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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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**REPORT OF THE 4TH SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
MIGRATION REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS,
23-24 MAY 2022**

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**FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALISED
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) ON MIGRATION,
REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS
(STC MRI-4)
MINISTERS MEETING**

**23-24 MAY 2022,
MALABO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

STC-MRI-4/MIN/RPT

REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' MEETING

INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministers' Meeting of the Fourth African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (STC-MRI-4) was held in Malabo – Equatorial Guinea from 23 – 24 May 2022. The meeting preceded the AU Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference scheduled for 27 May 2022 in Malabo-Equatorial Guinea.

ATTENDANCE

2. The Ministers Meeting was attended by delegates from the following 36 AU Member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, CAR, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saharawi, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
3. The following Regional Economic Communities were represented: COMESA, ECCAS, and ECOWAS.
4. The following international organizations and development partners were also attended during the Open Sessions: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO).

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING SESSION

5. The Chairperson of the 4th STC on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Hon Jack J. Mwiimbu, M.P, Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security of the Republic of Zambia, welcomed all delegates to the meeting. The Chairperson highlighted that the STC is being held at an appropriate time for all Member States to take a stride toward solving humanitarian challenges in Africa. He further highlighted the rising number of migrants, refugees, and IDPs, some of the push factors for migration as well as their negative consequences which have caused many intricacies that pose important challenges to the Member States. He emphasized that providing protection to IDPs as well as finding durable solutions to address the plight of the vulnerable persons especially, women, youth, children, and disabled persons requires strong leadership and the adoption of a whole-of-society approach. As no Member State can tackle humanitarian challenges

alone, the Chairperson called on all participants to use the decisions of the STC to search for durable solutions for humanitarian crises as well as lay ground principles to be considered by the AU Humanitarian Summit.

6. H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma, AU Commissioner for Health Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, on behalf of H.E.Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, welcomed all Ministers, Ambassadors, Delegates, and Partners for their participation in the STC Ministerial Meeting. The Commissioner hailed the strong commitment of H.E.Mr. Theodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, AU Champion for the Year 2019; year of Refugees, Returnees and IDPs-Towards Durable Solutions to forced Displacements and expressed gratitude to the government of Equatorial Guinea for hosting the Meeting. In her remarks, the Commissioner highlighted the impact of climate change, inadequate access to food and nutrition as well as the COVID-19 pandemic on migrants and internally displaced persons. The Commissioner stated that the number of forcibly displaced persons in Africa is on the rise and urged the Member States to take vigorous actions that will bring sustainable responses to the protection, food, and nutrition needs of the affected populations. This includes the support to the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency and the ratification of the Protocol on the free movement of persons in Africa. The Commissioner concluded by stressing the importance of collectively taking the appropriate step towards better protection of migrants and displaced persons in Africa.

7. Hon. Faustino Ndong Essono Eyang, Minister for Home Affairs of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, on behalf of Hon. Amb. Simeon Oyono Essono, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, warmly welcomed all participants to Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The Minister indicated that the STC provides an ideal opportunity to implement policies aimed at improving the situation of migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons. He restated the commitment of the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, H.E. Mr. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, the AU Champion for the 2019 theme "Towards a sustainable solution to the problems of forced displacement in Africa". He stated that this commitment is materialized through advocating for the implementation of progressive and forward-looking policies in the areas of forced displacement, adopting key continental instruments, supporting relevant continental institutions such as the African Humanitarian Agency as well as providing multi-faceted support to refugees and their families. Mr. Faustino concluded his speech by renewing the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to work with all Member States in designing proactive solutions and policies for refugees, IDPs, and migrants.

AGENDA ITEM 2: PROCEDURAL MATTERS

A. ENDORSEMENT OF ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

8. In accordance with the Rules of Procedures of the STC MRIDPs, the Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC) guided the meeting with the election and composition of the Bureau. The Bureau of the Fourth Specialized Technical Committee on Migration, Refugees and IDPs was endorsed as follows:

Chairperson	Southern Region	Zambia
1st Vice-Chairperson	Central Region	Cameroon
2nd Vice-Chairperson	Northern Region	On-going consultations
3rd Vice-Chairperson	Eastern Region	Republic of Tanzania
Rapporteur	Western Region	Sierra Leone

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

9. The Agenda and Programme of Work for the meeting were adopted without any amendment.

AGENDA ITEM 3: PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND GENERAL DEBATES ON HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT THEMATIC AREAS

10. The open session of the Ministers' meeting on thematic areas of the humanitarian summit included five-panel discussions and general debates with the following key outcomes;

A. PANEL DISCUSSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTERS, AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN AFRICA

11. This panel was Moderated by Ms. Aissata Kane, Senior Regional Adviser IOM and the Panellist were Representative from the Republic of Egypt, Representative from the Kingdom of Morocco , Mr. Raouf Mazou, Assistant High Commissioner UNHCR, Mr. Itonde Kakoma, IFRC Representative to the African Union and UNECA and Mr. Robert Hakiza, Refugee from Uganda Community representative from Uganda.
12. Member states shared their experiences on how they have been mitigating climate change and disaster response in Africa outlining that climate change manifestations in Africa such as floods, droughts, cyclones, and unpredictability of rainfalls are recurring and increasing in frequency. Member states noted that despite Africa only contributing 5% to global greenhouse gas emissions, Africa's weather patterns have been greatly impacted by Climate Change and variability which has resulted in increased frequency, intensity, and unpredictability of extreme weather events.
13. Panellists agreed that there is a need for a paradigm shift and prioritization of Disaster preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction actions, early warning and action, recovery,

and building resilience-building efforts to ensure communities' adaptability to climate and other shocks.

