of States and Government, pursuant to the Grand Debate on the Union Government, adopted Decision 263 of 2009, which is a milestone in processes of the African Union geared towards continental integration.
2. This Decision, the implementation of which is underway, translates the consensus reached after a lengthy and profound debate on the nature, scope and the pace of the transformation of the Commission into the Authority of the Union. It emanates from our strong conviction that the direction of the process is a collective undertaking and that it is underpinned by values, principles and objectives we all cherish, as enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the Union. It is in the light of this that Namibia and other Member States have lent their unwavering support to the implementation of the said decision and constructively engaged the rest of the AU Member States with a view of ensuring a timely conclusion of this process.
3. It is worth noting that implementing decisions involves time and conscious legal procedures. It is not possible, therefore, to align laws with a decision overnight. In addition, several treaties and protocols have not been signed or ratified since the formation of the Union in 2002. Key decisions to deepen social cohesion of the Union, such as singing of the AU Anthem and flying of the AU flag together with National Anthems and flags still require implementation by Member States.
4. Against this background, Namibia and other Member States have been startled by recent attempts to thwart the same, under the guise of the need to re-examine, review or re-appreciate Assembly Decision 263.
5. It is, therefore, the considered view of Namibia and other Member States that such behaviour is counterproductive and can, at best, undermine the culture of consensus, collective ownership and unity that have been the cornerstone of our decision-making process.
6. Furthermore, it carries the danger of eroding the highly cherished image and prestige of the African Union as an Organisation with clear vision, rules-based and founded on solid procedures and organizational culture. This is a risk that our countries would be well-advised not to take. Indeed no Member State that harbours good will for the future of the African Union can afford to remain indifferent in the face of blatant attempts to destabilize the normal functioning of our organization.
7. In proposing this agenda item Namibia, on behalf of other Member State, aims at promoting a discussion that will inter alia, reaffirm the imperative of respecting the sanctity of consensus and the spirit of unity in the conduct of the affairs of the

organization. The debate on the item should also underscore the preponderance of rules and procedures over political idiosyncrasies of individual Member States.

8. It is also the view of Namibia and other AU Member States that this will ensure that the values that we share will be upheld by all and will inform our deliberations. Paramount among such values are the principles of sovereignty and equality of States and collective ownership of the vision of our organization, as well as of the processes and decisions geared towards its implementation. Respect for and adherence to these values will confer integrity to our decision-making process.

9. Namibia and other Member States strongly believe that the culture of solidarity, cohesion and political accountability that has been the bedrock of our Organization for generations cannot and should not be negotiated. It is this culture and tradition of our Organization that has commanded respect and admiration by the International Community. We, therefore, submit that it is the sacred duty of all Member States to preserve and defend this prestigious image.

10. In proposing this Agenda item, Namibia with the support of other Member States, is mindful of the enormous and historic responsibility incumbent upon African leaders to ensure that the unity of the continent and the solidarity of its peoples are preserved.

2011-06-30

Decision on au “decision-making process, lack of implementation of decisions, and the need to uphold and respect the integrity of summit decisions by all member states of the union (Item Proposed by the Republic of Namibia)

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