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**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE COMMISSION COVERING THE PERIOD
JULY TO DECEMBER 2011**

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FOREWORD

This report is the eight in the series that I have had the privilege to submit to your august Assembly. It is also the last that I am producing on behalf of the Commission which was elected by the Assembly in January 2008 and installed on 28 April 2008. It is therefore my pleasure to present this report; and I do so with a sense of legitimate pride, great satisfaction and profound gratitude.

Great pride and satisfaction because our mandate which is coming to an end, gave the outgoing Commission an opportunity to make its modest contribution to the edification of a new Africa, which is resolutely being built around the vision of "an Africa integrated, prosperous and peaceful, an Africa driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena." And pride and satisfaction because, over the past four years, we were totally devoted to achieving the major goals of our mission and the Strategic Plan 2009-2012 that we laid before the Assembly barely six months after we took office. Indeed, we take pride in our track record which we have always resolutely presented at every session of the Assembly of the Union since our first report in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in June 2008. The eight reports taken together highlight exhaustively all the efforts deployed and the actions that we undertook with determination to bring us, each day, ever closer to the realization of the Vision and Mission that the Assembly of the Union assigned to us.

Profound gratitude; and this we convey in a special way to all Member States for the manifold and unabated support which they unreservedly gave the Commission under my leadership, a support manifested not only through their financial contributions, but also through their availability and involvement in deepening the programmes and activities of the Union, all of which has enabled the Commission to present this honourable record of achievements. In fact, our watchword upon taking office was to work closely and in perfect synergy and symbiosis with the Member States principally through their Permanent Representatives in Addis Ababa. I am sincerely thankful to them, for, I am fully aware that no action can be sustainable in the Union without the total and unalloyed commitment and support of all Member States and with the widest possible consensus. We have also benefited a great deal from the support of the Executive Council, the invaluable guidance and encouragement of the Assembly of the Union, and the individual and well-informed advice given by all Heads of State and Government and Foreign Ministers, with whom we made it a duty to discuss all crucial issues of the moment, so as to move forward together in a common approach to resolving the said issues. Our gratitude also goes to other Organs of the Union, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), with which we have established relations of interaction and engaged in regular consultations to ensure that, in our various actions to address the multiple challenges facing the continent, we act in synergy with all our Member States in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity, complementarity and comparative advantage, thus avoiding dispersal and/or duplication of efforts in resolving our shared problems. I would like, finally, to express our gratitude to Africa's international partners with whom we have developed, in a spirit of mutual respect, relations of mutual trust and enriching interaction, partners who gave us their invaluable support as we strove to achieve the goals set forth in the four pillars of our Strategic Plan 2009-2016.

As underscored in this report, the Commission made significant progress in the implementation of the programmes outlined in the Strategic Plan 2009-2012 under its four pillars of: i) Peace and Security; ii) Integration, Development and Cooperation; iii) Shared Values, and iv) Institution and Capacity Building.

In the field of peace building and security in the continent, we worked closely with the Peace and Security Council which has always been proactive in addressing, expeditiously, conflict and crisis prevention, management and resolution issues. In conjunction with the Peace and Security Council, we were confronted in 2011 with a special situation - that of popular uprisings in North Africa. We needed, in that regard, to demonstrate a higher level of imagination to address the situations, given the fact that our doctrine on unconstitutional changes of government had not provided for such events, which placed constitutional legality in contradiction with necessary popular legitimacy. We need to further develop our instruments in this respect to ensure that sovereign peoples became, in all circumstances, the source and custodian of power, under a constitution legally put in place and through representatives they have themselves chosen.

I am glad at the remarkable progress made in the gradual establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture, in terms of the achievements of the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the Panel of the Wise and the Continental Early Warning System, as well as enhanced coordination between the AU and the RECs through the regional early warning and prevention mechanisms, the border demarcation/delimitation programme, the post-conflict reconstruction and development support programme, and the progress achieved in the sphere of security sector reform. Similarly, I welcome the joint action actively pursued with all Member States and other stakeholders to combat terrorism, weapons proliferation in the Sahel, North Africa and other regions, as well as drug trafficking and human trafficking, especially of women and children. Our action on the ground to help countries in conflict to peacefully resolve their differences continued to mobilize all our energy. In particular, we deployed sustained efforts to restore peace to Somalia, Darfur-Sudan and in other conflict zones. It is needful, at this juncture, to once again express commendations at the sacrifices made by countries like Uganda and Burundi, which were joined by Kenya and Djibouti in providing AMISOM with the means to assist, the institutions of the Transitional Government of Somalia in their efforts to rebuild this country ravaged by 20 years of war. This show of solidarity will be written in letters of gold to the glory of Africa, and deserves to be supported by the international community at large.

During the past four years, we developed and caused the adoption of instruments and mechanisms highly relevant to promoting democratic governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law. These Shared Values are indeed enshrined in several instruments adopted by the Assembly of the Union and these include: the African Charter on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights, the African Youth Charter, the African Charter on the Principles and Values of Public Service and Administration, as well as the African Women's Decade 2010-2012. It was in this context that the Year 2012 was proclaimed by the Assembly as Year of Shared Values, which constitute essential elements for establishment of sustainable peace in the continent. I appeal to

all Member States that have not yet done so, to sign, ratify and implement these important instruments, so that Africa as a whole, especially in 2012, a year dedicated to Shared Values, may adopt laws that protect the physical and social integrity of African citizens and all components of the society, and guarantee full enjoyment of fundamental rights in their countries. This can only foster national cohesion and the rule of law, and thereby prevent all forms of conflict which stem from non-respect for these rights.

The Commission continued to provide technical assistance to national institutions responsible for organizing elections to enable them to ensure honest, credible, free and transparent elections and avoid disputes over election results, since it is true that today elections unfortunately sometimes end up in violence. The objective should be to ensure peaceful and democratic devolution of power, the legality and legitimacy of which, as I said earlier, should be conferred by sovereign peoples. We also fielded observer missions to many countries that held elections in recent months and worked with the observer missions of other international, regional and local organizations to ensure the fairness of elections and offer appropriate advice.

With regard to integration, development and international cooperation, the Commission focused its efforts on the Union's flagship projects as set out in the Strategic Plan 2009-2012. My satisfaction is immense in regard to our most significant achievements, of which I can mention, notably: the launch of the Pan-African University that we initiated in 2009, the first three faculties of which will become operational effective from the 2012-2013 academic year; support to centres of excellence for vocational training; finalization of the studies on the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) including the studies on the Dakar-Djibouti and Djibouti-Libreville corridors; implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on air transport; the airport, railway, maritime and inland waterways inter-connectivity development projects; as well as the energy, telecommunications and ICT networks integration projects. In this same vein, CAADP is a source of pride for the Union, given that an increasing number of Member States have taken steps to implement the Programme pursuant to the commitments made at the Maputo Summit in July 2003. 25 States that I hereby commend, have signed the CAADP Compact, thus allowing them to benefit from the opportunities offered by the programme, develop their agriculture on a sustainable basis and ensure food self-sufficiency. On the environment, the Commission is satisfied to have provided African negotiators with all the needed assistance for the conduct of the negotiations on Climate Change. Africa went into the negotiations united, thanks to the guidance of the Union and the outstanding leadership of His Excellency Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia. This example of unity in action should inspire Africa during other international negotiations of strategic interest to our continent. In this regard, I am also pleased that Africa, under the leadership of H.E. President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo, will go united to the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development due to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. In the social, health, culture, science and technology fields, there has been a lot of achievements as mentioned in the report. Examples include the CARMMA Programme on the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality, the implementation of the African Regional Nutritional Strategy, the support programmes for implementation of the Abuja Declaration and Framework of Action on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Other

Related Infectious Diseases, population and reproductive health, sports development and youth guidance, promoting the rights of vulnerable people, etc...

With regard to international cooperation, the Commission is pleased that the voice of the Union is increasingly being heard and its place in the comity of nations recognized. May I point out that we now have the opportunity to project our voice in the G8 and G20. The Commission became a member of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) effective from this year and, recently, co-organizer of TICAD. Furthermore, the African Union is increasingly consulted by the organs of the UN system in all matters affecting the continent. It is however necessary for the Union to actively pursue its efforts in all forums where decisions on world affairs are taken, more specifically those forums that are concerned with the fate of our continent.

Because of the aforementioned ever-expanding missions devolving on the African Union of which the Commission is the executing agency, it has become necessary to invest sustained efforts in rendering the Commission capable of responding to the existing challenges. Thus, over the past four years, the focus has been on the introduction of new modern management tools not only to ensure rigorous, rational and transparent management of the scarce human, financial and material resources made available to the Commission but also to endow it with new knowledge to enable it to effectively perform the new tasks assigned to its staff, taking on board the new developments in the technological field as well as new practices and experiences. The driving principles behind this institutional transformation include: leadership, good internal governance, accountability, results-oriented culture, zero tolerance for waste and duplication, interdepartmental coordination and the thirst for excellence.

Numerous challenges remain. Indeed, 2011 was in many respects an extremely difficult year. We were faced with the management of complex situations: the Arab spring, the disputed election results in Côte d'Ivoire, the global economic and financial crisis, protest movements, natural disasters, drought and famine in the Horn of Africa and forced displacements. In the face of these difficulties, the Commission has always been proactive and did mobilize all Member States and other stakeholders to enable Africa to play its role and defend its positions in the quest for solutions to all the challenges. However, the Commission has to be provided with predictable, reliable and sustainable resources, commensurate with the scope of its many and ever-expanding missions. It is my sincere hope that the issue of innovative sources of funding for continental integration and peace consolidation operations will see a successful conclusion, bearing in mind that the statutory contributions to the Union budget have largely shown their limits, especially given the economic and financial crisis affecting most of our Member States and the fact that nearly 75% of the budget is provided by five major contributors. Additionally, we are striving to get our partners to accept the principle of providing budget support rather than making contributions towards specific activities that are not necessarily part of the priority programmes identified by the Union.

In conclusion, may I once again reiterate the Commission's unflinching commitment to promote ever better internal governance, ensure improved performance in a culture driven by the abiding quest for results at all levels of responsibility, and thus meet the legitimate expectations of Member States. Similarly, we are determined to pursue and strengthen our collaboration with all Member States, organs of the

Union, the RECs, all other stakeholders and our partners so that the objectives of the Union may be achieved in good time and in the best possible conditions. I trust that we can always count on our Member States' usual support for our efforts and I thank them once more for their multifaceted contributions, which have enabled us to achieve the many objectives assigned to the Commission.

Jean Ping
Chairperson, African Union Commission

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION COVERING THE PERIOD JULY - DECEMBER 2011

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the activities carried out by the Commission during the period July-December 2011. At the same time, it seeks to provide a brief overview of the accomplishments of the Commission elected in January 2008, over the past four years of its mandate.

2. During the period under review, the Commission actively pursued the implementation of Assembly and Executive Council decisions on the regional and continental integration agenda as well as the consolidation of peace and security on the continent, in keeping with the Commission's Strategic Plan 2009-2012 adopted by the Assembly of the Union. It is to be recalled that the Plan revolves around the following four strategic pillars: (i) peace and security, (ii) integration, development and cooperation, (iii) shared values, and (iv) institution and capacity building. Let me begin by expressing our profound gratitude to all our Member States and our international partners for their invaluable support towards achievement of our set objectives. In that connection, may I once again emphasise the vital need for Member States to assume greater ownership of the programmes of the Union; and, hence, to give unalloyed backing to the efforts deployed to secure reliable, predictable and sustainable resources for the uninterrupted funding of the flagship projects. These projects seek to speed up continental integration and enable Africa to put to full use its vast human and natural resources, make a rapid exit from its current state of underdevelopment, play its deserved role and take its rightful place in the concert of nations in a globalized world.

3. The past year witnessed a series of crucial events as well as significant political and socio-economic development in our countries, which prompted the African Union to invest extra efforts and to reflect on new approaches to the emerging challenges. For instance, in light of what is commonly referred to as the "Arab spring", the situation in North Africa led the Union to take fresh initiatives and adjust its doctrine on the devolution of constitutional power, particularly by integrating the dimension of the legitimacy of popular revolutions into our institutional architecture as a way to counter unconstitutional changes of government.

4. The theme of this Summit concerns an issue that is crucial for the continent's overall development, namely, Boosting Intra-African Trade. As part of its preparation, the Commission endeavoured to bring together inputs from key players, notably through the Africa Business Forum and other relevant experts' meetings, culminating in the African Union Conference of Ministers of Trade held in Accra, Ghana, last November. The outcomes of these meetings are expected to guide the thinking of our policymakers in making intra-African trade the spearhead not only of sustained economic growth in the continent but also of Africa's increased share of global trade. It is also noteworthy that this theme will dominate discussions and reflections throughout 2012, given the fact

that, in accordance with the Decision taken by the Assembly in Malabo last July, a single theme will, henceforth, be discussed each year, instead of one theme for each of the two annual summits, as has been the case in the past. This change will enable all the concerned officials of the continent to look deeply into an issue and give it substance during the year. It is expected that the next Summit to be held in Lilongwe, in June 2012, will again focus on this theme, particularly by carrying out a preliminary appraisal of the impact of the theme and of the actions taken or envisaged by Member States and other non-State actors to implement the Declaration arising from this Summit.

5. This report provides an overview of the activities undertaken, the outcomes realized and the challenges encountered under the aforementioned four pillars of the Strategic Plan, namely:

- Peace and Security;
- Integration, Development and Cooperation;
- Shared Values;
- Institution and Capacity Building

Peace and Security

6. Since the Malabo Summit of July 2011, the Commission has intensified its efforts at implementing the decisions of the Assembly and of the Peace and Security Council (PSC). As this Report relates in detail, the activities of the Commission focused on the “*Make Peace Happen*” Campaign, establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), implementation of the AU Border Programme (AUBP), the Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, security sector reform, combating terrorism, a scourge which apparently saw an upsurge due to the proliferation of weapons emanating mainly from Libyan military depots, disarmament and related issues, as well as strengthening partnership with the United Nations in the area of peace and security, a strategic partnership needless to say, on which a report on the AU’s vision had been submitted to the PSC for consideration and guidelines for future actions. I am gratified by the fact that all these activities were carried out in close collaboration and with the full support of all the concerned stakeholders, namely: the PSC, the Panel of the Wise, Member States, and all the other concerned partners, more particularly the United Nations. Similarly, the situations on the ground continued to engage the full attention of the Commission, which devoted sustained attention towards facilitating the resolution of conflicts and crises, and consolidating peace in post-conflict areas. In recent months, the Commission invested efforts, in close coordination with the other concerned actors, to provide support for the transitions resulting from the popular uprisings in North Africa.

7. As the Report amply shows, despite progress made on the ground, there are still many challenges to be overcome, such as the persistent deadlock in some conflict situations, the difficulties encountered in the effective implementation of existing peace agreements, as well as problems pertaining to peace consolidation.

8. In the context of intensified “*Make Peace Happen*” Campaign, the efforts deployed focused on devising a strategy with the aim of building new partnership

relations with the players on the ground, including mobilization of civil society and private sector organizations as well as media professionals in support of the Continent's peace agenda. Many consultations and retreats were held with these players to fine-tune the strategy. I would like, in this regard, to underscore the importance of one of the resolutions adopted at the consultations, which is the proposal to build at the Headquarters of the Organization a permanent Memorial for the victims of human rights violations, including genocide. I welcome the fact that the current session of the Assembly will be the auspicious occasion for laying of the foundation stone of the Memorial, in the margins of the inauguration of the Union's new Conference Complex.

9. Concerning the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, the Report fully describes the activities conducted by various organs, including the Peace and Security Council and the Panel of the Wise. Similarly, the Report reviews the progress made in the establishment of the African Standby Force and the Continental Early Warning System, and in strengthening the capacities of the regional mechanisms of RECs and their interaction with the Union's system, on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the AU and those Institutions in January 2008.

10. With regard to the African Union Border Programme (AUBP), the Commission continued to maintain contact with Member States so as to obtain the required information through responses to the questionnaire on the status of African borders, thus facilitating the establishment of a reference information system on the subject. I take this opportunity to call upon all Member States to cooperate in providing the information requested, thereby making it possible to establish a reliable databank that will facilitate the delimitation and demarcation of borders in the Continent. This Report gives an overview of the demarcation/delimitation actions that have already been successfully carried out in some regions of the Continent. The Commission also finalized the draft African Union Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation, and hopes that this important instrument would be approved by the Ministers in charge of border issues for submission to the competent organs of the Union in 2012.

