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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**Forty-fourth Ordinary Session**  
**15 January - 15 February 2024**  
**Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

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**REPORT OF THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON HEADQUARTERS  
AND HOST AGREEMENTS**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The PRC Sub-Committee on Headquarters and Host Agreements held a meeting on 05 December 2023 via Videoconference, to discuss the matrix of pending issues concerning the implementation of the Headquarters and Host Country Agreements.
2. The meeting was chaired by **H.E. Dr. Mohamed Omar Gad**, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Ethiopia and the Permanent Representative to the African Union, Chairperson of the PRC Sub-Committee on Headquarters and Host Agreements.

## **II. ATTENDANCE**

3. The following members of the Sub Committee attended:

1. Egypt (Chair)
2. Ethiopia
3. Chad
4. Namibia
5. Mozambique
6. South Africa
7. Senegal
8. The Gambia
9. Tanzania

## **III. OPENING REMARKS**

4. In his opening Remarks, H.E Amb. Mohamed Gad Welcomed the Members and thanked the Secretariat (OLC) for facilitating the convening of the meeting.
5. He further highlighted the crucial role the Sub-Committee is playing, and reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to operationalize the work of the Sub-Committee and ensure proper and smooth functioning of AU and its Organs concerning matters within the mandate of the Sub-Committee.
6. In relation to the fact that the Sub-Committee does not have the Terms of Reference (ToRs) to regulate and guide its work, he therefore requested the Secretariat to develop a draft ToRs for the Sub-Committee to be presented and considered after the February Summit.
7. In reference to some pending documents to be considered jointly with the PRC Sub-Committee on Rules, Standards and Credentials (Chaired by Zimbabwe), namely (Draft Model Host Agreement for AU Institutions/ Draft Model Host Agreement for AU Meetings/ Revision of the Criteria for Hosting AU Organs, Institutions and Specialized Agencies), H.E Amb. Mohamed Gad proposed that the consideration of those Legal Documents be done after February 2024 taking into consideration the busy schedule of the Member States in the preparation of the Upcoming Summit.

8. He concluded his opening remarks by stressing that the Sub-Committee lacks two (2) Members, one from the North and one from the Western Region, he therefore requested the Secretariat to communicate duly to the respective Deans of those regions to nominate one Member from the North and replace the suspended Member from the West, as per the practice.

#### **IV. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

9. The following substantive agenda Items were considered during the two Sessions of the Sub-Committee:
  - a. Opening Remarks – Chairperson
  - b. Consideration and adoption of the draft agenda
  - c. Consideration of the Matrix of the Pending issues
  - d. Any other Business (AOB)
  - e. Closing Remarks – Chairperson

#### **V. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE MATRIX OF PENDING ISSUES:**

10. The Office of the Legal Counsel Presented the matrix of pending issues and the presiding Chair opened the discussion. The participating Members commended the Secretariat for the updated version of the Matrix of pending issues related to the mandate of the Sub-Committee.
11. The meeting requested the Secretariat to update the mailing lists of the members of the Sub- Committee in order to facilitate a proper transmission of meetings documents or any other communication related to the Mandate of the Sub-Committee.
12. The meeting further noted that some elements in the matrix need to be realigned and revised to avoid any duplication and refine the language to make it more appropriate and diplomatic.
13. The meeting subsequently requested that the Secretariat provides a periodical update and that all the elements be communicated to the focal persons within the OLC.
14. The Arab Republic of Egypt commended the Secretariat for the update provided to the meeting and the organization of the technical meeting with the relevant departments from the Foreign Ministry of Egypt on 27th November 2023, which aimed at scrubbing and aligning the language of the document.
15. Henceforth, the Distinguished Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt requested the Secretariat to finalise and share the updated clean version in order to convene a concluding final meeting, the objective being that the agreement will be ready to be signed on the margins of February 2024 Summit.

