

AFRICAN UNION

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**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFRICA**

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFRICA
JULY 2016 – JUNE 2017**

1. The report gives a panoramic view on the fluctuation of the humanitarian situation on the continent with focus on different situation analyses, most of them submitted by AU Member States on the consequences of climate change with particular attention on the most affected regions of Africa especially on the severe impact of El Nino and La Nina. It will further brief on the challenges of the consequences of situation of conflicts and disasters on populations across the continent in some of the most dire situations; as well as on the dynamics of conflicts as both a driver of, and cause of these dire humanitarian situations, particularly, famine. Furthermore, this report also gives account of the activities of the Commission as well as that of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons; and the PRC Sub-Committee on Special Assistance Fund on Famine and Drought in Africa (SEAF) including the collaboration and cooperation with other AU partners and humanitarian agencies working in the field covering the period from January to June 2017.

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFRICA

2. There are three key humanitarian concerns on the continent. These humanitarian concerns are natural disasters in the form of floods and droughts mainly; complex emergencies, in the form of conflicts leading to massive displacements in some major cases driving dire humanitarian situations; while the combination of the two consequently leads to famine, food insecurity, forced displacement, malnutrition and other health emergencies.

3. The African continent has severely been affected by the effects of El Nino and La Nina especially in the Eastern and Southern regions, most of them hit by severe and unprecedentedly drought and following heavy floods that affected mostly countries from these parts of Africa. Consequences have been registered. Other consequences of the effect of the phenomenon has resulted in the loss of human lives, loss of farm lands and properties thereby leading to the loss of livelihoods and reducing the coping mechanisms of the affected communities. The resultant effect of the environmental impact of climate change has manifested in increased humanitarian needs in affected countries, thus creating additional financial burden with negative impacts on the economy and development of many of them. Some of the severely affected countries include, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, and Burundi, in East Africa; while in Southern Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Malawi and South Africa are the affected countries.

4. Persistent conflicts leading to instability and fragility continue to be a source of worry in many parts of the continent. This has led to situations of forced displacement of persons within and across the borders of many countries. Protracted conflict situations, generalised violence and instability in Central African Republic, South Sudan, Somalia, North East of Nigeria, Libya, DRC, and the Lake Chad Basin, continue to subsist, with tens of thousands of people fleeing their homes. Terrorism continues to be the driver of

the conflict in the North East of Nigeria and other Lake Chad Basin countries and Somalia, while it continues to affect efforts being made toward stability in Libya by the Government of National Accord. The increased spread of the conflict in South Sudan continues to drive and lead to complex emergency in the country, with famine being declared in some parts of Africa's newest state. Again, the summation of the activities of Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin including in particular, North East of Nigeria, the Al Shabaab in Somalia and a combination of ISIS and remnants of Al Qaida in Libya have made large swaths of land across the continent ungovernable, thereby increasing the vulnerability of the affected population.

5. The renewed violence in South Sudan continue to result in massive and unprecedented displacement of persons both within the nascent country and to its neighbours. Uganda remains the largest recipient of displaced South Sudanese, while Ethiopia and Kenya are also playing to host to large number refugees from the same country. At the moment about 3.6 million or a third of the estimated population of South Sudan are displaced. 1.9 million Persons are internally displaced while about 2 million are refugees in neighbouring countries. Uganda is host to majority of South Sudan refugee population followed by the Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya respectively. The situation has further escalated since the beginning of 2017 with about 161,800 people arriving Uganda alone, thus bringing the total number of South Sudan refugees in Uganda to about 801,800 persons. Of these persons about 58 % are children and 56 % women and girls. At the same time, there is a large number of internally displaced persons. There is the initial caseload of IDPs resulting from the 2013 conflict and who are under the United Nations Protection of Civilian programme and are cantoned within the UNMISS premises. The situation has been further compounded by the July 2016 resurgence of the conflict which has also generated another wave of internal displacement as well as displacement across the borders. Furthermore, there are newly emerging conflicts in the country, with fresh conflicts emerging in the Equatorias, while the government is reported to be attacking new rebel locations thus increasing widespread displacement of persons. Currently, there is only one State out of the original ten States in the country that is conflict free, Warap State. According to UNOCHA, since December 2013, the conflict has devastated the lives of millions of South Sudanese and displaced more than 2.7 million. About 1.73 million of them have been displaced internally in the country and nearly 1.05 million are refugees in neighbouring countries.