11. Through this Report, the Commission gives an account of the efforts made in the area of conflict prevention, involving in-depth reflection on the structural prevention of the said conflicts. To that end, the Commission elaborated a draft Policy Framework on Conflict Prevention which will be submitted to the competent organs at the appropriate time. Similarly, the Commission actively pursued actions relating to post-conflict reconstruction and development, in line with the Assembly decisions and the recommendations made by the multidisciplinary missions that visited the countries concerned, namely: Central African Republic, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, South Sudan and The Sudan. A mission was also dispatched to Côte d'Ivoire last November to assess the needs of that country. The results of the visits will serve as the basis for the launch of the African Solidarity Initiative which the Commission plans to undertake in June 2012, on the side-lines of the Summit to be held in Lilongwe, Malawi.

12. The Report further covers the activities carried out in the realm of security sector reform, preventing and combating terrorism, disarmament and weapons proliferation in the Sahel and North Africa regions, issues which led the Commission in recent months to enter into consultation with Member States and other partners, chief among which being the United Nations, with a view to strengthening actions coordination, in light of the new challenges facing the Continent in all those areas.

13. The Commission pursued its follow up activities in respect of the Prodi Report on United Nations support to African Union peacekeeping operations, as well as the partnership between the AU and the entire United Nations and the relations with all other international partners in that area, the strengthening of which will always be on the Commission's agenda. On this issue, it is important to once again underscore the need to go beyond logistics support and assistance and to fully cover the proposed vision of a meaningful UN-AU political and strategic partnership on all issues of mutual interest in the areas of peace and security.

14. As regards support to peace processes and conflict areas in Africa, the Commission continued to deploy appropriate efforts, working closely with the stakeholders in the Member States concerned.

15. The Report provides a detailed account of the unfolding situation as at the time of its preparation, in The Comoros, Madagascar and Somalia; developments in the Horn of Africa including the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea on one hand, and Djibouti and Eritrea on the other hand; issues pertaining to the relations between The Sudan and South Sudan; Darfur and efforts deployed by the AU on those issues. The Report further dwells on the unfolding situation in Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, the Regional Cooperation Initiative against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), Chad-Sudan relations, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Republic of Guinea and Guinea Bissau. It also reviews developments in the popular uprisings in North Africa, as well as the unfolding situation in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. Lastly, the Report covers developments in the situation in Western Sahara.

16. In general, the African Union, through its numerous efforts, sought to find solutions to on-going conflicts and crisis in the Continent. It is crucial that these efforts should be supported by all Member States and international partners, thereby giving meaning to the motto "African solutions to African problems". We need to continue to work even more closely with Member States and international partners in this area, and to this end, leave no stone unturned to take up the challenges on behalf of Africa with our own home-grown solutions rather than with solutions imposed from outside the Continent, to lay a solid foundation for peace and security in all our countries. In this regard, our conflict prevention and resolution doctrines cannot be more relevant and appropriate; and as the Cairo seminar experts pointed out, we have a greater need to effectively implement our instruments and decisions than to establish new ones. Indeed, it is through effective implementation of the Constitutive Act, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and its Protocols, the African Charter on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights, the Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, the African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration, the Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government including

combating the resurgence of *coups d'état*, and many other instruments adopted by the Union in keeping with the Shared Values, that Africa can definitively extricate itself from conflict and crises situations which hamstring its development efforts.

Integration, development and cooperation

17. As is customary, this report provides an update on the activities undertaken under the three vital aspects of this second pillar of the Strategic Plan: integration, development and cooperation. During the period under review, the Commission intensified efforts to implement the action plans in all strategic areas with continental coverage, particular emphasis being placed on human capital development through education, human resource training, culture and science and technology promotion, in close cooperation with Member States, the RECs and development partners. The report also gives account of the launch of the first three faculties of the Pan-African University which took place in Addis Ababa, at the headquarters of the AU on 14 December this year. I welcome the fact that this project launched in 2009 at the initiative and under the leadership of the current Commission, will materialize as from the 2012/2013 academic year with the opening of three faculties (the Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences to be based in Nigeria, the Faculty of Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation based in Kenya and the Faculty of Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences, in Cameroon). As for the Faculty of Water and Energy Sciences, including Climate Change, which goes to Algeria for the North African region, necessary arrangements will be made for it to start without delay. Southern Africa, for its part, is hereby requested to communicate the outcome of the consultations regarding the country of the region to host the Faculty of Space Sciences, so that the Faculty could start operating as soon as possible. It is noteworthy that prior to the launch, experts from different parts of the continent and the Diaspora, as well as other partners, had developed curricula for Masters and Doctorate Degrees in the aforesaid faculties.

18. In the continued implementation of the Action Plan of the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015), the Commission focused on higher education harmonization programmes in Africa, the African Union Scholarship Programme known as the "Mwalimu Nyerere" African Union Scholarship Scheme which involves 28 African universities and seeks to promote students' academic mobility for Masters and Doctorate degree programmes. I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the European Union for supporting this programme, which has been really successful in attracting the ever-increasing interest of our young academicians. Moreover, through the 10th EDF, EU also provides valuable financial support for research grants in the fields of agriculture, new and renewable energies, climate and sanitation. May I also thank the Government of India, which, as part of the Africa-India partnership, not only grants postgraduate scholarships in agricultural science, but also supports the establishment and operationalization of 10 technical and vocational education and training (TVET) centres for each of the five African regions.

19. The Commission intensified its efforts in the fields of health and hygiene, with special emphasis on the operationalization of the African Regional Nutritional Strategy, on the monitoring within Member States of the implementation of the "Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Services and other infectious diseases in Africa", as well as on population and reproductive health matters. Noteworthy in this regard is the increased interest in the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Infant and Child mortality in Africa (CARMMA), which was the theme of the Kampala Summit of July 2010. The 25 Member States that have already launched CARMMA at national level have also prepared road maps in furtherance of this campaign. We wholeheartedly welcome this development and while we congratulate the States concerned, I take this opportunity to appeal to all Member States that have not yet done so to act quickly to implement the actions agreed upon at the Kampala Summit, actions which have since been repeatedly reaffirmed by the Assembly of the Union. Under this same chapter on health, the report sets out the actions taken by the African Population Commission which held its 8th session in Addis Ababa in September. At that session, it adopted the 2010 State of Africa Population Report. In addition, the Commission addressed issues regarding the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa, e-health and tele-medicine harmonization programmes through creation of networks of experts on the subject as part of implementation of the Africa Health Strategy 2007-2015. The Commission also initiated actions in pursuance of implementation of the AU Decade on Traditional Medicine (2011-2020).

20. With regard to human and social welfare issues, this report provides an overview of activities designed to promote implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in close cooperation with the African Committee of Experts tasked to monitor the Charter, activities for the promotion of the rights and welfare of vulnerable groups, including the elderly and people with disabilities, as well as of efforts to restructure the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI). The activities covered also include implementation of the Plan of Action on Ageing, the extension and popularization of the policy framework for social development in Africa, implementation of the Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention, promotion of labour and employment policies and the campaign against trafficking in human beings, with particular emphasis on protection of women and children. Regarding specifically the issue of managing migration issues, the Commission is submitting to the current sessions a report on the African Institute for Remittances from the Diaspora so that Council may give the necessary guidance on this important initiative that not only can generate additional resources for origin countries and African families, but also ensure greater involvement by the African Diaspora in the continent's development efforts. Pursuant to implementation of the Youth Charter and the Plan of Action for the Decade for Youth Development 2009-2018, actions have been proposed to reduce under-employment particularly for youth and women, especially the establishment of the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps, and the revitalization of and capacity building for the Pan-African Youth Union.

21. In the areas of infrastructure and energy, the report provides an update on actions taken by the Commission to implement the policies and strategies defined by the competent Organs of the Union, as well as the on-going programmes and projects adopted by the said Organs. Particular emphasis was placed in recent months on the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and the establishment of the Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa (IAID). This report thus presents an account of the status of the identified projects, such as, for example, the pre-feasibility studies on the missing links in the Dakar-

Ndjamena-Djibouti and Djibouti-Libreville Corridors. It also gives an update on the six projects endorsed on 20 December this year under the Africa-EU partnership comprising the operationalization of the Executing Agency of the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalisation of Access to Air Transport Markets in Africa, and feasibility studies for the projects: the Beira-Lobito Corridor, the Gambia Bridge, the Cotonou-Niamey-Ouagadougou-Abidjan railway and the regional transport study project for Central Africa.

22. In the field of energy, the report outlines the activities regarding the Regional Geothermal Programme, the establishment of a Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility for East Africa, the Design and Validation of Study Reports and Training Workshops under the Technical Assistance funded by the European Union (EU) and, in general, the discussions on energy within the EU-Africa partnership.

23. In terms of telecommunications, posts and information and communication technologies, the report sets forth the actions taken in the context of harmonization of policies and regulations in these areas as well as the implementation status of the Pan-African e-Network for tele-medicine and tele-education.

24. The report then makes an appraisal of the state of implementation of flagship projects in agriculture, livestock and rural development. In this context, the actions of our specialized offices covered the following areas: the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme, the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism, as well as activities in the areas of plant protection, the African Land Policy Initiative, livestock promotion and capacitating agricultural producers, tsetse fly control and veterinary vaccines production.

25. As regards environmental and natural resource protection, the actions of the Commission focused on preparations for the COP 17, held in Durban, Republic of South Africa, from 28 November to 10 December 2011. In this regard, the Commission gave its full support to African negotiators. The outcomes of COP17 will be presented to the Assembly of the Union by H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Coordinator for Africa at the negotiations. Other actions were taken by the Commission, as the report indicates, in the areas of disaster risk reduction, the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) Programme, the cross-border management of forests, the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and Sahel Initiative and capacity building for multilateral environmental agreements negotiations.

26. Through this report, the Commission presents an account of the G8 and G20 Summits follow-up activities, particularly the Summit held in Deauville, France, in May 2011, where commitments were made by this Group in various fields including peace, security and governance, development issues including economic growth, regional integration, climate change, energy access, accountability, mutual responsibility, etc. The fact remains that promises made are often not redeemed. Once again, it is needful to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the numerous past commitments and of mutual accountability especially with regard to financial support in the areas identified by previous Summits, the level of official development assistance, human resource development in priority sectors such as health and education as well as AIDS control. It is also necessary to put in place a credible mechanism for assessing the

implementation of the commitments that will be made at the forthcoming meetings of the G8. Moreover, the lack of fair and effective representation of Africa at the G20 Summit has continued to constitute a priority concern for the Union in its bid to defend the fundamental interests of the continent in this important forum, and thus enable Africa to play its rightful role in the management of world affairs.

27. As regards agriculture, the report focuses mainly on the implementation of the CAADP flagship programme and on progress made in this area. I welcome the fact that, since the last Summit held in Malabo in June, five other Member States have joined the 25 States which had already signed in to CAADP Compact, thus placing them in a position to enjoy the related benefits. I am also pleased that 21 of the 30 States listed in the report have completed the formulation of investment plans within the framework of CAADP and that 15 of the States concerned have already entered the stage of negotiating the financing arrangements for their investment plans.

28. As indicated earlier, and as part of capacity building in the area of trade, the Commission made all the necessary preparations in respect of the theme of this Summit, that is, Boosting Intra-African trade. The draft Declaration presented by the Conference of Trade Ministers held in Accra, Ghana, last November could, when adopted, guide the Commission in monitoring this issue that is crucial to the Continent's development. Drawing on the practices and experiences of the RECs in the area of customs cooperation, the Commission developed a draft Protocol on Transit, which will be submitted at the appropriate time to the competent bodies [to facilitate trade between Member States]. It is also to be noted that the Commission made inputs to the preparations for Africa's effective participation in the deliberations of the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Geneva in December 2011.

29. Regarding the role of civil society and diaspora players as well as all other actors expected to participate in accelerating the integration process, I would like to point out that the Commission continued to deploy efforts to involve all actors in Union programmes. With respect to the Diaspora in particular, the Commission organized a ministerial meeting in New York on 24 September 2011 in preparation for the next Diaspora Summit due to be held in South Africa on 25 May 2012. It also organized a high-level consultation with certain members of the Diaspora on 26 November to chart the way forward for greater Diaspora involvement in Union programmes. The Commission has continued to facilitate African civil society participation in the activities of the Union and to lend its full support to ECOSOCC. May I further point out that in the bid to get African intellectuals to be more involved in the work of the Union, the Commission organized the Second Congress of African Economists in Abidjan to get them join forces to explore the ways and means to accelerate the development and integration of the continent.

30. With regard to partnerships, the Commission invested efforts in further strengthening existing partnerships with the rest of the world pursuant to the relevant decisions of the Assembly. The report thus sets forth the activities undertaken during the past months, especially the second meeting of the African Union Commission-Organization of American States (OAS) Forum on the Promotion and Defence of Democracy and Human Rights in Africa and the Americas (Addis Ababa, 12-13 October

2011), the Eighth Meeting of Senior Officials of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in Hangzhou, China, from 25 to 29 October 2011, the Thirteenth Meeting of the Joint EU-Africa Working Group held in Addis Ababa on 19 October 2011 and the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Board of the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDA), held in Tunis, Tunisia, on 11 and 12 November 2011.

31. The report describes the main activities undertaken by our external missions in recent months.

Shared Values

32. The Commission stepped up its efforts at promoting the Union architecture for democratic governance. In this regard, it pursued its advocacy actions vis-à-vis Member States and other stakeholders for the signing and ratification of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. Compared to the situation that prevailed during the Malabo Summit last July, the number of ratifications has risen from eight to twelve, while to date 38 Member States have signed the Charter. I avail myself of this opportunity to, once again, make an urgent appeal to all Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify this important Charter, bearing in mind that the Assembly of the Union proclaimed 2012 as the "Year of Shared Values." The year indeed offers all Africans the opportunity to share the values that place humans at the centre of a well-being lived in freedom, full respect for the most basic human rights, fraternity and harmony among peoples.

33. The Commission waged a campaign to raise awareness among Member States and other stakeholders to facilitate and speed up the signing and ratification of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration adopted by the Assembly at its January 2011 session. I take this opportunity to appeal to Member States to sign and ratify this important instrument. In addition, the conclusions of the Conference of AU Ministers of Public Service held in Nairobi in May 2011 have been submitted for the attention of the present session of the Executive Council. At that Conference, the Ministers adopted crucial policy documents, especially a long-term strategy framework for implementation of the programme on governance and public administration in Africa. The Commission has embarked on a thorough review of the framework and the synergies necessary to facilitate implementation of the legal instruments and the decisions on the consolidation of democratic culture and governance. For this reason, and as pointed out in this report, it is vital to create the necessary synergies between the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the African Union Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). The report further underscores the need for regular evaluation of the measures taken by Member States for ownership of the commonly shared values as enshrined in our Charters, and incorporate them into their national legislation.

34. With regard to local governance, Council will, at the current session, receive a report of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Decentralization and Local Governance held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 8 to 11 August 2011. This Conference is seeking to be integrated into the structures and processes of the African Union.

35. Regarding election observation and monitoring, the report provides an overview of observation activities conducted by the Union in the following Member States: Zambia, Liberia, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Tunisia, Sao Tome and Principe, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and The Gambia. It is worthy of note that, In general, there has been significant improvement in the organization of elections. However, the process needs to be further consolidated because of the many logistical and structural challenges that have emerged, and efforts still need to be deployed to create a conducive environment to bring all political actors to participate fully in electoral process and to accept with confidence the verdict of the ballot box. It is indeed unacceptable that elections organized in the bid to establish constitutional legality and the legitimacy of people's power won through the ballot box, should culminate in fratricidal conflicts, as has sometimes been the case. Drawing on the weaknesses identified during the observation of various elections, the Commission will, for its part, continue to provide assistance to national institutions for organization of elections within the limits of its resources, in order to help them improve the relevant norms and standards in this area.

36. With regard to human rights, the Commission continues to support the work of national institutions involved in the protection of human rights, in close coordination with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). The African Human Rights Strategy has been widely disseminated to all stakeholders so that they could take ownership thereof and thus ensure its implementation. A guide has been developed for this purpose to facilitate domestication of this strategy by all relevant stakeholders.

37. In the field of humanitarian affairs, the report provides an update on the situation of refugees and displaced persons in the various regions as well as the efforts undertaken by the Commission and the PRC Sub-Committee responsible for these issues to lend assistance, albeit modest, to these needy people. The Commission continued to deploy efforts to encourage the signing and ratification of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons. May I, once again, appeal to all Member States to sign and ratify this important Convention if they have not already done so.

38. In August 2011, we witnessed a solidarity surge that we would like to welcome in a very special way. At the initiative of the Commission, a pledging conference for victims of severe drought and famine in the Horn of Africa was convened. It mobilized many Member States, non-member States, international organizations and individuals who generously contributed over US\$ 350 million in cash and US\$ 28 million in kind. This was a gesture of solidarity that left an indelible mark worldwide and should be encouraged for the future.