14. Egypt in its capacity as COP27 president will host the COP 27 summit which is being labeled as an implementation COP. Presidency is striving to ensure translate commitments and pledges into actions. There are continued discussions and dialogue with the COP 26 presidency to build on Glasgow's momentum and press ahead with all tracks of negotiations with an emphasis on adaptation, finance and loss, and damages. The meeting also discussed the issue of climate change-induced displacement and the need for international protection for those forced to flee across borders. According, the meeting took note of the legal and normative aspects of the context of climate change and the existing gaps.

15. Following deliberations, Ministers recommended to:

- i. Strengthen collaboration with the Member States, and national actors including national societies. Investments should be directed towards enhancing the capacity of states in local preparedness, early warning, disaster reduction, and response capacities as primary responders;
- ii. Increase investments in Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action systems recognizing their centrality to reach out long term solutions and provide adequate prevention and protection mechanisms to help strengthen people and community resilience and adaptation.
- iii. Invest early anticipatory actions as effective mechanisms to save lives and protect livelihoods including risk insurance mechanisms.
- iv. Develop legal guidelines and explore measures in the application of existing AU and international legal and normative instruments for the protection of forcibly displaced and stateless people in the context of climate change and disasters and providing sustainable solutions; in particular to allow a full and effective application of the 1969 OAU Convention for the protection of people displaced across borders in the context of climate change and disasters.
- v. Increased financing and stronger partnerships that promote complementarity for development, adaptive and resilience measures.
- vi. Establish resilience to climate change-related challenges on the continent, by moving beyond crisis response to long-term solutions that build resilient solutions.
- vii. Establish an African Alliance, based on experience sharing and coordinated actions, at regional and continental levels, to face the challenges of climate change through the implementation of pertinent African initiatives in order to reinforce resilience and adaptation measures in the continent.
- viii. Engage the various concerned partners to accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to ensure adequate transfer of technologies in the framework of partnerships so as to ensure a sustainable resilience of the continent in facing the

various physical effects of climate change Forge stronger Partnerships, with emphasis on responsibility-sharing.

- ix. Strong commitment to supporting the Arab Republic of Egypt as it hosts COP 27 to ensure African priorities and demands are supported with a greater focus on implementation.

B. PANEL DISCUSSION ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN HUMANITARIAN SITUATIONS IN AFRICA

16. This panel was Moderated by H.E Mrs. Amuge Otengo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the African Union. The panellists were represented by Dr. Hameed Nuru, WFP Representative to the African Union and UNECA, Mr. Patrick Youssef, ICRC Regional Director for Africa, Mato Abdou, President of the NGO AGIR PLUS, Cheng Lang community representative from Nigeria, and Mr. Bright Mando, African Risk Capacity (ARC) Board Secretary and Senior Legal Counsel.
17. Discussions highlighted that food and nutrition insecurity is increasing due to increased climate disasters, conflict, macroeconomic conditions, and COVID-19. The Horn of Africa drought, the climate-related conflict in the Sahel, and the increased climate disasters in the Southern region have led to more people requiring humanitarian assistance. The war in Ukraine has exacerbated the levels of food and nutrition insecurity due to the increased cost of food and fuel and has led to an increased cost of delivering humanitarian assistance. This requires that Africa strengthens food production capacities, increase domestic financing mechanisms, and focuses on durable solutions including those that enhance resilience and safety nets to mitigate against the impact of shocks.
18. The African Risk Capacity (ARC) has put in place mechanisms such as contingency planning and risk profiling to better provide holistic support to member states. Member states should leverage on the products provided by ARC as a means to mitigate the impact of climate disasters. Further localized action driven by solidarity and multi-faceted approaches that bring together other sectors such as health, water, and sanitation, education, and agriculture while also promoting the nexus between Humanitarian and development are also vital. , peace and conflict resolution needs to be pursued as a prevention strategy.
19. Following deliberations, Ministers recommended to:
 - i. Invest in efforts that strengthen the resilience of populations and food systems to shocks in conflict-affected areas, including through long-term action such as social protection and livelihood support;
 - ii. Promote peace and conflict resolution mechanisms to reduce conflicts which remain one of the key drivers of food insecurity and promote respect of