6. Another worrying phenomenon in South Sudan is violence against aid workers, humanitarian infrastructures such as schools and hospitals including shooting, ambushes, assaults, harassment and robberies. This has resulted in the tragic killing of three humanitarians, bringing the reported number of aid workers killed in South Sudan since the conflict began in December 2013 to more than 55. Recently, 78 denial of humanitarian access incidents were reported by humanitarian partners, 73 per cent of which involved violence against humanitarian personnel and their properties. Road and river travel for humanitarians continues to be hazardous. Since the beginning of this year 2016, there have been 29 incidents of robberies of vehicles while travelling to assess, deliver and pre-position vital supplies of which 13 of them occurred in the past months. In Upper Nile, humanitarian partners were shot at while attempting to cross the River Nile to deliver humanitarian assistance between Malakal and Wau Shilluk on 26 and 30 May 2016. At

least 74 humanitarian compounds, including offices, residences and warehouses, have been broken into since the beginning of the year countrywide, resulting in looting and robberies of humanitarian supplies and personal belongings. Sixteen such incidents took place in the month of May alone¹. It is instructive to note that South Sudan has recorded more deaths of aid workers than in any other conflict situation globally. Aid workers continue to be killed with over 80 killed since the beginning of the crises in 2013, while 12 aid workers have so far been killed in the first third of 2017 alone. Constant attack on humanitarian relief convoys makes delivery of vital supplies impossible. So far there have been at least six attacks on humanitarian convoys in 2017 which resulted in the deaths of 6 humanitarian workers. Humanitarian compounds, schools and hospital are targeted, vandalized and looted. These situations are being experienced across the country.

7. The instability created by the challenges faced by Libya during the transition period and concomitant creation of an ungovernable space has led to the increased wave of the most dangerous irregular crossing of the Mediterranean Sea by many African migrants. The incidence of irregular migration continues unabated, leading to deaths of several persons in the Mediterranean.

8. To the west of Tripoli, there has been a notable increase in the deadly crossing to Europe. Since the beginning of 2016, IOM estimates that over 27,000 migrants have undertaken this dangerous crossing towards Italy. IOM Libya's Displacement Tracking Matrix estimates the existence of 417,123 IDPs and 234,669 migrants in Libya by May 2016. An estimated number of 30,000 asylum seekers and 10,000 refugees have been registered as of mid-April 2016. According to IOM, in just three days during April almost 6,000 migrants and refugees have sailed from Libya to Italy which could be the start of a new massive wave of migration². It is pertinent to also point out that several migrants have also indicated their readiness to abandon the dangerous venture and return to their countries of origin. IOM has expressed its readiness to collaborate with the African Union to implement a return programme for about 260 migrants of which a number are women and children.

9. Egypt³ is still hosting thousands of Yemenis who were in Egypt when war broke out at home and have been unable to return to their families, and are running out of ways to survive without assistance. An estimated 6,000 to 8,000 Yemenis are now stranded in Egypt, either because they were in the country when the war erupted in March 2015, or because they have fled there for safety. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has registered 1,375 of them.

II. REGIONAL ANALYSIS

North Africa Region

10. The North Africa region constituted a transit or final destination for sizeable mixed migration flows from Sub-Saharan Africa. The situation is further driven by the instability

¹ OCHA, 14 June 2016, Humanitarian Bulletin on South Sudan

² IOM, June 2016, Report on Libya

³ UNHCR - Yemenis refugees, 12 April - Egypt

that is currently affecting the region, particularly, in Libya. The violence and unrest in many of the countries have also created protection needs, with increased number of refugees and asylum seekers being arrested and detained, particularly from sub-Saharan Africa. This situation also constitutes another reason why some of the migrants do want to make the hazardous Mediterranean crossing. Apart from refugees from Sub-Saharan Africa, there are about 155,000 Syrian refugees in North Africa, of this number, about 140,000 are in Egypt.