39. During the reporting period, the Commission continued to implement the relevant decisions of the Assembly, including the establishment of mechanisms for implementation of the programmes under the African Women's Decade 2010-2020. The Commission also conducted an awareness-raising campaign among Member States and development partners in support of the Fund that was set up with an initial outlay of 1% of the Union budget. I further wish to mention that the Commission continued to

conduct its outreach activities vis-à-vis Member States and all stakeholders for implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.

40. The field of culture was marked by two main activities during the reporting period, namely, the launch of a feasibility study for establishment of the African Film Commission and of the Campaign for African Cultural Renaissance for SADC Member States.

41. This report gives an update on the status of signing and ratification of the 42 treaties adopted by the OAU/AU, noting that, to date, only 25 of the said treaties have entered into force. I therefore avail myself of this opportunity to appeal to Member States to take appropriate steps to implement their commitments in respect of the legal instruments adopted by the Assembly of the Union. There is still the need to harmonize the ratification procedures so that treaties adopted by the Assembly could be ratified within a reasonable timeframe and be effectively implemented at national level. This will only enhance the credibility of the Union.

Strengthening of Union Institutions

42. This report presents an account of the efforts that the Commission continues to deploy to build its capacity, thereby enabling it to meet its ever-expanding mission. Since taking office, the Commission has sought to promote a management driven by specific and measurable objectives that require all its structures to yield equally tangible and measurable outcomes in relation to the actions undertaken and the resources invested. To this end, it introduced substantial reforms in its operating system through capacity building in all its component services. The results outlined in this report cover varied fields such as: better inter-departmental coordination, human resource management and development, administrative support services, financial management and budgeting, strategic planning and monitoring as well as programmes appraisal, better management of conference services, auditing and development of an organizational culture conducive to better performance and efficiency.

43. The aim of these reforms is not only to promote good internal governance and transparent management of the scarce human and financial resources at the Commission's disposal, but also to ensure accountability as rightfully expected by AU Member States. The Commission has fine-tuned its instruments and working methods, thus enabling it to assess on regular basis at its weekly meetings held every Tuesday, the level of implementation of agreed programmes and the activities undertaken by the Union. At the said meetings, the Commission has consistently issued pertinent directives on procedures to be followed, for the attention of all its internal structures.

44. The reform programme instituted to improve the management and audit systems, such as the IMIS and AMERT projects, currently helps the Commission to measure the performance level of the different structures. This has no doubt helped to reassure all Member States and partners of the Union and encourage them to provide direct budget assistance to our programmes, instead of the current *ad hoc* contributions made towards specific projects or activities that they themselves would have decided to support. Negotiations to establish a Partners' Common Fund are underway and we are

confident that the instrument that we are expecting could be signed as soon as possible. I would like, at this juncture, to express our profound gratitude to all Member States and all our partners who have always accompanied us in the development of numerous programmes for implementation of the Strategic Plan. For its part, the Commission remains determined to promote even further the transparent management of resources placed at its disposal.

II. PEACE AND SECURITY

45. The promotion of peace and security continued to be the central focus of the efforts of the Commission and other competent AU organs. In that context, and pursuant to the relevant decisions of the Assembly of the Union and the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the Commission continued with the efforts initiated within the framework of the '*Make Peace Happen*' campaign, operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), and implementation of the AU Border Programme (AUBP), the Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, and actions concerning security sector reform. Combating terrorism, in a context marked by an upsurge of the scourge, and concerns over the proliferation of weapons emanating from Libyan military depots, also continued to be the subject of sustained attention. Similarly, many initiatives were taken in the area of disarmament. Lastly, the Commission continued to follow up on the issue of partnership between the AU and the United Nations in the area of peace and security, having set out, in a report submitted to the PSC, its strategic vision for the said partnership.

46. The Commission's actions were obviously dominated by the situations on the ground. The actions involved facilitating the resolution of crises and conflicts in the Continent, as well as consolidating peace where it had been achieved. They also concerned support for the transitions resulting from the popular uprisings in North Africa. Although progress was made in the quest for peace, security and stability, there are still many challenges to be overcome, be it in terms of the persistent deadlocks in some conflict situations and the difficulties encountered in the implementation of peace agreements, or the problems pertaining to the consolidation of peace.

II.1 MAKE PEACE HAPPEN CAMPAIGN

47. As a follow-up to decision Assembly/AU/Dec.339.(XVI) of January 2011 on the sustainability programme of the Year of Peace and Security (YoPS) in Africa, the Commission has pursued the *Make Peace Happen Campaign*. In this respect, a strategy aimed at building an innovative partnership with civil society and the private sector for the mobilization of resources in support of the AU peace and security agenda was elaborated. It will be submitted, for validation, to a stakeholders' meeting in early 2012. Furthermore, the Commission, in cooperation with the Government of Egypt, the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), the Cairo Regional Centre for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peace-keeping in Africa (CCCPA) and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), convened the 2nd AU High-Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa, in Cairo, from 4 to 5 September 2011. The Retreat, which was devoted to the theme "Strengthening Political

Governance for Peace, Security and Stability in Africa”, agreed that focus for the AU should no longer be on the adoption of additional instruments on governance, unless exceptional circumstances so require, but rather on the implementation of the existing ones.

48. On 21 September 2011, the Commission marked the International Day of Peace, “Peace Day”. On this occasion, the Commission, OXFAM and AU Monitor jointly organized a two-day training of civil society organizations on AU decision-making processes and APSA. This was followed, from 2 to 4 November 2011, in Addis Ababa, by a high-level media workshop on AU’s peace efforts, which brought together a number of journalists and communication experts. The workshop resulted in the establishment of a Media Network for Peace (*NetPeace*). Efforts are also underway for the establishment of an AU website dedicated to peace and security issues, in order to enhance outreach activities.

49. In my January 2010 report to the Assembly on the YoPS, I indicated that, among other activities planned to celebrate the YoPS, the Commission would *“initiate steps to build a permanent Memorial to the victims of human rights violations, including genocide, within the AU headquarters”*. As a follow up, the Commission convened in Addis Ababa, on 4 and 5 November 2011, a consultative meeting, to discuss modalities for building the proposed Memorial. Organized in partnership with Justice Africa and building on an earlier meeting in November 2010, the consultation, which brought together a number of stakeholders, agreed on the practical steps to be taken. I am pleased to indicate that the foundation stone of the Memorial will be unveiled during the present session of the Assembly on the occasion of the commissioning of the new AU Conference Complex.

50. The site of the Conference Complex has a unique historical significance. Between 1935 and 2005, it was occupied by the Addis Ababa Central Prison known as *Alem Bekagn*, “Farewell to the world.” In 1937, it was the main location of the “Graziani Massacre,” in which the Italian fascist Governor rounded up and killed the cream of the Ethiopian elite in retribution for an attempt on his life. Under Emperor Haile Selassie, *Alem Bekagn* was the prison in which both common criminals and political prisoners were interned. Immediately following the 1974 Revolution, the prison was the site for the execution and burial of sixty Ministers from the Imperial Government. It gained notoriety for the large-scale imprisonment, torture and execution of thousands of Ethiopians during the days of the Derg Regime, especially the Red Terror atrocities of 1977-78. When the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) forces took control of Addis Ababa, in 1991, it liberated the prisoners. The land was subsequently handed over to the AU for the expansion of its Headquarters in 2005.

II.2 OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE (APSA)

51. As Council is aware, from July to October 2010, the AU, in conjunction with the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs) and the European Union (EU), conducted a

study to assess the progress achieved in the operationalization of the APSA and the challenges ahead, with a view to identifying further priorities and capacity needs, both at the AU and within the RECs/RMs. At their meeting held in Zanzibar on 8 November 2010, the Chief Executives of the AU and the RECs/RMs adopted the Indicative Elements of the Roadmap for the Operationalization of APSA for the period 2011 – 2013. The meeting of Senior Officials of the AU and RECs/RMs held in Nairobi, from 2 to 4 August 2011, finalized the Roadmap, which is an all-inclusive document that adopts a holistic view of the APSA, while also reflecting emerging peace and security challenges on the continent. It is accompanied by an Action Plan, which translates the elements contained in the Roadmap into concrete activities with the corresponding budget costs.

52. During the period under review, the operationalization of APSA continued to be one of the main priorities of the Commission. Progress was made with respect to its various components.

a) Peace and Security Council (PSC)

53. The PSC has continued to proactively discharge its mandate. As at the time of finalizing this report, the PSC had held 305 sessions. As the mandate of the members of the PSC elected for a two-year term will come to an end in April 2012, the present session of the Executive Council is expected to proceed with the election of ten new members. As is customary, a separate report on the activities of the PSC and the state of peace and security in Africa has been submitted to the Assembly.

b) African Standby Force (ASF)

54. Efforts to operationalize the ASF have continued within the context of the Declaration of the 4th ordinary meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Security and Safety (STCDSS), which took place in Addis Ababa on 7 December 2010. The period under review was marked by the convening of the 5th ordinary meeting of the STCDSS in Addis Ababa, on 26 October 2011. Notably, the meeting endorsed Roadmap III for the ASF, which provides that the Force will attain full operational capability by 2015. The Ministers took advantage of their meeting to attend the launching ceremony of AMANI AFRICA II, which took place in the afternoon of 26 October 2011. This new cycle will capitalise on the capacity already built and the lessons learnt from the first AMANI AFRICA cycle to both contribute towards and validate the operational readiness of the ASF by 2015. Whereas the first AMANI AFRICA cycle culminated in a simulation Command Post Exercise (CPE), the new training cycle will go further by conducting a full-fledged Field Training Exercise (FTE), at the end of the cycle.

55. Today, more than ever before, there is need for the continent to step up its efforts to ensure the full operationalization of the ASF by 2015. Roadmap III outlines the necessary steps to be taken to that end. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the East African Standby Force Coordination Mechanism (EASFCOM), for having deployed military staff officers to AMISOM, in Mogadishu, following an MoU signed with

the Commission. This step is highly symbolic as it marked the first-ever deployment of a Regional Standby Force component of the ASF.

c) Continental Early Warning System (CEWS)

56. The Commission has pursued its efforts towards the full operationalization of the CEWS, as provided for in the PSC Protocol and the Framework for the Operationalization of CEWS, which was endorsed by the Executive Council in January 2007. These efforts have focused on three areas, namely data collection, data analysis, and coordination and collaboration with RECs/RMs and other stakeholders. From 21 to 23 September 2011, the Commission convened the 9th technical meeting on early warning with the RECs/RMs, in Accra, hosted by ECOWAS. A joint training on data collection and analysis tools was also conducted, back-to-back with the meeting. The Commission also provided technical assistance for the establishment of the early warning systems of the EAC and COMESA during visits undertaken in October and November 2011.

d) Panel of the Wise

57. The Panel of the Wise undertook a number of activities in pursuit of its mandate as stipulated in the PSC Protocol. From 6 to 8 October 2011, a delegation of the Panel including representatives of RECs and other organizations to which the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a member visited Kinshasa. The visit, which was carried out on the eve of the presidential and legislative elections of 28 November 2011, was part of the follow-up to the report of the Panel on election-related violence and conflict. From 6 to 8 November 2011, members of the Panel joined me during the visit I undertook to DRC, to stress the importance that the AU attaches to the smooth conduct of elections.

58. On 6 and 7 December 2011, the Panel of the Wise held its 11th meeting in Zanzibar, during which it reviewed the state of peace and security in Africa. The meeting was preceded, from 5 to 6 December 2011, by a workshop on the theme: *“Strengthening political governance for peace, security and stability in Africa”*, which was opened by the Tanzanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Bernard Membe. I would like to seize this opportunity to express my most sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Tanzanian Government and people, as well as to the authorities of Zanzibar, for their warm welcome and for all the facilities provided for the successful holding of these two events. The workshop was a follow-up to the declaration of the 275th meeting of the PSC, held in Addis Ababa, on 26 April 2011, which requested the Panel to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing mechanisms relating to democratization and governance in Africa, in order to make concrete recommendations to the PSC, in the context of the popular uprisings in North Africa.

e) Memorandum of Understanding between the AU and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs)

59. Progress has continued to be made in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the Area of Peace and Security between the

AU and the RECs/RMs that was signed on 28 January 2008. The MoU provides for the establishment of Liaison Offices to facilitate coordination and cooperation between the parties. With the exception of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), all the RECs/RMs have sent their Liaison Officers to Addis Ababa. On its part, the Commission is finalizing the recruitment process for its Liaison Offices to the RECs/RMs, which are expected to be operational in the first quarter of 2012.

60. From 3 to 4 December 2011, in Zanzibar, the AU and RECs/RMs held a meeting of Senior Officials to discuss the status of operationalization of APSA and to agree on key activities to be undertaken in this respect, in 2012. The meeting prepared the relevant documents to be discussed by the Chief Executives during their meeting scheduled for January 2012 in Addis Ababa. It should be noted that the operationalization of APSA is largely funded by the EU under the African Peace Facility (APF). To this effect, the AU, RECs/RMs and the EU have designed the APSA Support Programme, with an envelope of €40 million drawn from the capacity building component of the second APF. The programme commenced on 1 May 2011 and will run for a period of 44 months.

II.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU BORDER PROGRAMME

61. At its Malabo Summit, I briefed the Assembly on the implementation of the AU Border Programme (AUBP). On its part, the Assembly, having welcomed the significant progress made in the implementation of the AUBP, decided, on basis of the recommendation made by the Commission, to postpone the initial deadline for the completion of the delimitation/demarcation of all African borders, where such an exercise has not yet been completed, from 2012 to 2017.

62. The Commission has undertaken various activities in the area of delimitation and demarcation. As part of the survey of African borders, a reminder was sent out to those Member States that have not yet submitted this critical information needed to determine the resources that would be required to define all African boundaries within the new deadline of 2017. The Commission has, concurrently, moved ahead to extract data from the responses received so far to the questionnaire on the status of African borders to establish a Boundary Information System (BIS), which will serve as a depository of information on all African borders.

63. Since July 2011, significant progress has been made in the area of land and maritime delimitation and demarcation. Regarding land demarcation, the remaining 200 km of the 1303 km Mali-Burkina Faso boundary has now been completed. Reaffirmation exercises are on-going between Mozambique and some of its neighbours, namely Zambia (272 km out of 330km), Tanzania (51 km out of 51 km) and Malawi (268 km out of 888 km), as well as between Malawi and Zambia (740 km out of 805 km). Measures are being taken to support demarcation exercises between Mali and Senegal, and between Zambia, the DRC and Tanzania. Similarly, notable achievements were made in the delimitation of the maritime boundary between Comoros and Mozambique, Comoros and Tanzania, Comoros and Seychelles, and between Seychelles and Mauritius.

Following the completion of these delimitation exercises, bilateral agreements were signed in Maputo, on 5 December 2011, by Comoros, Mozambique and Tanzania, under the auspices of the AUBP. I commend the three countries and their leaders for this achievement. The Commission is also planning to assist Comoros, Seychelles and Tanzania to sign similar agreements for their maritime boundaries. The AUBP also took part in the joint review and planning meeting of pilot countries (Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia) that took place in Chipata, Zambia, in early December 2011. Furthermore, the AUBP, in consultation with the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP), is playing a key role in the demarcation of the boundary between the Republics of Sudan and South Sudan.

64. The Commission has finalized the African Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation, which was expected to be presented to the Ministers in charge of Border Issues, in December 2011. The meeting has now been rescheduled for early 2012. Moreover, the AUBP, in partnership with GIZ, financially and materially supported the building of a community health centre on the border between Mali and Burkina Faso, which will be inaugurated in early 2012. The Commission was also involved in the establishment of a network for cross-border cooperation among Member States in West Africa to facilitate resource mobilization for cross-border initiatives.

65. In the area of capacity building, the AUBP, in July 2011, organized, jointly with the UNDP's Human Security Project, a workshop on enhancing border management in Africa. As a result, a strategy and a curriculum on enhancing border management in Africa were designed. In September 2011, the AUBP held a workshop on lessons learned and best/good practices in delimitation and demarcation. Besides the development of a User's Guide in Delimitation and Demarcation, a training course will also be designed and offered to the Member States. The Commission is also developing a User's Guide in Establishing and Running National Boundary Commissions, a Mechanism for Preventing and Resolving Border Disputes in Africa, and a database of experts in boundary demarcation, border management and resolution of border disputes. Furthermore, the Commission has entered into arrangements with most of the former colonial powers to facilitate access to colonial documents related to African borders.