- International Humanitarian Law which is vital to ensure food security and rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to ensure assistance reaches those in need
- iii. Adopt multi-sectoral approaches and mechanisms that focus on prevention including investments in transformative agriculture, focusing on smallholder farmers, women, and youth.
 - iv. The need to prioritize investments in food and nutrition security data and information systems. Member State governments should establish and support country-led mechanisms that make quality food and nutrition security data available on a regular basis to support advocacy, planning, monitoring, and evaluation of nutrition programme.
 - v. Continue to step up efforts to treat all children and women affected by severe wasting, the deadliest form of malnutrition. Member State governments and other stakeholders need to prioritize a paradigm shift in the humanitarian food and nutrition security responses toward the implementation at a scale of multisectoral actions in nutrition, water and sanitation, food security, health, and social protection in order to meet the needs of communities affected by crises.
 - vi. Africa needs to limit food imports and increase local food production. Africa's breadbaskets need to be identified and maximized to enable Africa to feed its own.
 - vii. Africa needs to invest in and use existing early warning systems to predict disasters to enable timely and effective response.
 - viii. Enhance investments and adopt inclusive social protection safety nets that integrate the need of people in humanitarian settings.
 - ix. Leverage new sources of financing to support transformative domestic spending and reforms, promoting economic growth and resilience.
 - x. It is pertinent to promote the importance of respecting the environment during armed conflict.
 - xi. Given the cyclical nature of the crisis, Member States to adopt anticipatory action to prevent future crises and invest in risk insurance models.
 - xii. Local purchases of food and agricultural inputs for humanitarian purposes should be exempt from any sanctions or restrictive measures, in all regions. Greater emphases need to be put on linking markets, actualizing the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AFCTDA), and harmonizing agriculture and technology.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON PANDEMICS AND HEALTH CHALLENGES IN HUMANITARIAN SITUATIONS IN AFRICA

20. This panel was Moderated by Dr. Jeanne Seck, UNAIDS Country Director, Equatorial Guinea, and panelists were presented by Dr. Georges A. Ki-Zerbo - Head WHO Liaison Office to the African Union and UNECA, Mohamud Mohamed Hassan, Save the Children Country Director, and Somalia, Cécile Pango, Community Representative from Malawi.

21. Discussions noted that fragile and conflict-affected settings show significantly worse health indicators globally and Africa is home to at least 13 fragile, conflict, and vulnerable

countries. The Covid 19 pandemic, and increasingly climate-related adverse events, have shed light on growing inequalities and the need for more resilient essential health infrastructure and systems to enable access to critical healthcare. Member states need to adopt a systematic inclusive approach that includes young refugees and forced migrants when planning and implementing health interventions. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to highlight the need for a stronger and more inclusive health emergency preparedness, response, and resilience (HEPR) architecture. This should include expanded partnerships for a whole-of-society approach for collaborative surveillance, community protection, clinical care, and access to countermeasures; establishing a coordinating platform for financing to promote domestic investment and direct existing and gap-filling international financing to where it is needed most. The Member States, regional and global organizations need to empower Community Health systems as the first line of defense and linking to local health authorities and investment, and strengthen local humanitarian institutions. In emergency and humanitarian contexts, and fragile situations, there are still challenges related to HIV care such as addressing HIV infections and accessing treatment and other support services.

22. Following deliberations, Ministers recommended to:

- i. Strengthen interventions to be geared towards disease prevention and primary health care as a cornerstone for universal health coverage;
- ii. Shift to social protections and Health Insurance recognizing that social protection is an important instrument to achieve universal access to key health and social services, including basic primary health care, education, nutrition, and environmental health.
- iii. The African Union calls for a new public health order anchored on four pillars: Strengthen Africa-CDC and Public Health institutions; Expand manufacturing of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics; Strengthen public Health Workforce; Action oriented Partnerships, and Domestic resource mobilization for public health;
- iv. Establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA);
- v. Empower community Health systems and strengthen public Health in Emergency settings
- vi. Strengthen information and evidence through research and strengthened Health information Systems;
- vii. Greater financing for health in fragile settings including identifying domestic financing.

C. PANEL DISCUSSION ON POST CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (PCRD) FOR RETUENEES IN AFRICA

23. This panel was Moderated by Mr. Mabingué Ngom, Senior Advisor to the UNFPA Executive Director and Director of the UNFPA. Panelists were presented by H.E Adenkule

King Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone the African Union, H.E ambassador Soha Gendi Assistant foreign Minister for African organizations, Mr. Mohammed Abdiker, Regional Director for East and Horn of Africa, IOM, and Ms. Mimidoo Achakpa, Executive Director of Women's Right to Education Programme, Nigeria.

- 24.** Discussions highlighted the importance of post-conflict reconstruction and development as a remedy for long-lasting peace and development in the continent, as it enables countries emerging out of conflict to avoid a relapse. The discussions stressed the need to invest in peace consolidation, especially through comprehensive efforts for reconstruction and development. In this regard, the meeting emphasized that the PCRCD Centre in Cairo would play a central role in supporting AU the overall efforts for sustainable peace and development.
- 25.** Regional approaches and pathways for ex-combats such as demobilization, reintegration, and education are critical to the success of efforts for return and reintegration. The meeting also called for gender-sensitive approaches and inclusive strategies and participation of affected persons especially the women and children is central to successful post-conflict reconstruction and development.
- 26.** The meeting further appreciated AU's efforts in PCRCD, especially its Policy Framework, and called for its review to address the current and future challenges. The meeting appreciated that with its six principles, the policy framework remains an important tool for contributing to long-lasting peace and development. The meeting appreciated the role of the Cairo PCRCD Centre and its anticipated role once operationalized. The Centre would play a crucial role in creating a conducive environment for long-lasting peace and stability in the continent as a point of excellence and programmatic organ of the AU, especially in supporting the AU efforts for PCRCD including Quick Impact Projects (QUIPs) in areas that require post-disaster recovery.
- 27.** Following deliberations, Ministers recommended to:
 - i. A continental approach to meet the needs and face challenges - Refugee hosting countries, through their respective Regional Economic Communities, should develop regional emergency response plans.
 - ii. Actors to tap into the capacities and skills of IDPSs and refugees through development-oriented and innovative approaches. Displaced persons and refugees are more likely to thrive if allowed to explore and search for alternative coping mechanisms.
 - iii. Beyond meeting the immediate humanitarian needs of affected populations, recovery and reconstruction efforts in post-conflict societies must address the demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration of former combatants.

