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**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISION
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HIGH COUNCIL OF LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AS A CONSULTATIVE ORGAN WITHIN
THE AFRICAN UNION GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE:**

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISION
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HIGH COUNCIL OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES
AS A CONSULTATIVE ORGAN WITHIN THE AFRICAN UNION
GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE**

INTRODUCTION

1. The twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council Decision **Doc. EX. CL/849 (XXV)** adopted the establishment of the African Union High Council of Local Authorities (AU-HCLA) as a Consultative Organ within the African Union Governance Architecture. The core mandate of the AU-HCLA is to ensure that the views of the local people through their representatives are taken into account in the definition of development policies and programmes at the sub-regional and continental levels, and to make sure that these policies and programmes have developmental impact on the people, particularly at the local levels in African Union Member States. In addition to this primary mandate, the specific roles of the AU-HCLA include:

- a) Representative Role;
- b) Advocacy Role;
- c) Consultative Role; and
- d) Advisory Role.

2. The AU-HCLA will represent the African Local Authorities/Governments; defend the interests of African local governments and stakeholders at all levels on the continent; promote implementation of the African Agenda 2063; embark on consultative and advisory roles at the national, regional and continental levels in support of good local governance and development; support implementation, monitor and evaluate among others the ten-year plans for the operationalization of the African Agenda 2063 and promote ratification and implementation of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development. The AU-HCLA will also collaborate with the African Union Specialized Technical Committee no. 8 on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization and other relevant bodies like the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-A).

3. The above Executive Council referenced decision in paragraph one above recommended that:

- *The African Union Commission should explore with interested Member States, stakeholders and partners, the submission of a sustainable financing mechanism for the effective and efficient operation of the proposed African Union High Council of Local Authorities for consideration by the Assembly in its June/July 2015 Ordinary Session;*

- *The Commission should develop and submit for consideration by the Assembly in June/July 2015 the Draft Statutes and comprehensive budget of the proposed Council of Local Authorities.*

ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE COMMISSION AND STAKEHOLDERS:

4. In order to accomplish the above tasks, the African Union Commission, the Government of Senegal and the following development partners- the African Governance Institute (AGI), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Service Centre for Africa, the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) and the Representatives of CSOs in Africa and beyond embarked on these two important meetings:

a) High Level Consultation Workshop on Finalization of the Reference Documents of the African Union High Council of Local Authorities:

5. The two-day meeting was held on 1-2 April 2015 in Dakar, Republic of Senegal. The overarching objective of the meeting was to review and further refine the following AU-HCLA documentations- the AU-HCLA Statutes¹; the AU-HCLA Structure/Organogram; and Sustainable Financing of the High Council. This meeting was a precursor to the second meeting that took place on 7-9 April 2015 in Dakar, Republic of Senegal.

b) Stakeholders Consultative Meeting on the Financing of the Adopted AU-High Council of Local Authorities within the African Union Governance Architecture:

6. Following the above pre-planning meeting, the African Union Commission facilitated a three-day meeting at King Fahd Hotel on 7-9 April, 2015 in Dakar, Senegal to finalize all the documentations and report of the High Council of Local Authorities (HCLA) as mandated by the African Union Executive Council for submission to the June 2015 Summit. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- i) Seek consensus on the proposed structure, budget, a transitory financing system for two years, and sustainable funding mechanisms for the operationalization of the AU-HCLA;
- ii) Finalize the draft Statute of the AU-HCLA, and
- iii) Discuss with the Government of Senegal and other stakeholders detailed two-year operational plan with costing.

¹ See Appendix for the revised draft of the AU-HCLA Statutes

DRAFT STRUCTURE AND GRADES OF THE AU-HCLA STAFF:

7. The two meetings extensively deliberated and reviewed the structure that was submitted to the June 2014 Summit in Malabo and came up with the following positions to commence the operationalization of the High Council. The meeting also highlighted a transitory financing system for two years , and possible complementary source of sustainable funding for the operationalization and effective functioning of the AU-HCLA.