66. Besides the GIZ, which is the major partner of the AUBP, other sources of support for the above activities came from the United Kingdom with respect to the support to Sudan and South Sudan, as well as from the UNDP that funded capacity building workshops. The Commission is currently exploring possibilities of partnerships with the EU and other donors to support the growing list of activities the AUBP is being called upon to undertake.

II.4 CONFLICT PREVENTION

67. Conflict prevention is central to the concept and design of the APSA, both institutionally and normatively. The establishment of the CEWS and the Panel of the Wise, as well as the preventive aspects of the mandate of the PSC and of the Commission, bear testimony to this. The AU strives to follow international best-practice as regards conflict prevention, which it sees as transcending the immediate focus on

intervening before the escalation towards violence occurs or efforts to de-escalate violent conflicts (direct or operational prevention). For the AU, conflict prevention must also include a structural, strategic focus to address the root causes of conflict (structural prevention). Hence, the AU has, over the years, adopted instruments in a variety of areas designed to facilitate the structural prevention of conflicts.

68. The events of the past year in North Africa have demonstrated that, although presenting significant challenges from policy and operational perspectives, combining structural and direct prevention measures in a coherent strategy is key to the successful prevention and de-escalation of violence. In order to address these challenges, the Commission is currently engaged in finalizing a Conflict Prevention Policy Framework (CPPF). This Framework is intended to serve as a flexible template and instrument to assist the Commission in systematically mainstreaming conflict prevention in policy formulation, relevant areas of engagement and across its various departments, institutions and programmes. The CPPF aims at establishing an in-house “culture of prevention” by outlining the appropriate means and procedures that will enable the incorporation of a conflict sensitive approach to AU policies. Indeed, conflict prevention must not be seen as a specific policy sector or a single method of intervention, but an orientation which cuts across a wide range of policy sectors.

II.5 POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (PCRD)

69. The Commission has pursued its efforts on PCRD within the framework of the AU Policy on this matter and other relevant AU decisions. Following a technical meeting held in Addis Ababa, from 2 to 3 June 2011, to agree on the implementation modalities of the recommendations of the multidisciplinary missions to the Central African Republic – CAR (2006), Liberia and Sierra Leone (2009), DRC and Burundi (2010), South Sudan and Sudan (2011), the Commission deployed technical support teams to these countries from August to October 2011. In pursuance of the relevant PSC decisions, the Commission also dispatched an assessment mission to Côte d'Ivoire, from 5 to 12 November 2011, to assess the post-conflict needs of that country.

70. These visits will lay the ground for the launching of the African Solidarity Initiative (ASI), which will start by a Solidarity Conference. The objective is to mobilize additional commitments and contributions to support on-going PCRD efforts in the concerned African countries. The conceptual and organizational approach reflects a number of innovative dimensions. Whereas most donor conferences have tended to concentrate primarily on financial pledges, the Solidarity Conference will, in addition, aim at mobilizing contributions in-kind, knowledge sharing, best practices and capacity building support. Secondly, it is designed to encourage, motivate, and empower African countries to begin to systematically offer mutual assistance to sister countries. Finally, it will provide an ideal opportunity for generating additional ‘out of the box’ ideas for addressing PCRD challenges, including by actively involving the private sector.

71. The overall response from Government officials and partners regarding the ASI has been overwhelmingly positive and very encouraging. It was seen as a timely initiative, and one that could significantly help propel the continent to a higher level of

development cooperation, progress, and confidence. A number of useful suggestions were made regarding, in particular the need for adequate preparation/sensitization, the development of dimensions that enhance the sustainability of the Initiative, and a differentiated articulation of the priority role of African actors and the supportive efforts of interested partners. The Commission intends to launch the ASI in June 2012, on the margins of the 19th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union.

72. Finally, I would like to report that the Commission has actively followed up on decision Assembly/AU/Dec.351 (XVI) on the Establishment of an AU Centre for PCRD, which was adopted in January 2011. Council will recall that the decision requested the Commission, in collaboration with Egypt, to undertake a study on the objectives, structure, financial implications and location of the proposed Centre, and to report thereon. A separate report on the study is submitted to the Executive Council.

II.6 SECURITY SECTOR REFORM (SSR)

73. From 16 to 17 May 2011, the Commission convened a meeting of governmental experts to consider the AU Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform (SSR), prepared in fulfilment of the relevant paragraph of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.177(X) adopted by the Assembly of the Union in January 2008. In August 2011, the Commission completed the revision of the draft taking into account the comments received from Member States following the experts meeting. The document will be submitted to the Executive Council in June 2012. In the meantime, the Commission organized an SSR orientation workshop for the Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, from 22 to 24 November 2011.

II.7 PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS IN THE SAHEL AND NORTHERN AFRICA REGIONS

74. Throughout the Libyan crisis, the AU drew particular attention to the challenges and risks associated with the proliferation of weapons emanating from Libyan military depots into the Sahel and Northern Africa regions. The AU was concerned that these weapons could fall into the hands of armed groups, terrorist and criminal entities operating in the area, thus further compounding the security challenges facing the countries concerned, with serious impact on their long-term stability. I note with satisfaction that there is a growing realization within the international community of the gravity of the situation and the need to take concrete and coordinated action to manage this situation.

75. It is against this background that the AU and the UN undertook a joint mission to Mali, Niger, Chad, Mauritania, Nigeria and Senegal, in the course of December 2011, to assess the situation and make recommendations on the best way forward. The outcome of the mission will be presented during a ministerial-level meeting of the concerned countries, in the margins of the present session of Council, being convened in pursuance of relevant PSC decisions. I seize this opportunity to pay tribute to the core countries (Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) for their joint efforts in this respect and in

the fight against terrorism, and I look forward to the prospect of other AU Member States joining such a necessary and promising endeavour.

76. I also welcome the increasing consultations between Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and Chad to address the additional danger that the proliferation of weapons in the Sahel and North Africa poses to regional security, particularly in view of the links that seem to have been established between some terrorists groups. Incidentally, the 12th session of the Committee of Central African Police Chiefs held in N'Djamena, Chad in November 2011, made it possible to underscore the need for regional cooperation to combat insecurity and organized crime in the region.

II.8 DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS

77. A number of initiatives have been taken during the period under review in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. They cover small arms and light weapons, chemical and nuclear weapons and implementation of related instruments.

a) Small Arms and Light Weapons

78. In pursuance of the decision adopted by the Assembly in Malabo, the Commission convened, in Lomé, Togo, from 26 to 29 September 2011, a meeting of Member States' Experts to consider the draft "AU Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Draft Action Plan for its Implementation". The meeting also elaborated an African Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty, ahead of the UN-sponsored Conference on the issue, to be held in New York, in July 2012, in pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 61/89, which called for the development of a comprehensive, legally-binding instrument, establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. These documents, as endorsed, will be submitted to the Executive Council in June 2012.

b) Nuclear Non-proliferation

79. Following the convening of the first ordinary session of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) in Addis Ababa, on 4 May 2011, the Commission took further steps for the full operationalization of AFCONE. In this respect, the Commission initiated the process for the recruitment of the AFCONE Executive Secretary, as well as consultations with the Government of the Republic of South Africa to conclude a host agreement and finalize other related arrangements.

c) Chemical Weapons

80. In implementation of decision AHG/Dec.182 (XXXVIII) adopted by the 38th ordinary session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of States and Government, held in Durban, in 2002, and the MoU signed in 2006 between the Commission and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the two Organizations continued to cooperate in the promotion and implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. To this end, the OPCW addressed 5th ordinary meeting of the STCDSS and

seized the opportunity to engage individual Member States on the sidelines. The Commission also participated in a number of events organized by the OPCW.

II.9 FOLLOW-UP TO THE PRODI REPORT ON AU-UN PARTNERSHIP

81. Council will recall that at its 16th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, from 30 to 31 January 2011, the Assembly of the Union encouraged me to prepare and submit to the PSC a report on the AU's strategic vision of the cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations on peace and security matters, bearing in mind relevant AU decisions and the need for flexible and creative interpretation of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter [Assembly/AU/Dec. 338 (XVI)]. This request should be understood within the context of the Presidential Statement adopted by the UN Security Council (UNSC) on 22 October 2010 in which this organ noted the Secretary-General's intention to submit a report which will define the United Nations' Secretariat strategic vision for UN-AU cooperation in peace and security. At their 5th annual consultative meeting held in Addis Ababa on 21 May 2011, the PSC and the UNSC affirmed that they were looking forward to the reports that the UN Secretary-General and I intend to submit on our respective strategic visions of the cooperation between the AU and the UN.

82. It is against this backdrop that I submitted to the PSC a report on the Commission's vision of the strategic partnership between the AU and the UN system in the area of peace and security. The report aims at refocusing attention on the partnership beyond the support and assistance currently provided by the UN to broader issues of mutual strategic-political interest. In this respect, I stressed the need and urgency of a creative reading of the provisions of Chapter VIII in the context of collective security, especially in an era where Regional Organizations have become indispensable pillars of multilateralism. At the time of finalizing this report, preparations were underway for the convening of a PSC meeting on the subject on 9 January 2012, ahead of the UN Security Council debate scheduled for 12 January 2012.

II.10 DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SITUATIONS ON THE GROUND

83. The following paragraphs take stock of the developments in the different situations on the ground, as well as efforts deployed by the AU towards their resolution or the consolidation of peace where it has been restored.

a) The Comoros

84. Last June, I reported on the successful completion of the process of implementation of the 16 June 2010 Agreement for the management of the interim period concluded by the Comorian parties. The period under review was marked by the consolidation of the progress achieved, thanks mainly to the action led by President Ikililou Dhoinine and his Government. Worth mentioning in this context is the unification of the national police force which occurred on 21 September 2011, thus putting an end to the conflict over the prerogatives of the central and island bodies in matters of internal security and management of the police force.

85. At the same time, Comorians continue to face a number of challenges. The situation remains difficult on the economic front. Adequate international assistance is more than ever required. In that regard, it is crucial that the pledges made at the Doha Conference for The Comoros, held on 23 February 2011, be promptly honoured. With these pledges redeemed, it will be needful to also provide the Comorian authorities with the resources required for implementation of the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programme (PNDDR) in Anjouan, and thereby complete the collection of individual weapons still in circulation in the Island. Lastly, it is important to point out that the trial, several times postponed, of the former Chief of Staff of the National Development Army (AND), Amir Salimou, accused along with three other officers, of complicity in the assassination on 13 June 2010 of another senior officer, constitutes a source of concern on account of the risk of inter-island tensions it poses within the AND.

86. At another level, the issue of the Comorian Island of Mayotte, which took on the status of French Department effective 31 March 2011, has continued to generate tension with France. In a letter addressed to me on 7 November 2011, the Comorian Foreign Minister reiterated the rejection by The Comoros of the decisions and initiatives taken by France on this matter. In particular, he requested the urgent reactivation of the “Committee of Seven on the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte”, or that failing, the establishment of a mediation mechanism. The Commission encouraged consultations within the framework of the Committee of Seven to ensure increased coordination of efforts with respect to the positions and initiatives of the Comorian Government on the issue.

b) Madagascar

87. The period under review was characterized by progress in the resolution of the political crisis that gripped Madagascar since the unconstitutional change of government that took place in March 2009. In that context, the noteworthy element was the signing in Antananarivo, on 16 September 2011, under the auspices of SADC, of the “Road Map to end the crisis in Madagascar”. Eight political parties/groupings and the Zafy and Ravalomanana Political Movements subscribed to the Road Map, while the Ratsiraka Movement refused to sign it, demanding that the *de facto* authorities first cancel their directive to the airlines not to embark former President Didier Ratsiraka on any flight to Madagascar. It should however be noted that former President Ratsiraka, with the consent of the *de facto* authorities, was able to return to Madagascar on 24 November 2011. However, former President Marc Ravalomanana could not return to Madagascar, since the local authorities had issued an arrest warrant against him and had indicated that he would be arrested as soon as he landed at Antananarivo Airport.

88. The Road Map is structured around four main points: a) Transition Institutions; b) Electoral Framework; c) Confidence building measures and national reconciliation efforts; and d) the Agreement implementation and support mechanism. On 14 October 2011, the Road Map signatory parties concluded the Framework for its implementation. Subsequently, Mr. Jean Omer Beriziky, the sole candidate presented by the Zafy Movement, was appointed consensus Prime Minister by the President of the Transition. The new Prime Minister formed a National Union Government. It is to be noted that the

Ravalomanana and Ratsiraka Movements contested the appointment. Another important step was taken with the establishment on 1 December 2011, of the Transitional Congress (CT) and the Higher Transitional Congress (CST). The Zafy Movement which had decided not to join the new Government on the grounds that the allocation of ministerial portfolios had not been done consensually, also refused to occupy the seats reserved for it in the CT and the CST.

89. As regards assistance and support to the efforts of the Malagasy political stakeholders, the PSC, at its 303rd meeting held on 8 December 2011, took note with satisfaction of the significant progress made in the national reconciliation and crisis exit processes. It expressed its intention to lift the measure suspending the participation of Madagascar in AU activities as well as the other sanctions imposed as a result of the crisis in the country, upon submission by SADC of a report confirming satisfactory progress in the process of implementation of the Road Map, in particular its Article 20, as well as the establishment of an Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the determination of the electoral calendar. The PSC encouraged SADC to pursue its efforts and continue to accompany the Malagasy parties. On the same day, the International Contact Group on Madagascar (ICG-M) met under the auspices of AU. The ICG-M urged the Malagasy parties to persevere in their efforts, recognizing the need for sustained assistance and support from the international community to facilitate the smooth conduct and successful conclusion of the Transition. Subsequently, a SADC delegation, joined by representatives of the Commission and the Francophonie, visited Antananarivo from 19 to 22 December, to assess the status of implementation of the Road Map and the ways and means by which the international community could support the country..

90. I am gratified by the progress made in the quest for a solution to the crisis in Madagascar. I encourage the Malagasy parties to spare no effort to ensure the successful conclusion of the process. I commend SADC for its commitment and the significant results it achieved. The Commission, which has maintained regular contact with the Malagasy parties, will strive to mobilize international community support for the on-going process. To that end, I intend to dispatch to Antananarivo an evaluation mission to assess the country's needs, and to speed up the process for the opening of a Joint AU-SADC Liaison Office, charged with providing day-to-day support towards the implementation of the Road Map.

c) Somalia

91. The Assembly's ordinary session in Malabo took place against the background of the signing, on 6 June 2011, of the Kampala Accord between the President of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, Mr. Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, and the Speaker of the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP), Mr. Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden. The Accord, which ended the protracted political stand-off between the Executive and the Parliament and was approved by the TFP on 11 July 2011, extended the transitional period by one year, up to 20 August 2012. Subsequently, a new Prime Minister and Government were appointed. The TFP approved the composition of the new Government, as well as the political programme of the Prime Minister. During a visit I undertook to Mogadishu on 26 August 2011, with the Commissioner for Peace and

Security, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, I encouraged the President, the Speaker and other stakeholders to spare no efforts towards the implementation of the Kampala Accord.

92. From 4 to 6 September 2011, the UN Special Representative for Somalia, together with my Special Representative, the IGAD Facilitator and other members of the Core Group of Partners on Somalia, facilitated an inclusive consultative meeting of Somali stakeholders in Mogadishu. That forum concluded with the adoption of a Transitional Roadmap outlining key deliverables for the completion of the transition, under four major benchmarks: (a) security (b) outreach and reconciliation, (c) good governance, and (d) constitution, parliamentary reforms and elections. The Roadmap also provided for a four-tier Implementation Mechanism. The PSC, at its 293rd meeting held on 13 September 2011, as well as other members of the international community, welcomed the adoption of the Roadmap and called for its timely implementation. The AU High Representative for Somalia, former President Jerry John Rawlings, also used the occasion of his visit to Mogadishu in October 2011 to call on the Somali leaders to ensure the attainment of the Roadmap's deliverables.

93. By mid-November 2011, the TFG Cabinet had appointed a 21-member committee to oversee the Roadmap implementation, whose membership is drawn from the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), the regional administrations of Puntland and Galmudug, Ahlu Sunna wal Jama'a (ASWJ), and includes representatives of the international community. The TFG has also established a nine-member Committee of Experts to lead the process of finalizing the draft Constitution, which was being discussed at a constitutional conference in Garowe, Puntland, at the time of finalizing this report; endorsed, following consultation with regional entities, the revised National Security and Stabilization Plan (NSSP), which is now before Parliament for adoption; and expanded the Joint Security Committee (JSC) to include the regional entities. In addition, a consultative forum for civil society organizations was convened in Mogadishu, from 26 to 28 November 2011, to make contribution to the Roadmap implementation process.