11. The Kingdom of Morocco hosts a significant number of migrants and asylum seekers. Morocco, as part of its new policy on migration and asylum, has regularized the situation of nearly 25,000 people, the vast majority of them come from African countries but also from some countries in the Middle East. The second phase of this program has just been launched. These operations allow the concerned persons to integrate the education, the health systems and the labor market, in the same way as Moroccan citizens. In addition to this governmental integration program, they also have access to humanitarian assistance and to UNHCR programs. The number of persons falling within the mandate of the latter amounts to 6333. "

12. Libya: The humanitarian situation in Libya continues to deteriorate as a result of sporadic fighting across the country and the expansion of the so called Islamic State (IS) and causing internal displacement of civilian population. The lack of resources is another obstacle for the humanitarian response where the Humanitarian Response Plan for Libya had a funding gap of 64 percent as of 2016.

13. Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic: There is still the protracted refugee situation of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic in Algeria. It is an on-going situation and they are settled in five camps near **Tindouf** on the Sahara Desert. Actually, Algeria is hosting 165,000 vulnerable Sahrawi refugees living in five camps near Tindouf. The country is still affected by the unprecedented flooding which was experienced in 2015. Furthermore, World Food Programme (WFP) appealed for urgent funding to support refugees from Western Sahara as severe lack of resources is now forcing the agency to reduce food rations by almost 20 percent as from May of this year. In the absence of new contribution, WFP will be obliged to reduce rations to half of the recommended daily allowance by June.

14. For more than 40 years, the Sahrawi refugees have been living under extremely harsh conditions in the Sahara desert in southwestern Algeria. Hosted in five refugee camps near Tindouf, refugee families rely on WFP and other international partners, as their primary source of food supply. Any further reductions or halt of food assistance will have a severe impact on the food security and nutritional status of refugees, especially young children, pregnant and nursing women, the elderly and the sick.

15. The African Union therefore, calls upon the international community to assist in ameliorating the dire and harsh conditions under which the country exists in its current territory. The WFP urgently requires USD 7.9 Million to continue providing food assistance to Sahrawi refugees over the next six (6) months

Central Africa Region

16. In **Central Africa Republic (CAR)**, and according to the Minister for Social Welfare and Reconciliation, nearly half of the population remain in need of humanitarian assistance when nearly US\$400 million are required to meet the needs of 1.6 million Central Africans next year according to the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2017. Due to ongoing insecurity, CAR has the high chronic malnutrition rates. This is linked to the insecurity registered since last September when new conflicts have erupted in many locations leading to hundreds of civilian casualties and the new displacement of tens of thousands of war weary Central Africans. One in ten Central Africans remains a refugee, the majority in neighbouring Cameroun⁴.

17. DRC: Report from the UNHCR states that more than 11000 Congolese have fled into neighbouring Angola, seeking refuge from an upsurge in violence between rebels and government forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Kasai and Kasai Central Provinces. More than 1.1 million have been displaced in the said provinces. Armed conflict between tribal leader, Kamuina Nsapu and government forces have intensified in the two provinces concerned. Majority of the people have fled to Kasai Orientale and into nearby forests. The people have lost the capacity to meet their immediate food requirements as they have fled their land. Continued fighting has destroyed crops and food stocks, thereby affecting over 100,000 persons, as militia continue to use farm destruction as a weapon of war. There is also the destruction of the limited infrastructure in the form of schools and health centres. Due to the trauma associated with displacement the affected population is in urgent need of psychological support, protection from grave human rights abuses by the militia and the recruitment of children into the militia. Pertinent to also state that humanitarian access has deteriorated due to the conflict, since November 2016 when the fighting intensified and the provinces inaccessible as a result of the presence of the militia.