S/N	Positions	Grade Levels
1.	Executive Secretary	(P5)
2.	Senior Political Officer	(P4)
3.	Local Governance and Development Officer	(P3)
4.	Legal Officer	(P2)
5.	Administrative/Finance Officer	(P2)
6.	Bilingual/Administrative Secretary	(GSA)
7.	Four (4) (Interpreters /translators) (Four AU languages)	(P4)
8.	Maintenance/Cleaning Staff (3)	(GSB)
9.	Security Agents (2)	(GSB)
<i>Positions to be financed by the Government of Senegal as contributions and commitment to the establishment of the AU-HCLA from 2019-2020.</i>		
1.	Documentalist	(P1)
2.	Driver	(GSA)
3.	Mail Runner	(GSA)

8. In addition, the host country is expected to provide the following among others in line with the AU hosting agreement: (See details in AU host agreement)

- a) Furnished Secretariat easily accessible;
- b) Telecommunication Facilities;
- c) Accommodation for Executive Secretary;
- d) Immunities and privileges applied to all staff;
- e) Facility of entry visas waived for HCLA staff.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCING AND SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR THE HCLA:

9. The AU-HCLA is expected to have two types of budgets to function effectively and efficiently, namely Operational and Programme Budgets. For a sustainable finance of the AU-HCLA, it was proposed that resources should be sought for the Consultative Organs through the following among others:

a) Contribution from the AU Member States and Local Authorities:

10. The statutory annual contribution of the African Union Member States would be the primary source of funding for the AU-HCLA. Member States/Local Authorities will also be responsible for the cost of participation of members to the AU-HCLA.

b) Extra Budgetary Voluntary Contribution of Member States to the programmes of the AU-HCLA:

11. The meeting proposed that in addition to the above annual contribution, AU-Member States that have special interest in the programmes and activities of the Consultative Organ can make a voluntary contribution to the programme budget of the AU-HCLA. Specific reference was made to AU Member States that are currently contributing in support of the AU Election Observation Missions and the African Court.

c) Support to the AU-HCLA by the International Development Partners:

12. The following development **partners** have been supporting Decentralization and Local Governance on the continent in the past and have expressed strong interest to support some of the activities of the AU-HCLA and were identified as possible supporter of the AU-HCLA.

1. African Development Bank (AfDB)
2. The European Union (EU)
3. The United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP)
4. The Commonwealth Secretariat
5. The World Bank (WB)
6. German International Development (GIZ)
7. UK Department for International Development (DfID)
8. Norwegian International Development Agency
9. Swiss International Development Agency
10. Open Society Initiative (OSI)
11. African China Forum on Local Government
12. The International Organisation of Francophonie

d) Support to the programmes of the AU-HCLA by the Private Sector:

13. Involvement of the private sector in local development is fundamental to the realization of the AU 2063 Development Agenda and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. In view of the foregoing and considering the significant role of the private sector in local development, Article 2 (i) of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development provides for private sector involvement in local development on the continent.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST COUNTRY:

14. The Republic of Senegal is the only country that has indicated interest in hosting the Secretariat of the AU-HCLA in Dakar. Considering the fact that the African Union needs time to plan and mobilize resources for the operationalization of the AU-HCLA, the Government of Senegal has committed to finance the Operational and Programme budgets of the AU-HCLA for two years. Based on this, the African Union will take over the financial management of the AU-HCLA as from January 2021.

15. In addition to the above, the Government of Senegal which has offered to host the AU-HCLA has proposed to provide the following specific support:

- a) A Secured and well-furnished Secretariat in an easily accessible area in Dakar, Senegal;
- b) A secured and well-furnished accommodation for the Executive Secretary in accessible area in Dakar, Senegal;
- c) Financing of the positions of Driver, Documentalist and Mail Runner for the two years period. See below for draft Operational Budget, the programme and other related budgets would be provided by the host government pending the takeover of the funding by the African Union.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

16. The two meetings recommended that:

- a) The AU Assembly should make a decision on the hosting of the Secretariat of the AU-HCLA during its Ordinary Session in Johannesburg, South Africa as this is critical towards the operationalization of the AU-HCLA;
- b) the draft decision of the Executive Council should include a paragraph on the adoption of the proposed structure with provision to review the structure in future based on work load;
- c) the need for the African Union to note that as from the year 2021, the AU will fully finance the AU-HCLA. It was noted that the Government of Senegal will not cover all operational cost of the AU-HCLA after 2020;
- d) The African Union Member States will contribute on a yearly basis towards financial sustainability of the AU-HCLA;

- e) The African Union Commission should partner with the Private Sector for resource mobilization within the framework of innovative financing and corporate social responsibility;
- f) Need for confirmation of Senegal as the proposed host country is urgent and thus, should be reflected in the recommendations and draft decisions to the Assembly of the AU Head of States at the June 2015 Summit.