94. While commendable steps have been taken, much more is required to achieve the benchmarks and timelines of the Roadmap. On the one hand, the Somali stakeholders should continue to demonstrate the necessary political will and unity of purpose. The recent parliamentary crisis, which began on 13 December 2011 with a group of parliamentarians purportedly ousting the TFP Speaker, points to continued divisions among and within the TFIs. On the other hand, the timely realization of the Roadmap's benchmarks is linked to the mobilization of adequate resources by the international community. Equally important is the need to expand the Roadmap activities to the newly liberated areas and to neutralize spoilers.

95. Significant improvements have been recorded in the overall security situation in Somalia. On 6 August 2011, strong pressure from the TFG and AMISOM forces compelled Al Shabaab extremists to withdraw from almost all of Mogadishu. The TFG and AMISOM now control about 98 percent of the capital, and the pockets of Al Shabaab extremists still in the City have now resorted to asymmetrical warfare. AMISOM is also working closely with the TFG security authorities to further stabilize the

newly-liberated areas which have seen an influx of the Somali population. Elsewhere in the country, the TFG forces and pro-TFG militias, including ASWJ, have increased pressure on Al Shabaab and Hizbul Islam insurgents. In October 2011, following a series of kidnappings of tourists and aid workers on Kenyan territory by suspected Al Shabaab militants from across the border in Somalia, Kenya deployed troops into Somalia, on the basis of IGAD decisions, as well as relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The Kenyan operation, “*Linda Nchi*” (Defend the Homeland), conducted jointly with the TFG forces, has already contributed to weakening Al Shabaab extremists in the Middle and Lower Jubba and Gedo regions.

96. Against the backdrop of these developments, the Commission convened a series of meetings involving the TFG, Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to AMISOM and other interested countries, namely, Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda, as well as the UN. It was agreed that the forced withdrawal of Al Shabaab from Mogadishu and the Kenya operation provided a unique window of opportunity to further security and facilitate the reconciliation efforts. Subsequently, IGAD, at its extraordinary session held in Addis Ababa on 25 November 2011, agreed on a number of steps to strengthen the military campaign against Al Shabaab. I take this opportunity to, once again, pay tribute to IGAD and to its Chair, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, for their leadership and continued commitment.

97. As a follow up, a Strategic Concept on the next phase of the implementation of AMISOM mandate is being developed by a joint AU-UN team. At the time of finalizing this report, efforts were underway to conclude the consultations among the TCCs and other interested countries, to enable the PSC to consider and adopt the Strategic Concept in early January 2012, for subsequent transmission to the UN Security Council. The Strategic Concept will include an increase in terms of force strength, with the re-hatting of the Kenyan troops – a move already accepted by Kenya following the appeal made by IGAD and the subsequent PSC request. It will also include the provision of adequate force enablers and multipliers, in order to enable AMISOM extend its area of operations in support of the TFG forces, whose command and control structure and equipment need to be significantly enhanced.

98. In the meantime, the force strength of AMISOM has increased with the deployment of additional troops from Burundi and Uganda, as well as the arrival in the theatre of operations of the first elements of the battalion pledged by Djibouti. It is also worth noting that, following the 293rd meeting of the PSC, which endorsed a revised CONOPS, including an increase in AMISOM strength, the United Nations Security Council adopted, on 30 September 2011, Resolution 2010 (2011), expressing its intention to review and consider thoroughly the possibility of adjusting the mandated troop levels of AMISOM when the Mission reaches its UN-mandated level of 12,000 troops. The UNSC also requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide a logistical support package for AMISOM called for by Resolution 1863 (2009) for a maximum of 12,000 AMISOM uniformed personnel. On the ground, AMISOM continues to provide invaluable support to the TFG and to its security institutions, in addition to facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

99. The Commission has also continued to follow the humanitarian situation in Somalia, which was compounded by the drought that affected the country this year, the worst in recent memory. In addition to the limited support provided by AMISOM on the ground, the projects carried out within Somalia by the AU Inter-African Bureau on Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) on the livestock sector, which is the mainstay of the Somali economy and the basis for the livelihoods of the largely pastoral and agro-pastoral population of the country, and sensitization of the international community, the Commission organized a pledging conference in Addis Ababa, on 25 August 2011. More than US\$ 350 million dollars and additional \$28 million in kind were mobilized for the victims of drought and famine in Somalia and elsewhere in the Horn of Africa. I take this opportunity to commend the Member States and partners, in particular the African Development Bank (AfDB), who made pledges to address the humanitarian situation in the Horn. I also urge the international community to accelerate efforts to fill the funding gap in the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) for Somalia, and to renew their commitment and support for medium- and long-term strategies for food security on the continent.

100. Today, we are at a crossroad in the quest for peace, security and reconciliation in Somalia. The signing of the Kampala Accord and subsequent adoption of the Political Roadmap, as well as the security gains made on the ground, create a unique opportunity to open a new chapter in Somalia's troubled history. While much will depend on the commitment of the Somali stakeholders and their capacity to rise to the challenges at hand, the international community, the United Nations and the Security Council in particular, has a critical role to play to help the Somali people bring to a definite end the untold violence and suffering visited upon them by the decades-long conflict in their country. On its part, the AU, whose decision to deploy AMISOM was driven by a powerful sense of solidarity towards Somalia and its people, will remain steadfast in its efforts.

d) Other developments in the Horn of Africa

101. The Commission has continued to follow closely other relevant situations in the Horn of Africa. There has been no progress in the **peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia**. Over the years, the Assembly of the Union has expressed concern at this impasse, emphasizing the need for renewed African efforts to help the two countries to peacefully resolve their border dispute, normalize their relations and lay the foundation for lasting peace and security in the Horn of Africa.

102. Regarding the relations between **Djibouti and Eritrea**, the Commission has continued to follow issues relating to the implementation of the Agreement concluded by the two countries on 6 June 2010, under the auspices of the State of Qatar. On 4 October 2011, I received a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Djibouti, Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf. In that letter, the Minister indicated that two Djiboutian prisoners of war, out of the 19 detained by Eritrea, recently escaped from that country to Sudan before being transferred to Djibouti, while Eritrea consistently denied detaining any Djiboutian prisoner. The Minister, who indicated that Djibouti had complied with all its obligations relating to the issue of prisoners of war and that the issue had been brought to the attention of the Qatari

Mediation, requested me to use my good offices to help free the Djiboutian soldiers still detained in Eritrea. In response, I informed the Djiboutian Minister that I would formally bring the matter to the attention of the Eritrean authorities, and assured him of the Commission's readiness to facilitate an early solution.

103. On 15 November 2011, I wrote to the Eritrean Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Osman Saleh Mohammed, to bring this matter to his attention and seek the views of his country. I indicated that the Commission stands ready to assist resolving this humanitarian issue, within the context of the decision of the Malabo Session of the Assembly of the Union on the relations between Djibouti and Eritrea, which requested the Commission to closely follow the situation and to make every effort to facilitate progress. In a response dated 29 November 2011, the Eritrean Minister stressed that the issue of prisoners of war being part of the 6 June Agreement, whatever complaint or problem raised by any of the parties should be directed to the attention of the Emir of Qatar. He added that there should be no other parallel mediation modality or mechanism. He accused Djibouti of repeated provocations and hostile diplomatic campaigns, in violation of the Agreement, adding that his country was fully and strongly committed to the letter and spirit of the Agreement.

104. The Commission is planning to liaise with the Qatari Mediation for further update on the implementation status of the 6 June Agreement and to exchange views on how best it could contribute to the implementation of the commitments contained therein. In the meantime, I would like, once again, to echo the call made by the Malabo Session of the Assembly for Djibouti and Eritrea to pursue, in good faith, the scrupulous implementation of the Agreement they signed.

105. The Commission intends to step-up its efforts towards the development of a **regional approach to the challenges of peace, security and stability in the Horn of Africa**, the need of which was stressed by the Assembly of the Union. The consultations, which are to be undertaken with all the stakeholders, are aimed at facilitating the convening of a regional conference on peace, security, stability and development in the Horn of Africa, as envisaged in the Plan of Action adopted by the Special Session of the Assembly of the Union on the Consideration and Resolution of Conflicts, held on 31st August 2009.

106. Finally, the period under review was marked by the adoption, on 5 December 2011, by the UN Security Council of Resolution 2023(2011). In that resolution, the Security Council, having notably expressed grave concern at the findings of the **Somalia/Eritrea Monitoring Group** report of 18 July 2011, made a number of pronouncements on the matter, including the use of the "Diaspora tax" and the potential use of the Eritrean mining sector by the Eritrean Government as a financial source to destabilize the Horn of Africa region or violate relevant UN Security Council resolutions. It stressed the need for full compliance with the arms embargo imposed by Resolution 733(1992), as elaborated and subsequently amended, as well as the need to ensure strict implementation of the arms embargo established by Resolution 1907(2009), including inspection, under certain conditions, of all cargo bound to or from Eritrea. It expressed its intention to apply targeted sanctions against individuals and entities, as per its relevant resolutions. The Security Council decided to expand the mandate of the

Monitoring Group to monitor and report on measures imposed by Resolution 2023(2011). On its part, Eritrea strongly rejected the conclusions of the report of the Monitoring Group, and termed the resolution as totally unfounded and as lacking any legal basis. In this respect, Eritrea has sent several communications to the United Nations, as well as to the Commission, including a letter addressed to me, on 31 July 2011, by President Isaias Afewerki.

e) CPA outstanding issues, post-secession negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan, Darfur and related AU's efforts

107. The Malabo Summit took place against the background of significant progress in the implementation of the outstanding issues of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Indeed, a few days before the Summit, the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) signed an Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of Abyei, while the GoS and the SPLM-North signed the Framework Agreement on Political Partnership and Security Arrangements in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan. Consequently, the Assembly of the Union welcomed these developments and urged the Sudanese parties to continue to demonstrate the commitment required to complete the implementation of the CPA and finalize the post-referendum negotiations, with the support of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP).

108. Council will also recall that then Sudan's First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit was invited to attend the Summit, following the self-determination referendum of January 2011, during which the South Sudanese overwhelmingly made the choice of independence. The Assembly acknowledged the choice thus made, and stressed that it looked forward to welcoming the Republic of South Sudan as the newest AU Member State immediately upon its independence, on 9 July 2011.

109. The Commissioner for Peace and Security, other members of the Commission and I attended the ceremony marking the declaration of independence of South Sudan, in Juba, on 9 July 2011. Subsequently, the Republic of South Sudan was warmly welcomed as a member of the AU. The official hoisting of the flag of South Sudan at the AU Headquarters took place on 15 August 2011 in a ceremony attended by President Salva Kiir Mayardit. Since the declaration of independence, the Government of South Sudan has been engaged in a process of nation-building and political reconciliation with other political parties and militia groups. While the challenges at hand are daunting, I have every confidence in the capability of South Sudan leadership and people to overcome them. While congratulating the people and Government of South Sudan on this achievement, I also extend my sincere appreciation to the people and Government of the Republic of Sudan for their extraordinarily gracious acceptance of the decision of the southern Sudanese to secede. For Sudan, the separation of South Sudan carries very serious political and economic implications.

110. During the period under review, the Commission, notably through the AUHIP, has actively continued to work with the parties towards the resolution of the outstanding CPA issues, as well as on the post-secession arrangements, based on the overriding and agreed principle of two viable States, at peace with, and mutually supportive of, one

another. The completion of these obligations is not only of importance for the relations between Sudan and South Sudan, but also for internal governance within the two countries. I reiterate my appreciation to former Presidents Thabo Mbeki, Abdulsalami Abubakar and Pierre Buyoya for their outstanding commitment in discharging the mandate entrusted to them. Both the Commissioner for Peace and Security and I have maintained regular contact with the parties to encourage them to address the outstanding issues and extend the necessary cooperation to the AU.

111. In the course of November 2011, the AUHIP initiated a new round of negotiations on the outstanding issues, including: (i) access by the South to the oil pipelines that run through the North; (ii) transitional financial arrangements to cushion the economic shock to the Sudanese economy from the loss of revenue that accompanied the secession of the South; (iii) division of assets and liabilities; (iv) arrears relating to oil and other outstanding matters; (v) banking and cross-border payments; (vi) trade relations; (vii) border demarcation, dispute resolution and the management of pastoralist migration across the common border; (viii) security matters, including the management of a demilitarized zone between the two States; (ix) management of water resources, including the Nile waters; (x) nationality status of South Sudanese in Sudan and Sudanese in South Sudan; (xi) dispute resolution mechanisms; and (xii) efforts to find a solution to the Abyei issue.

112. From 19 to 20 December 2011, the AUHIP convened a meeting, in Addis Ababa, between Sudan and South Sudan, to review the status of outstanding issues in the negotiations between the two States. On that occasion, both parties agreed to continue to negotiate in earnest to speedily reach agreement on outstanding issues. Negotiations are due to resume in early January 2012. In the meantime, I cannot but echo the call made by the PSC at its 302nd meeting, held on 30 November 2011, for both countries to demonstrate the required spirit of compromise and commitment to good neighborliness, in order to speedily conclude negotiations on all the outstanding issues, as the only way for the two countries to achieve their goals in terms of security, democracy and development, and meet the most basic needs of their peoples.

113. With respect to Blue Nile and South Kordofan States of Sudan, the parties have not followed up on the Framework Agreement, and fighting has since intensified in these areas. It is critical that both parties immediately cease hostilities and return to the negotiations, in order to reach a peaceful settlement. Equally important is the need to permit unhindered humanitarian access and allow the return of displaced persons to their homes. Clearly, the establishment of a “Sudan Revolutionary Front” (SRF), composed of three Darfur armed groups and the SPLM-North, will further complicate the search for a solution, the SRF having made it clear that its objective is to overthrow the current regime in Sudan, using all available means. The recent death of Dr. Khalil Ibrahim, the founding leader of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) is yet another factor in the pursuit of the peace efforts.

114. The Commission has continued to follow closely the situation in Darfur, Sudan. One of the key developments during the period under review was the adoption, on 14 July 2011, of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) and the signing of an Agreement by the GoS and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM). This

represented an important step forward in the peace process. Sustained efforts are being made towards the implementation of the DDPD. I pay tribute to the parties for their commitment and encourage them to persevere in their efforts. I commend UNAMID for the invaluable support it is providing in this regard, and encourage Joint Chief Mediator a.i. Ibrahim Gambari to pursue his engagements with the GoS, as well as with the non-signatory armed movements to urge them to join the peace process. I also would like to reiterate my appreciation to the former Joint Chief Mediator, Djibrill Bassolé, and to the Government of Qatar for their sustained efforts and commitment which made the conclusion of the DDPD possible.

115. At the same time, and while the immediate tasks are to popularize the DDPD, in order to ensure its acceptance by the population of Darfur as a whole, and to persuade the remaining armed groups to sign the Document, efforts should continue towards the holding of the Darfur Political Process (DPP), primarily as a domestic exercise to involve all Darfurians in determining the future of Darfur within Sudan, bearing in mind the deep-rooted and complex nature of the conflict in Darfur. At its above-mentioned meeting, the PSC reiterated its support to the efforts being made by the AUHIP, with the support of UNAMID, to facilitate the early launching of the DPP. In this context, the PSC welcomed, and called upon AU partners, in particular the UN Security Council and its members, and the international community at large to fully support this Process and take the steps expected of them to facilitate the work of the AUHIP and UNAMID in this respect. As stressed by the AUHIP, in the new context that has emerged following the independence of South Sudan, the Darfur peace process will, of necessity, be linked to a national constitutional reform process that involves all citizens of the Republic of Sudan in forging a new national political settlement. Indeed, a durable resolution of the Sudanese conflict in Darfur requires that a holistic agreement among Darfurians be an integral part of a national process.

116. As rightly pointed out by the AUHIP in its last report to the PSC, although the challenges facing Sudan and South Sudan are not unfamiliar, in important respects they are exceptional. There are few countries on this continent that have such bitter histories of division and conflict. Newly-independent South Sudan has very modest institutions and extremely low human development indicators. Sudan faces an extremely severe economic shock at a time when it is debarred from the sources of international financial assistance that would normally be available to cushion such adversity. The exceptional nature of these challenges, in turn, makes it incumbent upon the African continent, and international donors and creditors, to exert commensurate efforts to ensure that the two nations emerge from the current difficult period as full and valued members of the African community of nations and the international community as a whole.

117. Sudan and South Sudan have come a long way in their struggle for peace, justice and reconciliation. The leadership of the two countries and their people should, once more, be commended for their steadfastness and resilience. I urge them to remain committed in addressing the pressing challenges at hand. The AU will continue to extend every possible support to the on-going efforts to promote peace, security and stability in Sudan and South Sudan, as well as to resolve the post-secession issues. The AU, through the Panel, will also continue to support the efforts of the two Governments

at democratisation, as a *sine qua non* for stability and equitable governance, bearing in mind the diversity that characterizes both countries.

f) Democratic Republic of Congo

118. The period under review was marked by the holding of one round presidential and legislative elections on 28 November 2011. Organized within the constitutional timeframe, the elections, which involved 11 candidates for the presidential, and nearly 19,000 for the legislatives in a country of over 2 million square kilometers, virtually lacking in infrastructure, posed huge challenges. The political will of the authorities, the support of MONUSCO and the international community, as well as the solidarity of some countries of the region, made it possible for the polls to hold, despite the many difficulties encountered.

