

**DECISION ON THE FIRST AFRICAN UNION DIASPORA MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE - DOC. EX.CL/383(XII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the First African Union Diaspora Ministerial Conference held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 16 to 18 November 2007 ;
2. **AFFIRMS** that this is an important milestone in the consolidation of the Diaspora Initiative;
3. **COMMENDS** the efforts of the Republic of South Africa and the AU Commission in the progress made towards organizing the African Diaspora Summit scheduled to be held in the Republic of South Africa in October 2008 and **ENCOURAGES** the Government of South Africa and the AU Commission to continue cooperating in this regard;
4. **FURTHER COMMENDS** Member States and the Diaspora for their participation in the meetings held so far and **CALLS ON** them to continue to participate actively in the process;
5. **ENCOURAGES** consensus-building in the finalization of the Programme and Plan of Action to be adopted at the Summit, which would serve as building blocks for integrating efforts towards implementation of the Diaspora Initiative;
6. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to develop a framework document, as decided by the Second Africa-Caribbean Conference on the modalities of Diaspora participation in the organs, activities and meetings of the Union, conduct a feasibility study on the Diaspora as a sixth region of the Union to support this programme, and to submit a report to the Executive Council in January 2009;
7. **URGES** the Commission to continue the Regional Consultation Conferences, to include the African Diaspora in the Gulf, the Middle East, Asia and Oceania;
8. **APPEALS** to Member States to continue to support and provide adequate resources for the implementation of the Diaspora Initiative.

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