16. The Distinguished Delegate from the Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania raised his concerns that the matrix needed to be updated. He stressed that the Government of United Republic of Tanzania particularly on the seat of Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU) has done more but those new developments are not reflected in the matrix under discussion. Hence, he agreed to submit officially to the Secretariat of the Sub- Committee all the new developments and facilities that have been made available by the United Republic of Tanzania so that the matrix be updated accordingly.
17. The Distinguished delegate from the Republic of South Africa informed the meeting that there are ongoing consultations on the issue of Host Country Agreements of AU Institutions hosted by South African taking into consideration the domestic Laws. He further informed the meeting that a proposal to host all the AU offices hosted by South Africa in one Premise is also under consideration.
18. On the issue of Member States that were denied visas to attend the meeting organized by AU Institutions in South Africa, it was requested that detailed information be provided to the Government of South Africa in order for the issue to be addressed timeously by the relevant authorities
19. The Distinguished Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia expressed his concern as regards the flow of information stating that he did not receive the communication for this meeting. He requested the Secretariat to update the mailing list as had been suggested by other members as well. He further provided updates to the meeting that some measures have been taken to address some to the pending issues. He stated that driving licences are now issued in both English and Amharic languages., Furthermore, he informed the meeting that the limit on US Dollars that can be carried into Ethiopia has been raised from 3000 USD to 10, 000 USD. Moreover, on the issue of money and other valuable items seized, he informed the meeting that an exceptional political decision to return the money seized to the beneficiaries has been taken and there is a progress in this regards. In relation to other pending issues, the Distinguished Representative expressed the Commitment of host country to continue working in close collaboration with the African Union Commission and other stakeholders to resolve all the pending issues.

## **VI. CONCLUSIONS:**

20. The Chairperson made the following conclusions and recommendations:
  - (i) Took note of the presentation made by the OLC on the Matrix of pending issues, and of the comments and observations made by Members of the Subcommittee, as well as the responses provided by the Commission thereon;
  - (ii) Commended Member States and the Commission in the progress made in resolving the pending issues affecting the business of the Union in their territories, and requested the OLC to continue updating

the Matrix of pending issues and assign a focal point within the OLC for this task;

- (iii) Requested the Commission to update the information available, including full disclosure of any instances being referred to in the matrix for the benefit of transparency and action of the Member States;
- (iv) Directed that the OLC develop and develop a draft Terms of References for the Subcommittee to be presented to the Subcommittee in April 2024 for its consideration;
- (v) Requested the Secretariat to communicate formally to the Deans of the Northern and Western Regions to finalize the composition of the Subcommittee;
- (vi) Finally, the meeting requested that the Secretariat update the mailing list of the Members of the Subcommittee.

**VII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

21. There being no any other business, the Chairperson of the Subcommittee thanked the members for their attendance and participation in the meeting and closed the meeting.

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON  
HEADQUARTERS AND HOST AGREEMENTS**

**The Executive Council,**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Sub- Committee on Headquarters and **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue consultation with Host Countries to address all the pending issues in the matrix.
2. **REQUESTS** the Commission to develop Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Sub Committee on Headquarters and Host Country Agreement before April 2024 and submit them to the Sub-Committee for consideration and onward transmission to the PRC for adoption in accordance with the Existing Rules of Procedure of the Union.
3. **REQUESTS** the Secretariat and the Member States hosting AU Organs, Institutions and Offices to provide regular updates to the Members of the Sub- Committee on new issues that require their attention.
4. **COMMENDS** the efforts made by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and its commitment to finalize the Host Country Agreement of the Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the League of Arab States hosted in Cairo, Egypt.
5. **SALUTES** the efforts made by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in addressing the outstanding matters in the matrix and **COMMENDS** a continuous improvement of the smooth functioning of the African Union Commission and the diplomatic missions hosted by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
6. **COMMENDS** the Government of the United Republic of the Tanzania and Secretariat of Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU) for completing the construction and inaugurating the permanent seat of the Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU) in Arusha, Tanzania.
7. **FINALLY COMMENDS** the commitment of the Government of the Republic of South Africa to finalise the ongoing consultations on the Host Country Agreements with the AU institutions hosted by South Africa and **REQUESTS** the Sub-Committee to engage with the Government of the Republic of South African to finalise this matter.

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