DRAFT BUDGET OF THE AU-HCLA FOR TWO YEARS, (2019-2020)

17. The budget of the High Level Council of Local Authorities is expected to be borne by the African Union as from 2021. In an interim period of 2019/2020, the host country will make provision for the operationalization of the AU-HCLA; the table below summarize the breakdown of one year operational budget for the AU-HCLA:

PROPOSED STRUCTURE AND POSITIONS OF THE AU HIGH COUNCIL OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

No	Positions	Grade Levels	Unit Cost (USD)	Total Costs (USD)
1	Executive Secretary	P5	8,824.74	105,896.88
2	Senior Political Officer	P4	7,906.53	94,872.36
3	Local Governance and Development Officer	P3	6,144.89	73,738.68
4	Legal Officer	(P2)	4,300.78	51,602.16
5	Administrative/Finance Officer	P2	5,144.89	61,738.68
6	Bilingual Secretary/Administrative Assistant (Local)	GSA	2,070.21	24,842.52
7	Four (4) Interpreters (Four AU languages)	(P4)	7,906.53	379,488.63
8	Maintenance/Cleaning Staff (3) (Local)	(GSB)	1,000.13	36,000.46
9	Security Agents (2) (Local)	(GSB)	1,200.56	28,800.87
	Total			

POSITIONS TO BE FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SENEGAL AS CONTRIBUTION/COMMITMENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AU-HCLA

No	Positions	Grade Levels	Unit Cost (USD)	Total Costs (USD)
1	Documentalist	P1	4,482.29	53,787.48
2	Driver	GSB	1,200.56	14,406.72
3.	Mail Runner	GSB	1,200.56	14,406.72
	Total			

DRAFT
DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS A
CONSULTATIVE ORGAN WITHIN THE AFRICAN UNION GOVERNANCE
ARCHITECTURE
Doc.EX.CL/1197(XXXVI)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Commission on the representation of the Local Authorities within the African Governance Architecture;
2. **COMMENDS** the Government of Senegal for its decision to host the Secretariat and to contribute towards the operationalization of the proposed African Union High Council of Local Authorities;
3. **NOTES** the significance and potential contribution of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development and the High Council of Local Authorities to the vision of the African Union and the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063;
4. **RECOMMENDS:**
 - i) the establishment the African Union High Council of Local Authorities;
 - ii) the adoption by the AU-STC on Justice and Legal Matters to consider the Draft Statute of the HCLA during its next Session for adoption;
 - iii) the approbation of the headquarters of the AU-HCLA to be hosted by the Republic of Senegal in Dakar and **FURTHER CALLS ON** Member States and development partners to support the operationalization of the High Council of Local Authorities;
 - iv) the Commission to make provisional for the operation of the AU-HCLA in its 2021 Budget.

DRAFT
DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS A
CONSULTATIVE ORGAN WITHIN THE AFRICAN UNION GOVERNANCE
ARCHITECTURE
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The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Commission on the representation of the Local Authorities within the African Governance Architecture;
2. **COMMENDS** the Government of Senegal for its decision to host the Secretariat and to fund the African Union High Council of Local Authorities from January 2019-December 2020;
3. **NOTES** the significance and potential contribution of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development and the High Council of Local Authorities to the vision of the African Union and the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063;
4. **DECIDES:**
 - i) to adopt the establishment the African Union High Council of Local Authorities;
 - ii) to request on the AU-STC on Justice and Legal Matters to consider the Draft Statute of the HCLA during its next Session for adoption;
 - iii) to approve the headquarters of the AU-HCLA to be hosted by the Republic of Senegal in Dakar and further calls on Member States and development partners to support the operationalization of the High Council of Local Authorities;
 - iv) to request the Commission to make provisional for the operation of the AU-HCLA in its 2021 Budget.

2020-02-07

Report of the Commission on Executive Council Decision for the Establishment of the high Council of local Authorities as a Consultative organ within the African Union Governance Architecture

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