119. To create a political climate conducive to the holding of peaceful elections, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) put in place a series of mechanisms, which if respected by all stakeholders, would have made it possible to avoid or at least reduce the tensions and incidents that marked the electoral process. For instance, INEC set up a National Mediation Commission for the Electoral Process (CNMPE) comprising 7 members drawn from faith-based organizations and the civil society, with responsibility to ensure the proper conduct of the political actors and to serve as a framework for easing tension. Similarly, the bid for appeasement inspired the establishment, with international community support, of a Code of Conduct for candidates in the presidential elections. The Code was signed by 10 of the 11 presidential aspirants.

120. Pursuant to its mandate to backstop AU's efforts at conflict prevention, as well as the recommendations contained in its report on election related conflicts and violence, the Panel of the Wise carried out a mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from 6 to 8 October 2011. As a follow-up to the mission, I travelled to Kinshasa and Uvira, where the President of the Republic was campaigning, to meet with the Congolese authorities and the country's political actors. I seized the opportunity to underscore the imperative need for all the concerned actors to work towards the holding of peaceful elections, and to act in keeping with the tenets of the Constitution and the institutions of the Republic. I reiterated these appeals in several press releases which I subsequently issued. At its 298th meeting held on 17 November 2011, the PSC urged all the Congolese stakeholders to demonstrate a sense of responsibility in both words and acts, and to create a climate conducive for the holding of free, democratic and peaceful elections. The PSC stressed the imperative need to respect the constitutional framework and institutions of the country.

121. Despite the efforts deployed, the elections of 28 November took place in an atmosphere of tension, marked by many incidents. In the press releases I issued in during the period following the elections, and in my contacts with the Congolese stakeholders, I did not cease to underscore the duty and obligation devolving on all candidates contesting the results of the elections to do so solely through peaceful means, having recourse to the mechanisms and procedures provided for such purposes, and also the need for the security forces to act with restraint and

professionalism in their mission to maintain public order, thereby avoiding any incidents that could exacerbate the tension and complicate the management of the post-electoral period. On the ground, the AU Elections Observer Mission led by Mr. Moctar Ouane, former Foreign Minister of Mali, relayed my calls for restraint.

122. On 9 December 2011, INEC published the provisional results of the presidential elections, with candidate Joseph Kabila Kabange in the lead, followed by Etienne Tshisekedi. On 16 December, the Supreme Court published the final results, and proclaimed Mr. Kabila President-elect of the Republic with 48.95% of the votes, while Mr. Tshisekedi obtained 32.33%. The President-elect was sworn in on 20 December. The results and the subsequent decision of the Supreme Court, which Mr. Tshisekedi had refused to lodge a complaint with on the grounds that it was not impartial, were rejected by the latter and other opposition candidates. Mr. Tshisekedi proclaimed himself President-elect and was sworn in on 26 December 2011, in a ceremony organized at his residence.

123. In conclusion, I would like to express satisfaction at the conduct of the second post-conflict elections in DRC. The focus of the Congolese stakeholders should now be to draw lessons from the elections that have taken place in order to deepen the democratic process in their country, based on the conclusions of the elections observer teams from AU, ECCAS, COMESA, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and SADC. In view of the many challenges facing the Congo, it is crucial for the actors concerned to allow the supreme interests of the country to prevail and to refrain from any action likely to undermine peace and stability. In that regard, I welcome the declaration made by President Kabila on the occasion of his swearing in, underlining his determination to be the President of all Congolese, to meet their aspirations for wellbeing, and work in a spirit of openness with all political stakeholders of the country.

g) Central African Republic

124. Among the major developments in the Central African Republic since the Malabo session, one can mention the holding on 4 September 2011 of legislative by-elections in 14 constituencies, the results of which were invalidated by the Constitutional Court. The said elections were an extension of the presidential and legislative elections held on 23 February 2011. Drawing lessons from the elections, the authorities of the Central African Republic set up a consultation committee composed of the concerned players, as well as AU, UN and EU as observers, for review of the electoral code.

125. On the economic front, the situation has remained difficult. The Government of CAR has taken a number of initiatives including the organization of the Estates General on Finance in Bangui on 8 September 2011. The Government plans to present the final version of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSD2) at a roundtable of technical and financial partners to be convened early in 2012. As regards the security situation, this was characterized by the activism of elements of certain local armed groups as well as the continued activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The presence of the troops of the rebel chief Baba Laddé was also a complicating factor. The Central African Republic has indeed continued to face up to a worrying humanitarian situation.

126. May I once again urgently appeal to the international community to more effectively accompany the Central African Republic in its peace consolidation efforts. I urge the authorities of that country to pursue and speed up the reforms already set in motion including the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process as well as the security sector reform, and to spare no effort to deepen and consolidate democracy. The African Union which is actively present on ground through its Liaison Office and my Special Representative Mrs. Hawa Ahmed Youssouf, will continue to lend every possible assistance to CAR. In this regard, the Commission took active part in the elaboration of MICOPAX (Peace Consolidation Mission in CAR) programme of activities and budget for 2012 and this, in the perspective of the withdrawal at the end of 2013, of the troops deployed in CAR. The Commission has approved the African Peace Facility (APF) request for financing of the said activities and monitors the activities in question.

h) Regional Cooperation Initiative against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)

127. At its Malabo session, the Assembly of the Union welcomed the steps taken towards the operationalization of the Regional Cooperation Initiative against the LRA (RCI-LRA), expressed its full support to the Conclusions of the ministerial meeting of the affected countries, held in Addis Ababa in June 2011, and requested the PSC to authorize the proposed operation in all its components. It is against this background that the Commission briefed the 295th meeting of the PSC on the proposed Initiative. This was followed by a report to the 299th meeting of the PSC, held on 22 November 2011.

128. At its 299th meeting, the PSC authorized the launching of the RCI-LRA, as an AU initiative with the support of the international community, for an initial period of six months. The RCI-LRA aims at strengthening the operational capabilities of the countries affected by the atrocities of the LRA; creating an environment conducive to the stabilization of the affected areas; and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid to affected areas. The PSC approved the establishment of the different components of the RCI-LRA, namely: the Joint Coordinating Mechanism (JCM), the Regional Task Force (RTF), and the RTF HQs, including the Joint Operations Centre (JOC).

129. In order to maintain the momentum generated by the efforts of the countries of the region and the PSC decision, immediately after the PSC meeting, I appointed an acting Special Envoy for the LRA Issue, in the person of Mr. Francisco Madeira, concurrently with his current responsibilities as the AU Special Representative for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation. At the time of finalizing this report, arrangements were being made for a joint AU-UN mission to the countries of the region, to be led by Mr. Madeira and Mr. Abou Moussa, the UN Special Representative for Central Africa, who is in charge of the LRA issue in the UN system. Steps are also being taken to operationalize the JCM and the RTF.

130. I take this opportunity to commend the countries of the region for their commitment and determination to ensure the success of the Initiative. The RCI-LRA offers the most viable and effective framework for a coordinated and regionally-owned effort to bring to an end the criminal activities of the LRA. I wish to call upon all Member States in a position to do so, as well as AU partners, to support this initiative. In this

respect, I would like to express my gratitude to all the partners who have already provided support to the Initiative.

i) Sudan-Chad Relation and other aspects of the Regional Cooperation for Peace and Development

131. The relations of friendship and confidence subsisting between Chad and The Sudan since the signing of the 15 January 2010 Bilateral Agreement have continued to gain strength. Remarkable progress was recorded in terms of security along the common border thanks to the joint forces deployed along the border which has facilitated the conduct of the operations of humanitarian organizations working in the East of Chad and the resumption of cross-border commercial activities. In this regard, on the occasion of the 4th ceremony for the transfer of the rotational command of the Joint Force at Abéché in Chad on 15 October 2011, the two countries expressed satisfaction at the work accomplished. The Joint Force has so far undertaken 1,102 missions of various types.

132. The success of the Chad-Sudan cooperation has propelled CAR to join in the process of securing the border. Council will recall, in this regard, that a Tripartite Agreement had been signed in Khartoum on 23 May 2011 between Presidents François Bozizé, Omar Hassan al Bashir and Idriss Déby Itno. As a way of giving effect to the will thus expressed by the three countries, CAR could dispatch military officers to beef up the border security joint force. Eventually, CAR's entry into the joint mechanism should make it possible to ensure the security of the northern border which forms a triangle between the three countries.

133. The cooperation between Chad and The Sudan has for the most part gone beyond the sole aspect of security. Permanent consultation has taken root at the political level with regular exchanges of delegations and personalities. Besides, Chad and The Sudan are working towards strengthening their economic cooperation, including the launch of heavy infrastructure projects, in particular the railway line that will link N'Djamena with Sudanese networks, thereby providing for Chad access to the Red Sea through Port Sudan.

134. Moreover, as part of efforts at ensuring the return to The Sudan of the Sudanese refugees in Chad whose number is estimated at 278,000 spread over 12 sites in the East of the country, two tripartite technical meetings were held, respectively, in Khartoum from 26 to 27 July 2011 and in N'Djamena from 16 to 17 November 2011. Deliberations for finalization of the Chad-Sudan-HCR tripartite agreement will go on until the next tripartite technical meeting which will take place in El Geneina in The Sudan from 14 to 15 February 2012. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Government of Chad for its hospitality and also for the arrangements made to provide security in the camps.

j) Côte d'Ivoire

135. The situation in Côte d'Ivoire continued to see significant improvement in the aftermath of the crisis that rocked that country following the presidential election of 28

November 2010. To ensure the successful conclusion of the institutional normalization process, parliamentary elections were, it is recalled, held on 11 December 2011. Victorious in the elections were the two major parties of the Houphouëtist Rally for Peace and Democracy (*RHDP*), namely, the Rally of the Republicans (*RDR*) and the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire (*PDCI*) which obtained 127 and 77 seats, respectively, out of a total of 254 seats. The Ivorian Popular Front (*FPI*) and other opposition parties under the banner of the National Resistance Congress for Democracy (*CNRD*) which had indicated that they could participate in the election subject to certain preconditions, in the end opted to boycott the polls, particularly in the wake of the transfer, on 29 November 2011, of former President Laurent Gbagbo to the Hague for the judicial proceedings initiated by the International Criminal Court (ICC). It is, however, noteworthy that independent candidates, including members of the *FPI*, won 35 seats. The various election observer missions, including that of AU, were of the view that the elections had been transparent. The AU provided US\$100,000 subvention to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

136. The Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (*CDVR*) established in September 2011, to promote reconciliation has continued to carry out its mandate. The AU Commission is currently engaged in consultations with the *CDVR* to agree on how best to provide technical and financial support towards the aforesaid activities. Concurrently and at the initiative of the ICC, the Ivorian authorities have initiated a series of judicial proceedings sequel to the violence that trailed the presidential elections and the economic crimes perpetuated in that context. President Ouattara has, on several occasions, reaffirmed his determination to combat impunity including in his own camp. In that regard, the Ivorian Head of State has issued firm directives concerning the absolute need for discipline and for protection of persons and property on the part of all components of the armed and security forces.

137. On the economic front, sustained efforts are being deployed to facilitate the resumption of economic activities, and significant results have already been recorded in this respect. As regards the humanitarian situation, a substantial return of displaced persons and refugees has been recorded. However, numerous challenges are yet to be addressed. On this issue, a delegation of the Sub-Committee of the Permanent Representatives' Committee of the African Union on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons was in Côte d'Ivoire from 31 October to 5 November 2011 to assess the situation. The Sub-Committee took the opportunity to hand in to HCR a US\$100,000 cheque in support of displaced persons rehabilitation operation. The Ivorian authorities are devoting attention to implementation of the security sector reform. The AU contributes to this effort and, in this regard, participated in the pre-seminar on SSR and DDR held in Grand Bassam from 21 to 23 September 2011. The Commission will continue to be involved in this process including through its participation in the national seminar due to take place in Yamoussoukro in February 2012 and the provision of experts.

138. Mention needs also to be made of the visit to Côte d'Ivoire in the first half of November 2011 of an AU multi-disciplinary team of experts to assess the country's post-conflict needs and come up with recommendations regarding the support that AU and its Member States could offer towards post-conflict reconstruction. As indicated earlier, this

assessment will serve as basis for the planned launch of an African solidarity initiative which aims to mobilize continental level support.

k) Liberia

139. The key development in Liberia during the period under review was the holding of the presidential/legislative elections on 11 October and the presidential run-off on 8 November 2011. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was re-elected for a second 6-year term of office. Despite the challenges encountered and the unfortunate boycott of the elections by the leading opposition party, the AU Election Observer Mission, together with other international and local observers, gave a positive account of the electoral process. I wish, therefore, to congratulate the Government and people of Liberia for successful polls, and urge all political actors and stakeholders in the country to engage in an inclusive dialogue process towards the consolidation of the democratic process in the country.

140. After eight years of presence, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) prepares to transition and handover the control and management of the security situation in the country to the Government of Liberia. It is my fervent hope that adequate measures would be put in place to ensure that Liberian security agencies are well equipped to enable an effective take over from UNMIL. I commend UNMIL for its outstanding contribution to the promotion of peace and security in Liberia.

141. I urge the Liberian Government to sustain its efforts towards the betterment of the lives of the Liberian people, particularly by meeting the indicators outlined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). I encourage the international partners to continue supporting the Liberian Government to ensure a successful transition of Liberia from the current post-conflict reconstruction phase to the medium-to-long-term development phase.

l) Republic of Guinea

142. The period following the Malabo Session of the Assembly of the Union was marked in Guinea by the attack on the private residence of President Alpha Condé in the early hours of 19 July 2011. That same day, I issued a press statement expressing strong condemnation of the attack and reaffirming the principled position of AU in its total rejection of violence, in particular political assassination. At its 287th Meeting held on 21 July, 2011, the PSC endorsed my press statement as well as ECOWAS press statement of 20 July 2011. The PSC also urged the Guinean parties to promote dialogue and work together to create the conditions conducive for the preparation and holding of peaceful, free, fair, transparent and credible elections with a view to bringing the transition to a successful conclusion. In furtherance of this decision, the Commission has maintained contact with the Guinean players including through regular visits to Conakry by my Special Envoy for Guinea.

143. On 15 November 2011, President Alpha Condé met with key opposition leaders. On that occasion, he made a commitment to ensure the promotion and maintenance of consultation between the Government and the opposition and, to this end, set up a

committee to find a consensus with the opposition on the preconditions it had issued. On this score, a number of measures addressing the concerns of the opposition have been taken so as to promote trust and confidence and defuse the political atmosphere. On 22 December, the opposition announced its decision to resume dialogue with the Government to discuss all issues relating to the preparation, organization and conduct of the legislative elections in the first half of 2012. I welcome these developments and encourage the Guinean authorities and all the political players to persevere in their efforts.

m) Guinea Bissau

144. During the period under review, Guinea Bissau witnessed a wave of social tensions as a result of the sharp rise in the price of essential commodities and the successive strikes which disrupted the public sector. On the political and judicial front, the decision taken by the Government Ministry on 26 May 2011 to partially close the investigations on the alleged *coup* attempt of 4 and 5 June 2009 and to transfer the case to the military tribunal generated intense controversy. Following a series of consultations in July and August, the Head of State reaffirmed his determination to combat impunity and corruption, guarantee proper administration of justice and shed every possible light on the assassinations of March and June 2009.

145. Efforts have continued to be deployed towards consolidation of peace and post-conflict reconstruction in Guinea Bissau. Last July, the Government adopted the National Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (*DENARP II*) for the period 2011-2015. This new strategy focuses on the consolidation of peace and the rule of law, acceleration of economic growth and development of human resources. Guinea Bissau Government plans to organize a donors' roundtable in the first quarter of 2012. As regards the Defense and Security Sector reform (*RSDS*), efforts are underway for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government, ECOWAS and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (*CPLP*). Conclusion of this Agreement will facilitate the disbursement of the US\$63 million pledged by ECOWAS towards implementation of the ECOWAS/*CPLP* Roadmap including the effective launch of the pension fund designed for members of the Defense and Security Forces due to proceed on retirement. I note with satisfaction that the Guinea Bissau Government has already set aside resources for this fund.