18. Since November 2016, in DR Congo, rains and winds have hit the town of Gemena, headquarters of the province of Sud-Ubangi with a total population of 350,511 people. On 9 November 2016, rain and violent winds intensified, causing extensive floods in that region. An assessment by the National Society found that in total, 526 families or 2,628 people were affected by the flooding. In addition, 105 houses have been destroyed: 53 of them completely and 52 partially, while the balance of affected families, 173 families, have lost their household possessions. The Gemena region is already affected by cholera⁵

19. Burundi: The forced displacement situation in Burundi particularly, across the border into neighbouring countries of Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia and Malawi continue unabated. As of April 2017, about 237,393 persons have fled to Tanzania, while about 85,733 and 37,354 have fled into Rwanda and DRC respectively. Uganda received another case load of 34,801 Burundians during the same period. While the country may not be in the midst of a massive humanitarian emergency, early warnings indicate a huge risk of the situation deteriorating, with likely

⁴ OCHA, 28 November 2016, Country update on CAR

⁵ IFRC, 25 November 2016, country update on Burundi

severe consequences, as some of the neighbouring countries may be in violation of the principle of non-refoulement in respect of the treatment of the refugees.

20. An estimated 90,000 people were affected by the El Niño phenomenon (heavy rains, strong winds, floods and landslides). The food security and nutrition situation is increasingly worsening with 23 percent of the population food insecure. The latest evaluation of harvest, food availability and the nutrition situation shows a 2.1 percent reduction of the main staple production mainly due to climate hazards (heavy rains and floods), persistence of plant disease, and lack of agricultural inputs and degradation of land productivity. As a result, about 23 000 tonnes of beans, 60 000 tonnes of maize and 75 000 tonnes of paddy rice were lost⁶.

21. Cameroon⁷ is currently hosting almost 331 000 refugees in total. Some 72 000 are Nigerians, seeking asylum in the Far North region of Cameroon. The remaining refugees are from the Central African Republic (CAR). This is added to 139 000 Cameroonian IDPS resulting from the Boko haram asymmetric attacks and other 30600 internally displaced by floods. The situation constitutes a huge challenge for local administrations and communities, making it critical to provide emergency aid to meet basic needs. In addition, the humanitarian response is hampered by the deteriorating security conditions in the Far North, which is reducing access for humanitarian organisation

EAST AFRICA REGION

22. According to UNOCHA⁸, by end of December 2016, the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region were host to 3.6 million refugees and 7.2 million IDP's. The number of refugees in the region has increased by 205,451 over the past quarter, and the number of IDPs has increased by 63,148. As of 30 September 2016, the largest refugee outflow for the region was of 1.03 million refugees from South Sudan. Although the El Niño weather event has passed its impact continues to be felt in the region: food insecurity doubled from 12 million in August 2015 to 23.4 million today. Humanitarian partners are targeting 1.25 million children under five for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) this year, of which nearly 83 per cent are from Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and Somalia. Violence and rising food insecurity in South Sudan and Burundi have displaced nearly 290,000 people (205,541 refugees and 84,459 internally displaced) in the last 3 months alone. Simultaneous disease outbreaks continue to affect the region, with cholera and acute watery diarrhea as biggest concern. Violence has also targeted aid workers and 25 of them were killed. Operating environment in the region continues to deteriorate both through bureaucratic impediments and violence against aid workers⁹. Besides, this region is experiencing 3.5 billion USD shortage out of 6.7 billion USD needed to assist 23.4 million food insecure, 7.1 million IDPs and 3.6 million refugees across the region.

23. Updating on funding for El Nino itself for this eastern Africa region, US\$ 1.59 billion is required to address the impact of El Niño until the end of the year. Of this amount,

⁶ FAO, June 2016, situation report on Burundi

⁷ ECHO, ECHO Factsheet – 6 April 2016, Cameroon (European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office)

⁸ UNOCHA (October-December 2016) Regional Outlook for the and the Great Lakes Region

⁹ UNOCHA, East Africa regional snapshot, 25 October 2016

US\$87.8 million comes on top of the US\$ 10.4 billion already required for the overall humanitarian response in the region, which is only 14 per cent funded². Funding is urgently required: The first six months of 2016 are critical to increase preventative action and to scale up a robust response to humanitarian needs.

