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**REPORT ON THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PANEL OF EMINENT
AFRICANS TO OVERSEE THE PRE-SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF
THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

REPORT ON THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PANEL OF EMINENT AFRICANS TO OVERSEE THE PRE-SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

1. It will be recalled that the current Members of the African Union Commission were elected in 2021 for a four-year term which expires in February 2025. In this regard, the Executive Council and Assembly will elect a new Commission in February 2025.
2. The pre-selection process of the Members of the African Union Commission is entrusted to a Panel of Eminent Africans ("The Panel") as provided for in Articles 13 and 15 of the Statute of the Commission (The Statute) as follows:

Article 13 **Nomination of the Commissioners**

A skill and competency based assessment and shortlisting of candidates shall be undertaken by a High Level Panel of Eminent Africans (1 per region) assisted by an independent African firm to generate a ranked pool of pre-qualified candidates nominated by the relevant AU regions from which Commissioners shall be elected and appointed by the Executive Council.

Article 15 **Panel of Eminent Africans**

1. *The Panel of Eminent Africans shall be composed of five (5) eminent personalities, one (1) per region.*
 2. *The Panel of Eminent Africans shall oversee the pre-selection of candidatures of the Member of the Commission and shall be technically assisted by an independent African consultancy firm, to be selected by the Panel.*
 3. *Job profiles and competency requirements for the Senior Leadership of the Commission shall be developed by the Panel of Eminent Africans. These shall include generic leadership skills and competencies as well as expert and thematic skills in relation to specific portfolios. In addition to the key principles referred to above, the assessment process for all candidates shall be based on the skills and competencies identified for each senior leadership position.*
3. In facilitating the constitution of the Panel, the Commission through Note Verbal Reference Number **BC/OLC/217/13875.23** dated 16 October 2023 invited Regional Deans to facilitate regional consultations in their respective regions and nominate one(1) Member per region by 30 November 2023.
 4. By 30 November 2023, only the Southern Region had submitted its nomination. In this regard, the submission of nominees, one each, from the following regions: Central, Eastern, Northern and Western Regions was extended to **15 DECEMBER 2023**.

5. In the same Note Verbale, the Commission appealed to the Regional Dean for the Northern Region, who had submitted several candidates, to facilitate consultations to submit a single candidate to represent the region.

6. By 15 December 2023, the Commission had received nominations from the Southern, Western and Eastern Regions. Whereas the Northern Region had submitted several candidates, there was no nomination from the Central Region. Hence the Commission, through Note Verbal **BC/OLC/217/14225.23** dated 19 December, 2023 extended the deadline for submission of the nomination from the Central Region to 30 December 2023.

7. On 21 December 2023, the Commission proposed to facilitate the nomination of a single candidate from the Northern region, which initiative was not agreeable by the Region.

8. By 30 December 2023, the following were the nominations received from the regions:

No.	NAME	GENDER	COUNTRY	REGION
1	Konjit SineGiorgis	F	Ethiopia	Eastern
2	Nozipho Joyce Mxakato-Diseko	F	South Africa	Southern
3	Patrick Hayford	M	Ghana	Western
4	Djinnit Said	M	Algeria	Northern
5	Mohamed Adel Smaoui	M	Tunisia	Northern
6	Lehcen Haddad	M	Morocco	Northern
7	Sidi Salem Mohamed Alabd	M	Mauritania	Northern
8	Achraf Rached	M	Egypt	Northern
9	Ali Abdallah Awidan	M	Libya	Northern

9. The Northern and Central Regions will have to continue regional consultations to submit their nominations. However, in order to meet the timelines stipulated in the Statute, including announcement of the Candidates for the Members of the Commission in March, 2024 in accordance with Article 16(a) of the Statute, the Panel has to be constituted and appointed during the current Session. This will enable them to start discharging their functions immediately, including appointing a firm to assist them in their functions.

10. It is therefore recommended that the nominated three (3) Members from the Eastern, Southern and Western Regions be endorsed and mandated to start discharging their functions pending the constitution of the full panel.

11. It is further recommended that the Executive Council delegates to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission the endorsement of the remaining two (2) Members from the Central and Northern Regions respectively, **once the regional consultations are finalised.**

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PANEL OF
EMINENT AFRICANS**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Constitution of the Panel of Eminent Africans to oversee the pre-selection of the Members of the African Union Commission.
2. **ENDORSES** the following as Members of the Panel of Eminent Africans to oversee the pre-selection of Members of the Commission for the election scheduled to take place in 2025.

NO.	NAME	GENDER	COUNTRY	REGION
1.				
2.				
3.				

3. **MANDATES** the three (3) endorsed Members of the Panel to commence discharging their functions with immediate effect, pending the constitution of the full panel.
4. **CALLS ON** the Central and Northern Regions to expedite the conclusion of regional consultations and the submission of one (1) nominee each, to complete the composition of the Panel.
5. **DECIDES** to delegate the endorsement of the remaining two (2) Members of the Panel from the Central and Northern Region to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission upon submission by the Central and Northern Regions of a single nominee each.
6. **FURTHER DECIDES** in accordance with Rule 35 of the Rules of Procedures of the Assembly, for this decision to take immediate effect upon its adoption to comply with the timeline on election outlined in the Statute of the Commission.

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