- iv. Establish clear and concise monitoring systems for refugees and IDPs.
- v. Integrate participatory practices to allow IDPs to decide on the solutions that are right for them and influence the decisions that affect them.
- vi. Strengthen the AU Centre for PCRD in Cairo to effectively implement AU PCRD programs and projects addressing humanitarian and emergency response on the continent
- vii. There is need to advocate for the voluntary return of refugees. To make informed decisions, Refugees and IDPs need to get information on the conditions prevailing in their countries and areas of return to enable them to make informed decisions on the question of return.
- viii. Political will is key to facilitating the reintegration of refugees and promoting Socio-economic inclusion of returnees, increasing access to livelihoods and employment. As such Member States need to adopt a collective/holistic approach to return and reintegration. The nexus approach (i.e., humanitarian, development, and peace dimensions) should be strengthened across refugee responses.

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D. PANEL DISCUSSION ON REVITALIZING HUMANITARIAN FINANCING IN AFRICA

- a) This panel was Moderated by Adekunle King, Chair of the PRC subcommittee on Refugee and Forced Displacements. Panelists were presented Ambassador Tesfaye Yilma, Ambassador and Permanent representative to the AU and UNECA, Juliet Donna Eyokia, Program Manager, Community Empowerment for Rural Development, Uganda (CEFORD-UG), Modibo Traore, OCHA Head of Office Niger and H.E Mr. Pietro Mona, Switzerland Representative to the African Union, IGAD, and UNECA.
- b) The meeting noted that humanitarian needs in Africa are increasing, the global humanitarian financing is shrinking and Covid-19 is being exacerbated by donor fatigue and the current crises in Ukraine. This requires collective action and increased partnership at global, continental, regional, and national levels need to be reinforced. Member States should expand their national budgets towards humanitarian action, in addition, AU - NEPAD, and RECs should be involved in resource mobilization efforts.
- c) Non-traditional financing mechanisms should also be explored including leveraging on private sectors and community and local actors. A panellist noted that a lot of resources are being diverted to the Ukraine crisis, thus there is a need for the AU Member States to identify local and Africa-led solutions.
- d) The meeting stressed the need for a more scientific procedure for determining humanitarian needs and for proper and transparent use of resources to create confidence. More investments need to be directed towards monitoring and evaluation, training, and financing.
- e) Short-term, unpredictable funding and project-based funding have hampered the implementation of term long-term, and sustainable interventions along with humanitarian

and development nexus. Local organizations are also not well funded there is a need to advocate for financing to get local actors in line with the Grand Bargain agenda.

- f) Following deliberations, Ministers recommended to:
- i. Advocate for increased funding for the establishment of the African Humanitarian Agency which will facilitate an effective response towards increased humanitarian needs on the continent.
 - ii. Advocate with the Member States to support the implementation of the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/591 (XVII) was adopted during its 17th Ordinary Session in July 2010 in Kampala, Uganda where it decided to “increase Member States contribution to the Refugees and IDP’s Fund from 2% to 4% of the Operational Budget of the Commission gradually with effect from 2011 and requests the PRC through its Advisory Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters to work out modalities of its implementation”
 - iii. Humanitarian financing should be directed towards the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to address the needs by providing durable solutions.
 - iv. Funding needs to be allocated towards more climate adaptations, disaster risk management, and early warning systems.
 - v. Advocate for increased financing for humanitarian action from Member states as part of Africa driving financing for humanitarian action and taking care of its own in recognition of the primacy of Member states in humanitarian response.
 - vi. Promote strategic partnerships in resource mobilization and burden sharing and identify other non-traditional financing mechanisms beyond the ‘traditional’ mechanisms to complement the limited humanitarian resources.
 - vii. Strengthen partnership with the Private sector, International and Regional Financial Institutions to advocate for increased financing especially for interventions that generate lasting impacts along the nexus humanitarian-development-peace.
 - viii. Develop rigorous evidence-based and scientific methodologies for determining humanitarian and financing needs.
 - ix. Put in place measures to promote transparency and accountability to create confidence among traditional and non-traditional donors.

AGENDA ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF REPORT OF EXPERTS’ MEETING OF THE 4TH STC ON MIGRATION, REFUGEES, AND DISPLACED PERSONS
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28. The Ministers considered the Report of the Meeting of Experts and endorsed the recommendations with amendments.