24. Kenya: The Government of Kenya government has decided on 16 May 2016 to close the Somali refugee camps of Dadaab and the repatriation will begin in the coming 6 months as announced by the Deputy President William Ruto during the World Humanitarian Summit. This decision to close the Dadaab Refugee camps in November 2016 is due to it having become a hotbed for Islamist extremism. The Somali president, present during the WHS, reinforced his government's strong support for the Kenyan position. It can also be recalled that on 14 April 2016 the AUPSC met and made a decision on the situation of Dadaab Refugee camps in Kenya and agrees with the findings of the Comprehensive Technical Assessment Mission, which support the Kenya's government conclusion that the Refugee Camps constitute a serious threat to the security of Kenya. The PSC reiterated that no refugee camp should assume a permanent existence.

SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION

25. The negative impacts of the El Nino induced drought that has caused a humanitarian crisis affecting 39 Million people in Southern Africa continue to worsen. About 74% of the required Regional Humanitarian Appeal of \$2.9billion is yet to be raised as only \$757 million has been raised by governments (\$222m) and partners (\$535m). This comes when a number of measures to speed up and facilitate the flow of humanitarian relief supplies from ports of entries to beneficiaries as approved by SADC Council of Ministers was put in place. However, a few bottlenecks exist in some port corridors which has slowed implementation. It is to be noted that Nutrition situation remains of concern in the SADC region with seven countries (Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe).

26. As noted above, the southern region of Africa has been severely affected by El Nino phenomenon in terms of food insecurity due to the heavy floods and severe droughts. The most affected country, Malawi, has 2.8 million people directly affected by the food insecurity and facing hunger; 1.9 million in Madagascar of which 46% is food insecure and 450 000 of them in crisis situation; 1.5 million are facing hunger in Zimbabwe in which 600 000 are in crisis situation; 650 000 people in Lesotho (fifth of Lesotho's population) are food insecure due to the fact that water has been short in several districts and this has impacted the whole life in the country; 800 000 people in Zambia; 201 000 people in Swaziland; 1.25 million in Angola; and 370 316 in Namibia.

27. Malawi: The Humanitarian situation in Malawi has significantly improved from the last reporting period. The 9 month humanitarian response programme targeting 6.7 million people, in 24 out of the 28 districts of Malawi under the 2016 Food Insecurity Response Plan (FIRP) successfully ended on 31 March 2017 having started in July, 2016.

28. In the 2016/2017 agricultural season, current estimates point to a significant improvement in food security in many parts of the country. The National Food and Nutrition Security Annual Assessment and Analysis undertaken by the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC), will determine the food and nutrition requirements for the March 2017 to April, 2018 consumption period.

29. During the 2016/2017 consumption season 6.7 million people were affected by the food insecurity. Since people are harvesting the situation has changed. Malawi vulnerability Assessment is currently conducting an assessment of the food situation to determine number of people who will have food deficit.

30. The effect of climate change continue to weaken government's efforts, despite the Green belt initiative of Malawi, which gives priority to increase productivity of selected high value crops, including plans to increase rice production for both domestic consumption and export. However, the severity of the effect of climate change has stultified effectiveness of the initiatives and the country has declared a state of disaster emergency in districts affected by the prolonged dry spells of drought, with effect from 12 April 2016. At the same time an appeal for humanitarian relief assistance from the international donor community has made by the President and this remains less funded. As of 25 May 2016 and according to the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, 8.4 million Malawians will be food insecure during the 2016/2017 season.

WEST AFRICA REGION

31. Niger: 414 cases of meningitis, including 33 deaths, have been registered in Niger between January and February 2016. This exceeds significantly the number of cases recorded during the same period in 2015 (95 cases). Most of the cases are registered in the districts of Niamey, Tahoua, Tillabery and Dosso (South West of Niger). This outbreak is suspected to be caused by Group C meningitis bacteria. (ECHO, 8 Mar 2016). From 1 January to the end of February, Niger recorded 417 cases of meningitis, including 34 deaths. One district in the region of Niamey has reached the epidemic threshold, and two districts in the regions of Dosso and Tillabery have hit the alert level. This year, health authorities have identified 21 districts as being at risk. During the same period last year, around 100 cases had been recorded, rising to 345 by the end of March 2015. (OCHA, 14 Mar 2016).

