

**AU SUMMIT DECLARATION ON AFRICA'S INDUSTRIAL  
DEVELOPMENT - DOC. EX.CL/379(XII)**

**We**, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, meeting at the 10<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 31 January to 2 February 2008 on the theme of African industrialization:

**Recalling** the objectives set for the accelerated and sustainable socio-economic development of Africa in the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Programme and the Strategic Plan of the AU Commission;

**Re-affirming** our commitment to claim the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as a century of rapid change for Africa and to eradicate poverty and improve the living conditions of our peoples by 2015;

**Mindful** of the imperative of resolving the paradox of widespread poverty in Africa in the midst of the rich endowment of our continent in natural resources;

**Aware** of the strong link between industrialization and rapid economic growth and development;

**Desirous** of transforming Africa from a primary commodity producing economy to a value adding industrial economy;

**Taking note** of the fact that in spite of the efforts made so far, Africa's share in global manufacturing is still less than one percent (1%);

**Further taking into consideration** the NEPAD Spatial Development Programme (SDP);

**Determined to** draw useful lessons from the experiences of the newly industrializing and emerging economies;

**Hereby:**

1. **ENDORSE** the Action Plan of the 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session of AU Conference of Ministers of Industry (CAMI) on the industrial development of Africa, and
2. **COMMIT OURSELVES** to:
  - Accelerate the pace of Africa's industrial development, especially the conversion of natural resources to higher value-added products;
  - Adopt policies and programmes for natural resource processing and greater value addition in Africa;

- Enhance public-private sector partnership, particularly in the areas of heavy infrastructure development;
  - Increase investment in Science and Technology, Human Capital Development, with emphasis on technical training, to enhance Africa's industrial productivity and competitiveness;
  - Pool resources and share knowledge and know-how in the area of industrial technology, planning and production management;
  - Establish and strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks for the promotion of African industrial enterprises at national, regional, continental and international levels;
  - Strengthen African Industrial Research and Development Institutions and Agencies to develop innovative approaches and programmes for the accelerated industrial development of Africa;
  - Encourage Africans in the Diaspora to increase their contribution to the industrial development of Africa;
  - Speed up the establishment of the African Investment Bank and the promotion of African regional and continental capital markets;
  - Achieve the harmonization of African business laws;
  - Take necessary measures at the national level to implement the Action Plan.
3. **REQUEST** the AU Commission, Regional Economic Communities and development partners, to take necessary measures towards effective implementation of the Action Plan;
  4. **REAFFIRM** our strong commitment to the principles of good governance, democracy, rule of law, accountability, sound macro-economic management, which are necessary for the accelerated development of our countries;
  5. **REITERATE** our commitment to the promotion of regional markets that are necessary for the attainment of economies of scale in the production of competitive industrial products in Africa;
  6. **UNDERTAKE** to develop and enhance Africa's industrial cooperation and partnership with the emerging industrial economies for the mutual benefits of both sides;
  7. **CALL UPON** our development partners to adopt policies and measures to encourage their companies to increase investment in local processing within Africa of the continent's natural resources;

8. **REQUEST** Member States to pay their contribution to (UNIDO) and the international community to strengthen UNIDO mandate and means to enable it serve as an effective agency for the accelerated industrial development of Africa;
9. **CALL ON** UNIDO to strengthen its visibility in Africa by implementing a programme that is regionally balanced and more focused towards Africa;
10. **REQUEST** the AU Commission, in collaboration with the relevant agencies, to prepare and submit for our consideration every two (2) years, Progress Reports on the State of Industrialization in Africa and the Implementation of the Action Plan.

2008

# Au Summit Declaration on Africa's Industrial Development - Doc. Ex.CI/379(Xii)

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