AGENDA ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT DECISION OF THE 4TH STC MINISTERS MEETING

29. The Draft Decision of the 4th STC Ministers' Meeting was considered and adopted by the Ministers with amendments.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT ASSEMBLY DECLARATION

30. The draft Assembly Declaration was considered and adopted by the Ministers with amendments.

AGENDA ITEM 7: DATE AND VENUE OF THE 5TH STC ON MIGRATION, REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

31. The 5th STC on Migration, refugees and IDPs will take place in an Ordinary Session in 2024.

32. The dates will be decided upon after consultation between the Bureau of the STC and the Commission.

33. The Commission will host the meeting unless a Member State offers to host the meeting under the AU rules and regulations that govern the hosting of such meetings.

34. The Bureau of the STC will meet at least once every year.

35. The proposal by Cote d'Ivoire to hold an extraordinary session of the STC on Migration, refugees and IDPs will be discussed by the Bureau.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB)

36. There were no issues raised under Any Other Business.

AGENDA ITEM 9: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF MINISTERS MEETING OF THE 4TH STC ON MIGRATION, REFUGEES & IDPS

37. The Meeting adopted the Report of the Ministers' Meeting with amendments.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSING SESSION

38. The AU Commissioner for Health Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development H.E. Amb Minata Samate Cessouma thanked all the ministers for the fruitful debates and outcomes of the meeting, achieved in a brotherhood spirit. The Commissioner stressed that the

Commission will ensure all amendments mentioned by the Member States will be incorporated in the documents discussed, mainly the draft decision, the draft declaration, and the report of the ministerial session of the STC. H.E. Amb Cessouma indicated that the recommendations of the session constitute key steps for the Commission and Member States to provide relevant solutions to forced displacements on the continent. She encouraged Member States to further demonstrate commitment to this key topic by committing resources during the pledging conference, which will be managed according to AU rules and procedures. H.E. Amb Cessouma concluded by thanking the Chair for steering the meeting, as well as the entire technical team for the support during the session.

- 39.** The representative of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and H.E. Obiang Nguema MBASOGO, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, congratulated the Chairperson of the STC, the AUC, Member States, RECs, and partners for the masterful manner with which the Ministerial Meeting elucidated the humanitarian issues in Africa and recommended ways to address them. The Government Representative noted with sadness the unprecedented levels of food insecurity due to prolonged droughts. He underscored that the link between peace and security, on the one hand, and the socio-economic development, on the other, is a reality that cannot be ignored, and these topics need to be addressed jointly by all Member States. He reaffirmed that the Republic of Equatorial Guinea will continue to renew its commitment to actively collaborate with the African Union to achieve the objectives of Agenda 2063. In conclusion, he commended the recommendations formulated at the Meeting and emphasized the need for the Member States, International Organizations, and development partners to eradicate humanitarian crises on the continent.
- 40.** The Chairperson of the 4th STC on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Hon Jack J. Mwiimbu, M.P, Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security of the Republic of Zambia expressed gratitude to H.E Mr Obiang Nguema Mbasogo and the government of Equatorial Guinea for the warm hospitality. Hon. Mwiimbu highlighted his satisfaction with the very successful meeting and appreciated the active participation of all ministers. He stressed that the meeting held robust discussions on thematic papers for the humanitarian summit, and adopted important decisions related to migration issues in Africa which will be submitted to the Executive Council and Assembly through the draft declaration. Recalling that future migration projections call for collective actions within and outside national borders, he urged Member States to take the lead in implementing the recommendations from the meeting. Hon. Mwiimbu concluded by stressing the commitment of the Bureau of the STC to develop a clear plan for the implementation of the outcomes of the Malabo Summit.

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**FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALISED
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) ON MIGRATION,
REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS**

**MINISTERS' MEETING
23 – 24 MAY 2022
MALABO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

AU/STC/MRIDP/Dec.(IV)
Original: English

DRAFT DECISIONS

INTRODUCTION:

We, Ministers In Charge of Humanitarian and Migration Matters in Africa, met during the 4th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons in Africa, which took place from 23-24 May 2022, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, the preceding the AU Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference that will take place on 27 May 2022, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

Taking note of the continued humanitarian and migration challenges facing Africa, and in a bid to seek a durable solution to these challenges, decide as follows:

1. ON THE ELECTION OF THE BUREAU OF THE 4TH STC ON MIGRATION, REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

- a) **ENDORSE** the following countries as members of the Bureau of the 4th STC on Migration, Refugees, and IDPs:

Position	Region	Country
Chairperson:	South	Republic Zambia
1 st Vice Chairperson:	Central	Republic Cameroon
2 nd Vice Chairperson:	North	Ongoing consultations
3 rd Vice Chairperson:	East	Republic Tanzania
Rapporteur:	West	Republic Sierra Leone

2. ON THE AFRICAN HUMANITARIAN AGENCY

- a) **CONSIDERED** the Statute for the African Humanitarian Agency and **REQUEST** the Commission to submit the Statutes to the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs for their consideration
- b) **REAFFIRM** the need for the speedy establishment of the African Union Humanitarian Agency and **REQUEST** the Commission to endeavor to have the Statutes adopted by the Assembly in January 2023.
- c) Further Request the Commission to submit relevant documents for the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency related to finance and staffing of the Agency to the PRC Sub-Committee on Structural Reforms and PRC Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters for their consideration.

