

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 5517 700

Fax: 5517844

Website: www.au.int

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DECLARATION
OF THE 3RD SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE
MINISTERS OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND MINERALS

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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: +251 11 551 7700 Fax: +251 115 517844
Website: www.au.int

**3RD SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTERS
OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND MINERALS**

3 September 2021

**ETIM/STC-TIM/Decl. (III)
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

DECLARATION

**DECLARATION ON 3RD SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
OF THE MINISTERS OF TRADE, INDUSTRY
AND MINERALS**

3 September 2021

WE, the African Union (AU) Ministers of Trade, Industry and Minerals, meeting at our 3rd Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee of the Ministers of Trade, Industry and Minerals, under the theme: “Deepening economic integration through interconnected and competitive product value chains based on local commodities”.

COMMENDING the role of the African Union Commission in coordinating the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the hosting of the AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana, and the start of trading under this Agreement on 1 January 2021;

RECOGNIZING that the synergies among Africa’s economic sectors through industrialisation and the development of continental value chains can contribute to achieving structural transformation, strong and sustainable economic growth and rapid development towards the achievement of the vision and aspirations of the African Union Agenda 2063;

RECALLING the Strategy for the Implementation of the Plan of Action for AIDA that was adopted at the 18th Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Industry (CAMI) in Durban, South Africa, in October 2008; the Africa Mining Vision that was adopted by the 10th Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2009; the Action Plan for Boosting Intra African Trade that was adopted by the 18th Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2012 as well as the formation of the Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) Forum in August 2013;

CONCERNED about the slow progress made so far on the implementation of these continental strategies in the light of the ultimate goals of the African Union Agenda 2063;

RECOGNIZING the important role of the private sector in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth in Africa through creation of employment opportunities and income generation activities for women and the youth and to meaningfully contribute towards poverty reduction and social welfare;

ALSO RECOGNISING that raw materials from agriculture, energy and mining sectors are important in achieving inclusive development of the continent as well as development of global chains and the attainment of the objectives of the AfCFTA.

AWARE of the need to reduce and eliminate unjustified technical barriers to trade and to facilitate access to high quality goods and services in Africa through harmonization of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures;

COGNIZANT of the negative impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on African productive capacities and economic performance, as well as opportunities offered for the reconstruction of African economies and the strengthening of continental value chains on a strong, sustainable, green and inclusive path in the post pandemic era;

RECOGNIZING the need to establish and implement efficient Trade Corridors for free and faster movement of goods including essential medicines, other pharmaceutical products and medical devices that are necessary for the fight against Covid-19; intended for supporting continental efforts in the middle of the COVID-19 Pandemic;

RECALLING the decision of the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), held in February 2020 in Ethiopia requesting the African Union Commission in collaboration with UNIDO, UNECA and Afro-Champions to organize a Summit on Africa's Industrialization and Economic Diversification during the Africa Industrialization Week;

HEREBY:

1. **REITERATE** our resolve to achieve the vision and aspirations of Agenda 2063 through industrialization and the development of continental value chains and structural transformation driven by innovation, digitalization and leveraging of the fourth industrial revolution, domestic resource mobilization, increased intra-African trade as well as the share of Africa's global trade with the aim of reducing Africa's vulnerability to domestic and external shocks;
2. **REAFFIRM** our commitment to the upgrading and diversification of our economies through increased value addition and transformation of commodities, as well as the development of competitiveness in all productive sectors so as to take advantage of the AfCFTA market and enhance Africa position in the global economy;
3. **RECOMMIT** to achieving the goals set out in the various continental programmes and strategies in the areas of Trade, Industry and Minerals;
4. **ADOPT** the African Union Commodity Strategy and Action Plan;
5. **ADOPT** the Africa Quality Policy;

6. **APPROVE** the Business Plan of the African Minerals Development Center;
7. **ADOPT** the African Minerals and Energy Resources Classification framework and Management System and the Pan African Reporting Code (AMREC-PARC);
8. **UNDERTAKE** to support the completion of all outstanding issues of the AfCFTA negotiations, and **CALL UPON** Member States who have not yet done so, to fast track the process of ratification of the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA;
9. **CALL UPON** Member States who have not yet done so, to fast track the process of ratification of the Statute on the establishment of the African Mining Development Center and its subsequent operationalization;
10. **CALL UPON** the African Union Member States, RECs, and partners to support the Summit on Africa Industrialization and Economic Diversification taking place in November 2021, in Niamey, Niger.
11. **COMMEND** the African Union Commission and Development Partners on the operationalization of the African Trade Observatory, as repository of African Trade Data and Statistics that will assist African policymakers in making informed decisions on trade and other related matters;
12. **UNDERLINE** the necessity for the African Union Commission to support Member States efforts towards the implementation of the relevant measures of the AU Continental Guidelines on Trade and Transport Facilitation for the Movement of Business Persons, Goods and Services across Africa during the Covid-19 Pandemic as a means of mitigating the negative effects of the Pandemic on the African economies and people;
13. **REQUEST** the African Union Commission in collaboration with RECs, Afreximbank, AfDB, UNECA, UNIDO, and other relevant stakeholders to carry out a comprehensive mapping of existing Regional Value Chains in Africa through a comprehensive study, so as to achieve a strong green and sustainable growth supported by strengthened regional value chains in Africa;
14. **CALL UPON** the African Union Commission, the Afreximbank, the AfDB, UNECA, UNIDO and the African Association of Automotive Manufacturers to expedite the drafting of a continental automotive

strategy aimed at building on existing industrial capacities and supporting mobility under the AfCFTA;

15. **URGE** the African Union Commission to continue supporting Member States in designing and implementing policies aimed at supporting innovation, Micro and Small to Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and technology-based start-ups through financing, business services and entrepreneurial skills learning, with a view to boosting Africa's productivity and competitiveness;
16. **REQUEST** the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities with support from development partners to mobilize the required resources to fast track the implementation of the projects and programmes listed above;
17. **Further REQUEST** the African Union Commission to supplement the efforts by Member States in strengthening domestic resources mobilization to support industrialization;
18. **CALL UPON** the international community to deliver on their financial commitments towards African economies in supporting a long term growth;
19. **CALL FOR** the re-authorization, extension and improvement of AGOA, and **DIRECT** the African Union Commission in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to undertake an assessment of the impact of AGOA on eligible countries, and mobilise technical support for AGOA eligible Member States in the utilization of AGOA preferences;
20. **STRESS** our full commitment to reaching balanced outcomes that would take into account developmental needs of African countries and provide appropriate flexibilities deserved by Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Developing Countries during the 12th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (MC12);
21. **EMPHASISE** the need for sustainable financing of industrialisation in Africa;
22. **REQUEST** the African Union Commission, in collaboration with Member States, Regional Economic Communities and other stakeholders to implement this Declaration and to report progress to the STC on Trade, Industry and Minerals.

Adopted on this 3rd day of September, 2021 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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