32. Still on Niger, the country was recently affected on June 14 2016 by an unusually heavy rainfall in the Sahara Desert north of the country killing thousands of goats and cattle, gutting homes and stores, and left three people dead in Bazagor", a town in the northwestern province of Tchintabaradene. It also destroyed 100 stores and homes in Tele Sahel, hundreds of people have been left homeless with more than 8,000 goats, sheep, cattle and camel killed. . It should be noted that flooding is becoming cyclical in Niger. In 2012 it killed more than 100 people, affected more than half a million Nigeriens and caused at least 135 million euros (\$145 million) worth of damage, according to the disaster prevention office¹⁰.

¹⁰ AFP, 20 June 2016, Freak rainstorms wreak havoc in Niger desert

33. Nigeria: The North East of Nigeria still remains an area of serious concern. Nearly 1.5 million persons are still internally displaced despite the gains made by military authorities in recent times, as Boko Haram still creates a volatile situation in the Lake Chad Basin area.¹¹ The conflict has resulted in wide spread displacement, violation of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Laws, protection risks and a growing Humanitarian crisis. The conflict is now into its 8 year and it has shown no sign of abating. Humanitarian space is still very limited thereby making the delivery of humanitarian assistance including access to humanitarian workers impossible. Up to 2.1 million people fled their homes and about 1.8 million are currently internally displaced. In the three most affected states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe about 7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, 50% of whom are children. Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state and greater Maiduguri, has seen its population increase from 1 million to 2 million with the influx of people displaced for other area of the state. For these displaced population there is lack of access to livelihood's and resources. This situation has diminished the coping strategies amongst the displaced and host communities alike.

34. The food security situation has been further compounded by the fact that this is the third year in a row that farmers have been on neighbour to return to the land to planting season. This is due to the physical insecurity and the proliferation of improvised explosive devices which has prevented farmers to return to their plots. At the moment, more than 4.8 million people are now in urgent need of food assistance while 5.1 million are predicted to be food in secure if not supported by the humanitarian community in 2017.

III. AU AT THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

35. Africa participated in the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul from 23-24 May 2016 (52 out of its 54 member states attended- 96%) during which the AUC presented the Common African Position (CAP) on Humanitarian Effectiveness. The CAP was launched during the High Level Leaders' roundtable on Ending Need. The delegation of the African Union was led by the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission. In his opening remarks, he reiterated the primary role of the state in humanitarian action, emphasizing that states must build up their capacities to be able to predict humanitarian crisis and prevent human suffering by taking mitigating action against their consequences, guarantee the humanitarian space for the delivery of relief and assistance to the affected population.

36. The Common African Position is Africa's blue print on humanitarian action for the future and it is in line with Agenda 2063. It is a reform agenda which articulates African Union's doctrines and sets out a new approach to humanitarian action. It outlines the ideals and principles which underpins the implementation of the new architecture. The new paradigm is set in the context of a rapidly changing world, which has to contend with the effects of climate change, coupled with the impact of mega trends in humanitarian action affecting large populations. All these therefore, dictates that conscious projection has to be made for the future.

¹¹ IOM May 2016, Regional response situation Report

IV. FOURTH HUMANITARIAN SYMPOSIUM

37. The 4th AU Humanitarian Symposium, was held in Nairobi – Kenya from 28 to 30 November and the theme was around the implementation of the Common African Position. The Symposium deliberated on the draft 10 year Plan of Action with the objective of formulating an implementation action plan from the conclusions of the symposium. The plan of action strives to shift from norm setting to policy implementation, it hoped to leverage the elements contained in the common position to strengthen the role of the state in humanitarian action, reform the humanitarian architecture (including the creation of an African Humanitarian Agency), address root causes of humanitarian crises and scale up durable solutions and link humanitarian action to sustainable development.