3. **ON THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PROTOCOL TO THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY RELATING TO FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS, RIGHT OF RESIDENCE, AND RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT**

- a) **COMMEND** the four Member States that have ratified the protocol and **ENCOURAGE** the other Member States that have not yet ratified the protocol to do so as soon as possible to enable the Protocol to enter into force and facilitate its implementation
- b) **TAKE NOTE** of the concerns expressed by the Member States affecting ratification of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in Africa and **REQUEST** the Commission to conduct a study that will identify the impediments and bottlenecks to ratification of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in Africa without extra-budgetary costs, with a view to expediting ratifications;
- c) **REQUEST** the AU Commission to design a popularization strategy that will help promote the Free Movement Programme at the national, regional, and continental levels for increased signatures and ratifications.
- d) **REQUEST** the AU Commission to continue working with the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services to address security concerns of Member States;
- e) **REQUEST** the AU Commission to develop guidelines on handling the movement of people in situations of health pandemics without extra-budgetary costs;
- f) **REQUEST** the AU Commission and RECs to Implement the joint AU/RECs coordination mechanism as per the outcome of the 2021 Mid-Year Coordination Meeting.

4. **ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AFRICAN MIGRATION CENTRES IN BAMAKO, KHARTOUM, RABAT**

- a) **RECALL** Assembly/AU/Dec.758(XXXIII) of the 33rd AU Assembly of February 2020 which adopted the statutes for the establishment of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration, the African Migration Observatory, and the Continental Operational Centre in Sudan.
- b) **Takes Note** of the Status report on the operationalization of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration, the African Migration Observatory in Morocco, and the Continental Operational Centre in Sudan as presented by the Commission.

- c) **REQUEST Commission** to fast-track the operationalization of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration in Mali, the African Migration Observatory in Morocco, and the Continental Operational Centre in Sudan

5. **ON CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT POLICY DOCUMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) IN AFRICA**

- a) **APPROVE** the Draft Policy on the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Africa with amendments from the Member States;
- b) **REQUEST** the Commission to develop a draft 5-Year Plan of Action the approved Draft Policy on the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Africa and submit the same for the Member States validation and approval;

6. **ON THE DRAFT POLICY DOCUMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS (SOM) IN AFRICA.**

- a) **APPROVE** the Draft Policy on the Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) in Africa with amendments from MS;
- b) **REQUEST** the Commission to develop a 5-Year Plan of Action to the approved Policy on the Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants in Africa and submit the same for Member States' validation and approval;

7. **ON THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS 6THPAN AFRICAN FORUM ON MIGRATION (PAFOM)**

- a) **TAKE NOTE and Endorses** the report of the Pan African Forum on Migration meeting that was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 11 to 12 September 2021;
- b) **COMMEND** the Government of the Republic of Senegal for successfully hosting the meeting;
- c) **REQUESTS** The Commission to fast-track the establishment of relevant Working Groups of the Forum to implement PAFOM Reports, including their respective Plans of Actions.

8. **ON THE POLICY ORIENTATION OF THE AFRICA CLIMATE MOBILITY INITIATIVE (ACMI) AND POLICY TRAJECTORY**

- a) **RECALL** the adoption of the Africa Climate Change Strategy to contribute to the achievement of the vision of AU's Agenda 2063 by building the resilience of the African continent to the impacts of climate change and specifically to contribute to the attainment of SDG 13. adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change in Africa;
- b) **TAKE NOTE** of the High-Level Launch of the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) on the Margins of the UN General Assembly in New York on the 28th of September 2021 as

a joint collaboration between the African Union Commission, the United Nations, and the World Bank;

- c) **RECOGNIZE** that Africa ranks at the top of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions and the increase in extreme weather events on the continent in recent years has resulted in climate-forced displacements and migration of vulnerable communities;
- d) **WELCOME** the partnership between the United Nations, the World Bank, and the African Union in the setup of the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI).
- e) **MANDATE** the Commission in its role as the leader of the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) to coordinate the continental agenda on migration and climate change, as well as spearhead programs and activities to support the AU Member States and the RECs on climate change, forced displacements and migration;
- f) **REQUEST** Member States to provide necessary support and financial resources needed for the operationalization of the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI).

9. **ON THE POLICY ORIENTATION AU-EU-UN TASKFORCE: ADDRESSING IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN AFRICA AND POLICY TRAJECTORY**

- a) **COMMEND** the State of Libya for hosting multitudes of stranded migrants and refugees and facilitating assisted voluntary humanitarian returns and evacuations
- b) **APPRECIATE** the Republics of Rwanda and Niger for hosting hundreds of vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers being relocated from Libya and **ACKNOWLEDGES AND APPRECIATE** other Member States that host many refugees and asylum-seekers on the Continent.
- c) **COMMEND** the work of the AU-EU-UN Tripartite Taskforce on Stranded Migrants and Refugees in Africa, and the leadership of the Commission, in coordination with other partners including, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the European Union (EU), in facilitating assisted voluntary returns of stranded migrants back to their countries of origin.
- d) **REQUEST** the Commission to expedite the process of revitalizing and enhancing of the work of the task force in line with the AU – EU Summit of Heads of State and Government declaration of February 2022.