V. ADOPTION OF AU'S NEW HUMANITARIAN ARCHITECTURE

38. The Assembly and Executive Council have over the years expressed concern on the growing impact of humanitarian crises and called for stronger measures and institutions. The call by the Assembly for better response to humanitarian crises has been expressed severally in Decisions and Declarations.

39. It acknowledged that AU needs a stronger humanitarian governance structures to be achieve effective coordination of humanitarian action on the continent. The existing structures remain ineffective due to resource constraints. Consequently, AU's ability and capacity to effectively coordinate and respond to humanitarian crises remains inadequate.

40. To address this problem, the Assembly in January 2016, adopted a new humanitarian architecture and called for a decade of humanitarian effectiveness, 2017 – 2026 and to be accompanied by a 10 years Action Plan to achieve Humanitarian Effectiveness in Africa by 2026.

41. AU's new Humanitarian Architecture, comprises the following tools and mechanisms:

- 1.** Humanitarian Policy Framework and its Guidelines
- 2.** Common African Position (CAP)
- 3.** African Humanitarian Agency

42. The new architecture aims at transforming Africa's humanitarian action to make it more relevant reliable and effective. It places emphasis is on strengthening the role of States, root causes and durable solutions than management of forced displacement situations and linking relief to development.

VI. JOINT PARTNERSHIP MISSION TO DROUGHT AFFECTED & FAMINE RISK COUNTRIES OF THE HORN OF AFRICA

43. The inaugural visit of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Mr. Moussa Mahamat Faki, was to Somalia and South Sudan in recognition of the importance

accorded to the humanitarian situation on the continent. The Chairperson, called for greater action to combat the effects of the consequences of drought as well as conflicts on the dire humanitarian situations in these countries. Similarly, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Anthonio Guettres' Call to Action in response and to prevent famine in drought affected countries in February 2017, both provided the impetus to organize a joint mission, co-led by UNOCHA and African Union Commission to Ethiopia and Somalia. The mission raised the awareness of the deteriorating situation particularly with regard to the consequences of drought and famine. With the composition of the mission including high level delegates from both development partners, non-traditional donor countries and humanitarian actors, the mission observed and assessed the challenges and needs of the humanitarian situations in Ethiopia and Somalia. It also explored partnership opportunities and financing options between the development and humanitarian sectors in order to accelerate response to drought and prevent famine.

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DECISION ON HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFRICA
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The Executive Council,

1. **NOTES WITH CONCERN** the rapidly changing humanitarian landscape and the growing complexity of humanitarian crises which is affecting millions of people across the continent;
2. **FURTHER EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** of the dire humanitarian situation of migrants in Mediterranean Sea trying to cross over to Europe;
3. **WELCOMES** the New York Declaration adopted at 71st Session of the UNGA and the commitment towards the adoption of a global compacts on refugees and on the safe and orderly migration, by 2018 and the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF) for large scale movements of refugees including tackling protracted situations;
4. **RECALLS** the various Decisions of the Executive Council and the Assembly on Alternative Sources of Financing the AU, and **REITERATES** the imperative need for predictable, reliable and sustainable resources to enable AU fulfil its humanitarian responsibilities and **CALLS ON** the Commission in collaboration with the PRC Sub-Committee on SEAF and PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons to organize a Donors'/Pledging Conference to raise resources to replenish the Special Emergency Fund for humanitarian response;
5. **CALLS ON** the Commission to work closely with the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs to organise a Return exercise for stranded African migrants in transit and destination countries in collaboration with International Organization for Migration (IOM);
6. **CALLS ON** Member States to take measures to shift from managing and responding to humanitarian crises as they occur to implement effective measures for preparedness and building resilience with effective measures for early warning and early response;
7. **RECONIZES** that 2019 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Situations in Africa and the 10th anniversary of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa; and calls on the Union to declare 2019 as the Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;

8. **CALLS ON** the African Union to work together with the Office of the United Nations Secretary General and the UNHCR to organize an activity that will bring global visibility to forced displacements in Africa.

2017

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