10. **ON THE UPDATES OF THE AU-EU SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS AND THE AU – EU FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERIAL MEETING IN KIGALI**

- a) **TAKE NOTE** of the briefing on the AU-EU Ministerial and AU-EU Summit and, **REQUEST** the Commission to liaise closely with the EU Commission to ensure that the agreed Joint

AU-EU Ministerial follow-up Committee is put in place, in line with the AU - EU Summit Declaration of February 2022.

11. ON THE POLICY ORIENTATION ON RETURN, READMISSION, AND REINTEGRATION

- a) **TOOK NOTE** of the briefing on Return, Readmission, and Reintegration (RRR) and policy orientation;
- b) **REQUEST** the Commission to develop draft Continental Guidelines on Return, Readmission, and Reintegration (RRR) and submit the same for Member States' validation and approval.

12. UPDATES ON THE PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GCM IN AFRICA INCLUDING STATUS OF DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION ON GCM

- a) **Takes note** of the briefing on the status of the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration.
- b) **Request** the Commission to expedite the process of revising the Draft Plan of Action on the implementation of the GCM in Africa that takes inputs from the outcome of the International Review Forum on Migration (IMRF) and submit the same to the next STC for validation and endorsement.
- c) **Further request** the Commission to provide regular technical support and updates to the African Groups in New York and Geneva on the status of the implementation of the GCM in Africa.

13. ON THE BACKGROUND PAPERS RELATED TO THE HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT AND PLEDGING CONFERENCE

Decides to make the following recommendations to the Executive Council for their consideration.

I) On Climate Change, Disasters, and Forced Displacement in Africa

Recommend the Executive Council to Consider:

- a) Setting up a continental framework and to demonstrate strong commitments and establish governance systems at national, regional and continental level, including through the establishment of a relevant framework for Continental civilian capacity for disasters preparedness and response to address disasters and displacements of people affected by climate change. The setup of the proposed continental framework will not have any structural nor financial implications on AU Member States.

- b) increased investments in Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Response systems as well as in prevention strategies that focus on Disaster Risk Reduction in line with the Sendai Framework.
- c) The need for the Member States and other stakeholders to work towards multi-sector and well-coordinated approaches that reinforce complementarity, inclusive planning from all stakeholders, and alignment of climate instruments.
- d) The need for the Member States to increase investment in anticipatory actions and risk insurance mechanisms as an effective mechanism to save lives and protect livelihoods.
- e) The need to provide humanitarian assistance and sustainable solutions to refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, migrants, and persons affected by climate change and disasters.
- f) The need for state parties to the international conventions and treaties on climate change including the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris agreement to uphold their commitments in availing adaptation finance, technology transfer, and means of implementation of climate actions, within the framework of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, to avoid any secondary consequences.
- g) Advocate for the voluntary return of refugees. To make informed decisions, Refugees and IDPs need to be provided with information on the conditions prevailing in their countries and areas of return to enable them to make informed decisions on the question of return.
- h) Political will is key to facilitating the reintegration of refugees and promoting the Socioeconomic inclusion of returnees, increasing access to livelihoods and employment and ensuring property restitution or compensation. Political will is key to facilitating reintegration of refugees and promoting Socio-economic inclusion of returnees, and increase access to livelihoods and employment.
- i) Egypt's hosting of COP 27 on behalf of Africa, and that necessary support should be accorded to the successful convening of the conference, for it will be a platform to voice the African interests

II) On Food Security and Nutrition situation in Humanitarian Situations in Africa

Recommend the Executive Council to consider;

- a) The need to prioritize investments in food and nutrition security data and information systems. Member State governments should establish and support country-led mechanisms that make quality food and nutrition security data available on a regular basis to support advocacy, planning, monitoring, and evaluation of nutrition programme.
- b) Continue to step up efforts to treat malnutrition among women and children in humanitarian settings. Member State governments and other stakeholders need to

prioritize a paradigm shift in the humanitarian food and nutrition security responses toward the implementation at the scale of multisectoral actions in nutrition, water and sanitation, food security education, and health.

- c) Continue to prioritize nutrition-sensitive interventions that aim to strengthen Agri-food, health, and social protection systems for the acceleration of the development of human, social and economic.
- d) Expand and improve social protection programs for income support, supplemented by emergency food assistance, where needed, and provide nutritionally balanced diets through public interventions and social protection programs to ensure that immediate food needs of vulnerable populations are met.
- e) Drawing lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent crisis in Ukraine on the limits of overdependence on global systems Member State governments must take deliberate steps toward the transformation of food systems, to ensure they produce, nutritious, safe, and affordable diets for its population.
- f) This should include working with the private sector and community-based organizations and leveraging on innovations to produce nutritious food for children using locally produced foods.
- g) The need to establish preventive and adaptive approaches that can transform the agricultural sector and provide continuous food supply to communities and enable them to cope with the adverse effects of climate change and address agricultural inequalities.
- h) The need to promote, respect, and ensure respect for International Humanitarian Law as a vital principle to ensure food security even in situations of armed conflict.
- i) The need to address the underlying deep-rooted causes of food and nutrition insecurity is paramount. Member states to ensure effective and active engagement of local actors at the community level in identifying the needs and durable solutions to food security, nutrition challenges, and building resilience.
- j) Actualization of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AFCTDA) and harmonizing agriculture and technology.

III) On Covid-19 and Health Challenges in Humanitarian space in Africa

Recommend the Executive Council to Consider;

- a) The need to invest in healthcare systems as a critical instrument to secure economic development during a pandemic.

- b) The need to ensure access to health services during a humanitarian crisis, as well as to strengthen logistics and supply chain aspects as part of increasing health coverage to migrants, displaced persons, and refugees in hard to reach areas.
- c) The need for health systems to be more 'migrant-sensitive' and include the specific health needs of migrants, refugees, and displaced persons in health services in line with national laws and regulations.
- d) The need for humanitarian health policies to provide inclusive, equitable, affordable and timely health responses for migrants, refugees and displaced persons in line with national laws and regulations".
- e) The need to ensure that women and children receive a minimum health care package for sexual and reproductive health care information, and services including basic primary health care, health education, nutrition, and environmental health
- f) The need for a new public health order particularly focusing on *Strengthening Africa-CDC to respond to health crises, strengthening the public Health Workforce in humanitarian settings, and strengthening community health systems;*
- g) The need to support the establishment of AMA as an important agency that will ensure the quality and safety of medical and pharmaceutical products, equitable access, and affordable medicine including for migrants, refugees, and displaced persons.
- h) The need to strengthen health information systems and evidence-based research to bridge the gap between health knowledge and practice.
- i) The need for Advocacy for increased financing for health in fragile settings and an equitable supply of COVID-19 vaccines.

IV) On Post Conflict Reconstruction Development for refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa

Recommend the Executive Council to Consider;

- a) The need to ensure that recovery and reconstruction efforts in post-conflict societies address the demobilization, disarmament, return, and reintegration of former combatants and displaced populations,
- b) The need for increased investment to support the youth and encourage their role as propellers for change and development;
- c) Strengthen the AU Centre for PCRDR in Cairo to effectively implement AU PCRDR programs and projects addressing humanitarian and emergency response on the continent.

- d) The need to promote effective partnerships within and outside the continent towards adequate resource mobilization.
- e) Ensure there is political will to facilitate the reintegration of refugees and promote Socioeconomic inclusion of returnees, increase access to livelihoods and employment. There is a need to adopt a collective/holistic approach to return and reintegration. The nexus approach (i.e., humanitarian, development, and peace dimensions) should be strengthened across refugee responses.

V) On resource mobilization and financing for humanitarian action in Africa.

Recommend the Executive Council to consider;

- a) The need to advocate for increased funding for the establishment of the African Humanitarian Agency which will facilitate an effective response to the increased humanitarian needs on the continent.
- b) The need to ensure the implementation of Executive Council Decision EX.CL/591 (XVII) was adopted during its 17th Ordinary Session in July 2010 in Kampala, Uganda where it decided to “increase Member States contribution to the Refugees and IDP’s Fund from 2% to 4% of the Operational Budget of the Commission gradually with effect from 2011 and request the PRC through its Advisory Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters to work out modalities of its implementation”
- c) The need to promote strategic partnerships in resource mobilization and burden sharing by identifying other non-traditional financing mechanisms to complement the limited humanitarian resources.
- d) The need to strengthen partnership with the private sector in humanitarian action and development agenda including sourcing of humanitarian products and services from within Africa, to promote Intra-Africa Trade and increased African manufactured products
- e) The need to establish greater partnerships with International and Regional Financial institutions for increased financing, especially for interventions that generate lasting impacts along with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
- f) Develop rigorous evidence-based and scientific methodologies for determining humanitarian and financing needs and put in place measures to promote transparency and accountability to create confidence among traditional and non-traditional donors.
- g) Funding needs to be allocated towards more climate adaptations, disaster risk management and early warning systems, and more anticipatory and preventive actions which are more cost-effective.

VI) On the Pledging Conference

Recommend the Executive Council to consider the following proposals:

The resources mobilized from the pledging conference to be used as follows:

- a) Support member states in addressing humanitarian needs emanating from conflicts, terrorist activities, disasters, and climate change.
- b) Support efforts to set up early warning mechanisms and strengthen prevention and response strategies, in health systems in humanitarian settings;
- c) Support the establishment of the Africa Union Humanitarian Agency.
- d) The received pledges be deposited in a Special Fund whose structure and operationalization process shall be adopted by the AU policy organs via the PRC and its relevant Subcommittees” and within the regulation of the AU FRR and SRR.

14. ON THE NEXT MEETING OF THE 5TH STC ON MIGRATION, REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS:

Decides to.

- i) **CONVENE** the next Ordinary Session of the 5th STC on Migration, Refugees, and Internally Displaced Persons in 2024
- ii) **REQUEST** the Commission to work with the Bureau of the 4th STC to determine the exact dates for the Ordinary Session of the 5th STC, and to inform the Member States in good time.
- iii) **CONVENE** the Ordinary Session of the 5th STC on Migration, Refugees, and Internally Displaced Persons, scheduled to take place in 2024 at the AU Headquarters, except a Member State offers to host it.

**Adopted on 24 May 2022
Malabo, Equatorial Guinea**

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