146. I take this opportunity to reaffirm AU's readiness and determination to assist Guinea Bissau including in the holding of the planned Roundtable. I welcome the progress achieved and encourage that country's authorities to persevere in their efforts. I also invite Member States, the partners and the international community at large to lend their support towards the *RSDS*, and more generally, the post-conflict reconstruction and development of Guinea Bissau. The armed incidents that took place in Bissau on 26 December 2011 at the time this report was being finalized, testify to the fragility of the situation and the need for adequate mobilization of the international community alongside Guinea Bissau. I proceeded to Bissau on 28 December 2011 and was able to hold important talks on the recent developments and on the country's development prospects.

n) Popular Uprisings in North Africa

147. The Commission has continued to closely monitor the situation in North Africa, following the popular uprisings that erupted towards the end of 2010 in Tunisia and spread thereafter to Egypt and Libya. As Council would recall, both the PSC in April and the extraordinary session of the Assembly of the Union in May 2011 expressed their conviction that the uprisings in North Africa should be used as an opportunity for Member States to renew their commitment to the AU democratic and governance agenda, give added momentum to efforts deployed in this respect and implement the political and socio-economic reforms which are called for in every particular national situation. At its Malabo session, the Assembly expressed AU support to the transition processes already ushered in Egypt and Tunisia, and took steps aimed at speeding up the search for a political solution to the situation that was then prevailing in Libya.

148. Regarding **Tunisia**, progress has continued to be made towards the successful completion of the transition. On 23 October 2011, the Tunisians elected a Constituent Assembly which has 217 members. The election was deemed free, fair and transparent by all international observer missions, including the one dispatched by the AU. The Ennahda party obtained a little over 41% of the vote, securing 89 seats. On 10 December, the Constituent Assembly adopted the draft bill on the provisional setup of the public powers, considered as a mini-Constitution for the interim period, pending the adoption of a final Constitution. On 12 December 2011, Mr. Moncef Marzouki from the Congress for the Republic (CPR), a leading opposition figure during the regime of former President Ben Ali, was elected by the Constituent Assembly as President of the Republic. He was sworn in on 13 December 2011. I issued a communiqué to congratulate Mr. Marzouki on his election and to assure him of the AU's support in the conduct of the transition. Subsequently, a new Government, headed by Mr. Hamadi Jebali, was formed and approved by the Constituent Assembly.

149. In the meantime, and as part of the AU support to the transition process, I visited Tunisia in mid-November 2011. I seized the opportunity to meet the then Interim President Fouad Mebazaa, Mr. Rached Ghannouchi, who leads the Ennahda party, and other stakeholders. I would like to, once again, reiterate AU's appreciation of the progress made in Tunisia, which reflects the genuine commitment of the Tunisian authorities and stakeholders to move forward on the path of democratization and good governance. The AU will continue to support the transitional process in Tunisia by all possible means.

150. The Commission has also continued to follow closely the transition process in **Egypt**. Commendable progress has been made during the period under review, in spite of the challenges being encountered. On 22 November 2011, the 299th meeting of the PSC was briefed on the developments in the situation in Egypt. The meeting took place against the background of the violent incidents that had occurred days earlier, resulting, unfortunately, in the loss of lives. The PSC expressed its deep concern at these incidents, and strongly appealed for utmost restraint from all the concerned actors, in particular the authorities of the transition and the security forces. The PSC urged all the Egyptian stakeholders to work closely together to complete the transition process and to ensure that it leads to results that meet the expectations of the Egyptian people. As

similar incidents have occurred in the month of December 2011, I would like to echo the call for restraint made by the PSC.

151. Following the popular referendum of 19 March 2011, Egypt launched, in November 2011, a three-phase process for the election of the 508-member People's Assembly (Lower House). The first phase was completed in November, the second in December 2011, and the last phase will be completed by January 2012. I welcome these elections, which are an important step in the efforts to successfully conclude the transitional period. The elections for the 270-strong Shura Council (Upper House) will also be conducted in three phases from 29 January to 11 March 2012. The presidential elections are due by mid-2012.

152. I would like to reiterate the AU's support to the on-going transition process in Egypt. The Commission will continue to work with the Egyptian authorities and other stakeholders and to extend every possible support for the successful completion of the transition. In so doing, the Commission will build on the outcome of the visits the Panel of the Wise and I undertook to Egypt in March and April 2011.

153. As Council will recall, the Malabo Session of the Assembly of the Union extensively discussed the situation in **Libya**. Having paid tribute to the AU High-Level *ad hoc* Committee on Libya and to its members for their commitment, the Assembly endorsed the *Proposals for a Framework Agreement on a Political Solution to the Crisis in Libya*, as presented by the Committee, within the context of the AU Roadmap and the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions. The Assembly requested the *ad hoc* Committee to submit these Proposals to the Libyan parties, and to engage them on that basis.

154. Immediately thereafter, the *ad hoc* Committee submitted the Proposals to the then Government of Libya and to the National Transitional Council (NTC). Several interactions were subsequently organized with the parties, in July and August 2011, which formally reacted to the Proposals. Both the *ad hoc* Committee and the Commission also maintained close contact with the International partners, including the United Nations, the League of Arab States, the EU and a number of other bilateral partners, in particular France, the United Kingdom and the United States. All these efforts took place against the background of a fast evolving situation on the ground. Indeed, in the third week of August 2011, the NTC forces entered Tripoli.

155. The AU nonetheless pursued its efforts, guided as it was by the need to end violence as early as possible and ensure that the aspirations of the Libyan people to democracy, rule of law and good governance are indeed fulfilled. The *ad hoc* Committee convened in Addis Ababa, on 25 and 26 August 2011, and in Pretoria, on 14 September 2011. The PSC also met at Summit level in Addis Ababa, on 26 August, and at ministerial level, in New York, on 20 September 2011. That same day, in New York, both the Chairman of the Union, President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, members of the *ad hoc* Committee and I participated in the UN-sponsored High-Level meeting on Libya. At its 297th meeting held on 20 October 2011, and in view of the uniqueness of the situation in Libya and the exceptional circumstances surrounding it, and without prejudice to the relevant AU instruments, the PSC authorized the current authorities in

Libya to occupy the seat of Libya at the AU and its organs. It also requested me to take the required steps for the early establishment of an AU Liaison Office in Tripoli, to be headed by a Special Representative, to assist, in cooperation with the partners, in the efforts aimed at stabilizing the situation in Libya, promoting national reconciliation and inclusivity, and facilitating the transition process towards democratic institutions. It later transpired, that day, that, as the NTC forces were gaining control of Sirte, they also captured Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, who was subsequently killed. In a communiqué issued on 21 October 2011, I reiterated AU's conviction regarding the imperative for national reconciliation among all Libyans, for this is a prerequisite for stability and the establishment of viable, democratic and accountable institutions.

156. On 27 October 2011, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2016 (2011) in which it decided to terminate the authorization given to Member States to take all necessary measures to protect civilians and civilian populated areas under threat of attack in Libya, as well as the ban on all flights in the Libyan airspace. On 31st October 2011, NATO ended its military operations in Libya, which lasted 7 months under the code name "Unified Protector".

157. I am encouraged by the commitment and determination of the NTC, including its President, Mr. Mustafa Abdul Jalil, to national reconciliation and to an inclusive transition process. I welcome the appointment of Prime Minister Abdel Rahim el-Keib and the formation, on 22 November 2011, of a new Libyan Government. I would like to assure the Libyan authorities of AU's support and readiness to closely work with them in addressing the many challenges confronting their country. The AU cannot do otherwise, as Libya is a full-fledged member of the African family. The fate of the Libyan people is inseparable from that of the rest of their African brothers and sisters, with whom they have historical ties. A stable and democratic Libya will be a tremendous asset for the continent. Conversely, an unstable Libya will first and foremost affect its African neighbourhood and beyond.

o) Western Sahara

158. During the period under review, there has been no progress in the peace process for the non-self-governing Territory of Western Sahara, despite the continuous efforts exerted by the Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Ambassador Christopher Ross. From 19 to 21 July 2011, Ambassador Ross convened the parties for the 8th round of informal talks in Manhasset, New York. No breakthrough was achieved, with the parties only agreeing to resume the informal talks, after the conclusion of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.

159. It will be recalled that the current series of talks were initiated after the two parties, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO, four years ago, submitted to the UN Secretary-General their respective proposals for the settlement of the dispute, with Morocco offering autonomy under the Kingdom's jurisdiction, and the Frente POLISARIO proposing a referendum of self-determination with two ballot options: integration into Morocco or independence. The Security Council subsequently mandated direct negotiations without preconditions, to take place between the parties with the view of achieving "a just and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the

self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the UN principles and purposes.”

160. On the ground, and following a football match, the south-western town of Dakhla witnessed, in late September 2011, communal violence, which was reminiscent of the brutal confrontations in Laayoune, a year ago. This resulted in the death of eight persons and injuries to many others, with additional damage to public and private property. At the international level, the European Parliament, on 14 December 2011, revoked the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement that had allowed fishing by vessels from the countries of the Union not only in Moroccan territorial waters but also in the rich Atlantic shores of non-self-governing Western Sahara. The Agreement was nullified because of its illegality, as Morocco, under international law, has no right to grant access to resources that belong only to the people of Western Sahara. On 20 December 2011, the US Congress adopted an act requiring the respect of human rights in Western Sahara as a precondition for any financial and military assistance appropriated for Morocco.

161. In addition to continued monitoring of the situation on the ground, the Commission has also endeavoured to follow-up on other aspects of AU's pronouncements on the dispute. In September 2011, the Commissioner for Peace and Security exchanged views with Ambassador Christopher Ross on the way forward. Consultations with the Personal Envoy are due to be pursued in Addis Ababa. Furthermore, on the eve of the holding of the 13th Congress of Frente Polisario, the Commissioner for Peace and Security and I travelled to the Sahrawi refugee camps where, on 13 December 2011, I had important discussions with President Mohamed Abdelaziz of SADR. Issues relating to the political, security and humanitarian situation were extensively discussed. The Assembly may wish to urge the parties to earnestly cooperate with the Personal Envoy towards the definitive resolution of the dispute within the context of the relevant AU and UN decisions and resolutions.

II.11 COMBATING TERRORISM AND FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

a) Prevention and Combating Terrorism

162. The Commission has pursued its counter-terrorism efforts. It took the opportunity of the 303rd meeting of the PSC, to provide a comprehensive update on the steps and initiatives taken. As a follow-up to the decision adopted in Malabo, the Commission disseminated the African Model Law on Counter-Terrorism, elaborated to assist Member States to strengthen and update their national legislations, in order to meet their continental and international obligations. Steps are being taken to put in place a team of experts to provide technical assistance to Member States on best ways of incorporating the Model Law into their national legislations.

163. The Focal Points of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) held their 5th annual meeting in Algiers, from 30 October to 1 November 2011, to assess the implementation status of their Plan of Activity for the period 2010-2013. The ACSRT also organized a number of capacity building activities for Member States. Furthermore, it took steps to enhance its Counter-Terrorism Continental Early Warning

System (CT-CEWS), in cooperation with the Peace and Security Department of the Commission. This has enabled the Centre to improve its information collection and analysis capability. The ACSRT has also established a CT Database and is in the process of finalizing information exchange templates and the development of its secured information exchange portal.

164. Finally, my Special Representative for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, Francisco Madeira, carried out consultations with Member States and partners, including visits and participation in regional fora, such as the Symposium on Machine Readable Travel Documents organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), in Montreal, from 12 to 15 September 2011, and the UN Secretary-General Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, held in New York, in September 2011, on the margins of the 66th session of the General Assembly. I note with appreciation the close working relationship that the ACSRT has developed with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its Executive Directorate (CTED), as well as with the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), with which the Special Representative had extensive discussions on the margins of the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1373(2011), also in New York, in September 2011.

b) Drug Control and Crime Prevention

165. It will be recalled that since July 2009, the Commission embarked on the implementation of the priority areas of the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012) (hereafter referred to as the AUPA) in a joint project with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as a technical cooperating partner.

166. In October 2011, the Commission hosted a Continental Think-Tank Consultation to fast track and facilitate the implementation of the AUPA at continental, regional and national levels. Expert consultations were held on strengthening cooperation and coordination in the fight against drugs and crime, harmonizing legislation, the control of precursor chemicals for the manufacturing of synthetic drugs, the need for a continental training facility for drug dependence treatment and data on drugs and crime.

III. REGIONAL INTEGRATION, DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

III.1 INTEGRATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

1. EDUCATION

a) Mid-Term Evaluation of Second Decade of Education

167. Following the January 2006 Summit Declaration on the Second Decade of Education for Africa, and the subsequent Launch of the Decade Plan of Action (POA) by the AU Conference of Ministers of Education in September 2006, all education activities are informed by this plan of action. The mid-term evaluation of the Second Decade of Education has been carried out, and the Evaluation Report suggests that significant progress has been made across Africa towards achieving the Decade goals. Strategic

partnerships between the Commission, the RECs and some International and African agencies working in education in Africa have been greatly enhanced. Most such partners have aligned their programmes with the POA, as called for by the January 2009 Summit Decision.

b) Higher Education

i) The Pan African University (PAU)

168. Prior to the launch event co-organised by the Association of African Universities in December 2012, many Experts from around Africa, the Diaspora and the international community worked together in order to finalise PAU curricula in a number of subject areas for Masters and PhD programmes, to be offered to the first PAU students in 2012. A common web-based platform to be shared by all PAU Institutes and Centres has also been developed, as well as a common prospectus. Host countries of the first three PAU institutes have committed significant sums of money as seed fund. The African Development Bank (AfDB) carried out a needs assessment of the PAU and has committed to provide a first phase support of USD 45 million, which will help upgrade teaching and research facilities and leverage further partner support. Germany, India, Japan and Sweden have made firm commitments as Lead Thematic Partners for the PAU. Statutes of the Pan African University were adopted by the Extra-ordinary Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Education (COMEDAF IV+) held in May 2011, whose report is being submitted to the current session of the Executive Council. Algeria is quickly preparing to ensure that the PAU Institute for Northern Africa begins operations at the same time as those in Kenya, Cameroon and Nigeria by October 2012.

ii) Mwalimu Nyerere African Union Scholarship Scheme

169. The third regular Call for scholarships is being organized to ensure alignment with the Pan African University. Following the European Commission (EC) grant of Euros 40 million to support the expansion of the Nyerere programme, three networks composed of 28 African Universities have been awarded up to Euro 2 million per network to cover academic mobility for Masters, PhD and academic staff exchanges across Africa. Capacity building of the AUC Scholarship Unit staff is underway to enable them adequately handle the management of the expanded scheme by the end of 2012. The India-Africa scholarship programme in Agricultural Sciences will put out its third Call in early 2012. So far, over 120 young Africans have been awarded scholarships in Indian Universities.

iii) Technology Enhanced Teaching for African Universities

170. In collaboration with the African Academy of Sciences and the AUF (*Agence des Universités francophones*), the Commission has developed a pilot project to help enhance the quality of teaching and learning in African Universities that are constrained by limited numbers of senior professors faced with increasing numbers of students. The project involves working with senior University professors to produce audio-visual materials, which can then be delivered to larger numbers of students even in dispersed locations.

c) Education Management Information System (EMIS)

171. The Commission has closely worked with the Pan African Institute of Education for Development (IPED), and the International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa (CIEFFA), supported by UNICEF and ADEA, to develop a policy framework for the operationalization of the African Education Observatory, which will take effect from 2012. Recruitment of staff for IPED and CIEFFA is underway. Member States that have been part of the IPED Executive Council are requested to finalise their commitments as agreed during their last Executive Council meeting in Dakar in September 2007, to facilitate full operationalization of the Observatory, and appropriate conclusion of terms of service for former staff.

d) Teacher Development

172. Following the institutionalization of the Pan African Conference on Teacher Development, the Commission is collaborating with the Pan African Teachers Association and the Centre for Enhancing the Teaching of Science and Mathematics to establish regional centres for building capacity of teacher trainers in science and mathematics. UNESCO and ADEA will also be key partners in this initiative. The Continental Teacher Mobility Protocol will be considered during COMEDAF V which will be held in Abuja, Nigeria, in March 2012.

e) Some Collaborative Activities

173. Under the India-Africa partnership, the Commission coordinated engagements that led to the signing of an MOU between the Government of Burundi and the Indian Institute for Education Planning. Progress has also been achieved in the AU-UNESCO History of Africa Project that involves collaboration with African Diaspora around the world. Under the Africa-EU partnership on Mobility, Migration and Employment, the Commission is collaborating with the EC in the implementation of the strategy for harmonization of higher education in Africa. Collaboration with the Regional Coordination Mechanism for UN support to the African Union is expected to improve with the new plan of action, and it is hoped especially that more UN agencies working in education-related activities will align their African programmes with those of the Commission.

f) Creation of Vocational Training Centres in Member States

174. Under the Africa-India cooperation framework, the Indian government is supporting the establishment and operationalization of 10 TVET centres (2 per Region) in Africa, by providing technical support, equipment, and paying salaries of trainers for three years; while the African counterpart's contribution provides the land and premises. Training programs will include skills training, entrepreneurship and business management; financial and human resource management; and other relevant skills needed for a successful entrepreneurship in micro and small business.

2. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND ICT

a) Science and Technology and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

i) AU Scientific Awards

175. Following the Launch of the AU Scientific Awards in 2009 and with the support of some development partners, the Commission continued to enhance the implementation of the programme at national level for young researchers, at regional level for women scientists and at continental level which is open to all scientists. For the 2011 Edition, SADC and ECOWAS successfully implemented this programme. For the continental level, successful candidates will receive their awards during the January 2012 AU Summit.

ii) Publication of African Union Call Research Proposals 2011

176. The African Union Research Grants project dedicated to support collaborative research on Africa's science and technology policy is one of the early deliverables of the 8th Partnership of the Africa-EU- Joint Strategy. It has received €14.7 million from the EC's 10th EDF Envelop for African, Caribbean and Pacific States ACP). The first Call for Proposals for 2011 valued at €7 million was prepared by the Commission, with EC Services support- for research in Post-harvest and Agriculture; Renewable and Sustainable Energy; and Water and Sanitation. The results will be published in the course of 2012. This project will evolve into a pan African research programme framework, requiring full engagement of all Member States and other stakeholders.

iii) Water and Food Security in Africa

177. The Water and Food Security in Africa programme worth Euro 63 million and which is concentrating on research in Health, Food Security, Agriculture and fisheries, Biotechnology and Environment (including climate change) was launched in 2009 by the EC in the implementation of the 8th Partnership of Africa-EU Joint Strategy. The multi-disciplinary and integrated approach of the Project involves partnerships between African and EU Member States.

iv) Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security (GMES)

178. Under the 8th partnership of the Africa-EU Strategy, the Commission is working on the development of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security/GMES and an Africa Action Plan as a long term cooperation framework on space between Africa and EU, to make satellite-based technologies available for specific African development objectives.

v) Life and Earth Sciences Unit (LESU)

179. A meeting on the Regional Coordination Mechanism on Biosafety and related Issues was held between the Commission and the UN System, involving RECs and Civil

organizations in November 2011 to review the Continental Coordination Mechanism on Biotechnology, Biosafety, Food Safety and Phytosanitary Measures. The African Model Law on Biosafety is under review before dissemination.

180. The Commission, in collaboration with the Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), organized a workshop on the newly adopted Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to increase the awareness and sensitization for ratification. The Commission provided advice to Mauritania in its effort to develop national legislation on this matter and also contributed to the on-going preparation of a document on Border Control of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

3. HEALTH AND SANITATION

a) Health, Population and Nutrition

i) Promotion of Nutrition for Health and Development

181. The majority of Africans still have to grapple with chronic hunger, under-nutrition and malnutrition due to inadequate access to food, or access to food that lacks essential micro-nutrients all of which ultimately results in production losses for the continent. To harmonise nutrition strategies and facilitate the operationalization of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS), the 3rd Meeting of the African Task Force on Food and Nutrition Development (ATFFND) was organized by the Commission in Windhoek in April 2011. The Task Force reviewed and made recommendations on the work done in nutrition in the preceding year, which was followed up with stakeholders over the past six months.

ii) Control of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Other Infectious Diseases

182. Infectious diseases continue to be a major challenge to socio-economic development in Africa, with HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria comprising the big three killer diseases. Prevention remains the main strategy for controlling these diseases. After the Commission reviewed the indicators of the “Abuja Call”, they are now being piloted in 15 Member States since over one year.

b) Population and Reproductive Health

i) Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA)

183. It will be recalled that in May 2009, the Commission launched a Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) which is aimed at heightening awareness and increasing political commitment across the continent. Since CARMMA Launch, 25 Member States have launched it and have taken ownership of this initiative. The 25 Member States have also developed costed road maps for the reduction of maternal, new-born and child morbidity and mortality.

ii) Population

184. With a view to revitalize the population portfolio in Africa, the Commission convened the 8th Session of the Africa Population Commission (APC) in September 2011 in Addis Ababa. Its report is being submitted to the Executive Council for consideration. Its main outcomes include the adoption of the 2010 State of Africa Population Report, and the overall review of the work of the Africa Population Commission and way forward to overcome some operational challenges encountered in the past.

c) Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA)

185. The Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.55 (V) taken at the Abuja Summit in January 2005, mandated the Commission to develop a Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) within the NEPAD framework. The PMPA was duly developed and adopted in 2007. An inception report of the business plan and a number of 'quick win' projects has been adopted by the 4th meeting of the Technical Committee of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa in December 2011.

d) E-health and Telemedicine Harmonization

186. In 2010, the Commission established a network of experts on e-health who are currently engaged in developing a Strategic Framework for e-health development to support the Africa Health Strategy 2007 – 2015. It will contribute to the strengthening of health systems in terms of human resources for health, as well as for health information management systems.

e) African Union Decade on Traditional Medicine (2011-2020)

187. After considering the Report of the Review of the African Union Decade on Traditional Medicine (2001 – 2010), the 5th Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Health, held in Windhoek, Namibia, in April 2011, adopted a Second Decade from 2011-2020. The Plan of Action for its implementation has been elaborated over the past six months, and will be considered by the Special Session of Ministers of Health to be convened in May 2012. The Plan will draw its priority actions from those that have been identified during previous meetings, including the Africa-India Workshop on Traditional Medicine held in Jaipur, India, in October 2011.

4. HUMAN AND SOCIAL WELFARE**a) Accelerate implementation of the Social Policy Framework for Africa**

188. The Commission prepared a paper on key strategies for the implementation of the Social Policy Framework (SPF) for Africa which will be printed and disseminated during the first half of 2012.

b) Survival, Protection and Development of Vulnerable Groups

i) Implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

189. The Commission assisted the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) to hold its 18th session in November 2011 in Algiers, Algeria, during which the Committee considered three (3) reports submitted by Cameroon, Niger and Senegal, and the Civil Society Organizations shadow report for the Sudan on measures that the above-mentioned Member States have adopted to implement the provisions of the Charter. During the past six months, the Commission continued to encourage countries which have not ratified the Charter and those that have not submitted their reports on the implementation of the Charter, to do so.

ii) Accelerate implementation of the Call for Accelerated Action towards Africa Fit for Children

190. The Call for Accelerated Action Towards Africa Fit for Children, focusing on eight (8) priority areas, was adopted during the 2nd Pan African Child Forum in Cairo, Egypt. This Call urges Member States to address the state of children in their respective countries and invest more vigorously in children, particularly those most vulnerable. The Commission developed a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Member States to assess progress on the implementation of the Call which was disseminated to the latter during the past 6 months. The Commission intends to submit a report to the 3rd Pan African Child Forum which will take place in Addis Abba, Ethiopia, from 26 to 30 March 2012.

iii) Implement the AU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing

191. Since July 2011, the Commission has been engaging the African Commission on Human and People's Rights for the inclusion of an article on the Advisory Council on Ageing in the Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons. Furthermore, the Commission developed and distributed a questionnaire over the past 6 months for Member States on the implementation of the AU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (2002). Member States are called upon to respond to the questionnaire and to return it to the Commission for appropriate action.

iv) Promote the Welfare of Persons with Disability - African Decade of Disabled Persons

192. In July 1999, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government proclaimed 1999-2009 as the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities and subsequently a Declaration and a Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities were adopted to implement the Decade's objectives. Further to the outcome of a Review of the Decade, indicating that much more needs to be done by Member States to achieve the Decade's objectives, the Decade was extended to 2019. Hence, the Commission participated in a Roundtable, organised in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 31 August to 1 September 2011, where the Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities was reviewed for the period up to 2019.

193. The Executive Council also requested the Commission to assist in the restructuring of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI), a Specialized Agency of the AU, based in Harare, Zimbabwe, for the Institute to coordinate the implementation of the Continental Plan of Action on the Decade. The 21st Session of the Ministerial Governing Board (GB) of the ARI, which was held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 6 to 9 September 2011 and serviced by the Commission, made exhaustive decisions on the restructuring of the Institute, which was followed up with a working visit by the Commission, from 7 to 17 December 2011 to implement the above-mentioned decisions.

v) Promote the Welfare of the African Family

194. The AU Plan of Action on the Family was adopted by the Assembly Heads of State and Government in July 2004. Over the past six months, the Commission engaged in a series of deliberations with partners on how to advocate for the strengthening of the Family in Africa, as it is also one of the four (4) key strategies for the implementation of the Social Policy Framework for Africa.

c) **Labour, Employment and Migration**

i) The Campaign against Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children

195. In 2009, the Commission launched the AU-COMMIT campaign aimed at galvanising activities undertaken by the AU, including global, regional and national initiatives towards more synergised and coordinated actions to combat trafficking in human beings in Africa, including to inform policy makers and enforcement officials of Member States about the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children. AU-COMMIT has been launched in ECOWAS, IGAD, EAC, since March 2010, and the launch in SADC took place in November 2011. Each launch was followed with a capacity building workshop for focal points in Member States.

ii) Migration

196. The implementation of the preparatory project phase towards the establishment of an African Institute for Remittances (AIR) which began in June 2010, continued during the reporting period. Online consultations resulted in a concrete action plan for implementation, and facilitated the collaboration of the project team with relevant partners. The team has furthermore taken steps to lower the cost of sending remittances to and within Africa by launching an online database (*Send Money Africa*: <http://sendmoneyafrica.worldbank.org>) that will help increase transparency about prices and stimulate greater competition among service providers. A report is being submitted to the current session of the Executive Council for review and guidance on the establishment of an African Institute for Remittances.

iii) Employment and Labour

197. The Commission accelerated the implementation of the policies on employment over the past six months, based on the decisions of the 8th Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission, Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 11 to 15 April 2011 to reduce Youth and Women unemployment by at least two per cent annually over the next five years as contained in the Youth Decade Plan of Action 2009-2018.

198. In October 2011, the Commission facilitated the organization of a Training of Trainers session on productivity capacity building, targeting national agencies and structures responsible for the promotion of the micro-enterprises of the informal economy in seven (7) Member States.

199. Furthermore, the Steering Committee of the Project on Harmonization and Coordination of the Labour Market Information Systems held its 1st meeting in October 2011.

5. CHILDREN, YOUTH AND SPORT

a) Decade for Youth Development and its Plan of Action – 2009-2018

200. By its Decision EX.CL.Dec.468(XIV) in January 2009, it adopted a Decade for Youth Development. In light of this Decision, the Commission developed a plan of action to facilitate the implementation of the Decade by the AU Member States.

b) African Youth Charter and Related Activities

201. As of November 2011, 28 Member States have ratified the African Youth Charter, deposited the relevant instruments at the Commission and are implementing it as part of national priorities. The Commission with its Partners (Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundation, UNFPA) organized a Technical Consultation on the following: i) Development of a technical guidance note on operationalizing the African Youth Charter with National Human Rights Commission review; ii) Review the rationale to promote, protect and enforce initiative on the Charter and the Decade Plan of Action; iii) Review possible accountability mechanisms at regional level e.g. African Court on Human and People's rights; iv) Explore possible linkage of the African Youth Charter to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

c) Establishment of the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC)

202. Through the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps, the youth will be involved in concrete actions for the social, economic, cultural and political development of Africa. A total of 202 youths from 40 Member States were trained and are currently under the deployment process that will cover more than 50 AU YVC by the end of 2011 and the rest to be deployed within the 2012 program budget. Promoting Youth participation contributed to the organization of the inter-generational dialogue and public debate between the young people and the Heads of States in June 2011 in Malabo on the theme "*Accelerate Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development*".

d) Institutional Capacity Building through the Revitalization of the Pan African Youth Union (PYU)

203. The new Headquarters of the PYU granted by the Republic of Sudan was fully equipped and inaugurated in May 2011. The next Congress will take place in December 2011 for the democratic renewal of the leadership of the Union. There is need to allocate requisite resources to the Pan African Youth Union to enable its members to deliver on youth issues.

e) Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

204. The Summit of July 2011 requested the Commission to provide a mid-term report on the implementation of the Youth Decade Plan. Consequently, a Peer review and stakeholders consultation is preparing a draft African Youth Empowerment measure and development index, to provide various tools for monitoring and evaluation.

205. It will be useful to establish a trust fund for youth development. Furthermore, cooperation at inter-departmental level is required to facilitate the implementation of the Youth Programme as cross-cutting targets and the AUYVC as a capacity building initiative.

f) Sport

206. The 4th Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Sport was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 17-21 October 2011. The key outputs of the Conference were the following:

i) Implementation of the new Architecture for Sports Development in Africa

207. The new African Sport Architecture provides for structures to handle technical and operational aspects of sport development and development through sport in Africa, including the organization of the African Games. The Specialized Office for Sport in Africa is to be self-financing with expected huge revenue to be generated from the marketing of the African Games and other sporting activities, support from partners such as the IOC, as well as from financial contributions and fees charged to Member States for participation in sporting activities.

ii) Strategic partnership on Sport for Development in Africa

208. Regarding the promotion of strategic partnerships on sport for development, notable progress has been made to ensure the complimentary collaboration among the Members of the African Sport Movement. In this regard, the Commission has welcomed the collaboration between the Association of National Olympic Committees in Africa (ANOCA) and Association of Africa Sports Confederations (AASC), which will serve three purposes: Make the African Games a qualifier for the Olympic African Games; Attract top African athletes who aspire to qualify for the Olympic African Games and

thereby improve the quality and competitiveness of athletes; Improve the revenue, sponsorship and marketing of the African Games to sustain the operational and programme budgets of the New African Sport Architecture, its Secretariat and programmes for sport development and development through sport.

III.2 INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERCONNECTIVITY

209. In spite of resource constraints, the Commission has made significant headways in the execution of planned Programmes for the Infrastructure and Energy Development in Africa in various areas, through concrete actions as detailed below:

1. TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

a) Policies and Strategies

210. The following policies and strategies were designed and/or implemented:

- i) Elaboration of a comprehensive African Common Civil Aviation Policy (AFCAP): - Completed and currently submitted for adoption by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport in Angola; ii) Formulation of Strategies for Financing of Railway Development in Africa: - Expected to be completed by the end of 2011 or early 2012;
- ii) Study on Harmonisation of Railway Training in Africa: - Expected to be completed by the end of 2011 or early 2012;
- iii) Study on the establishment of a Coast Guard Network for Eastern and Southern Africa to combat piracy, armed robbery and other illegal activities at sea (with particular focus on the Gulf of Aden; off the coast of Somalia): - Expected to be completed by the end of 2011 or early 2012;
- iv) Study on Harmonisation of Tourism Policies and Standards in Africa: - Study is expected to be completed in October 2011 and submitted for adoption by the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism scheduled for April 2012

b) Development (concrete) Projects

iii) NEPAD-IPPF Financed Projects

211. The following pre-feasibility studies were completed:

- i) Pre-Feasibility Study of Missing Links on the Dakar-N'djamena-Djibouti Transport Corridor
- ii) Pre-Feasibility Study of Missing Links on the Djibouti-Libreville Transport Corridor

iv) EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership Projects (Port Moresby Agreement)

212. Contracts for the following six (6) projects were signed on 20th December 2010:

- i) Operationalization of the Executing Agency of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalisation of Air Transport Markets in Africa: - The study is on-going and is expected to be completed in mid-2012;
- ii) Continental Evaluation of the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision with a view to improving liberalisation of air transport markets in Africa: -The study is on-going and is expected to be completed by the end of 2011. The Draft Provisional (Interim) Report has been produced.
- iii) Feasibility Study of Lobito Corridor on Trans-African Highway No.9 (Beira-Lobito corridor): The study is on-going and is expected to be completed in early 2012. The Draft Interim Report has been produced.
- iv) Technical Advocacy and Support Activities for Gambia Bridge Project: The study is on-going and is expected to be completed in mid-2012. The Draft Interim Report has been produced.
- v) Comprehensive Market Analysis and Options Study for Implementation, Operation and Financing of Cotonou-Niamey-Ouagadougou-Abidjan Railway: The study is on-going and is expected to be completed in mid-2012. The Draft Interim Report has been produced.
- vi) Regional Transport study of Trans-African Highway no. 3 in Central Africa with Pre-feasibility Study of Selected Road Sections and Strategic Options Study for Regional Ports: The study is on-going and is expected to be completed in mid-2012. The Draft Interim Report has been produced.

c) Cooperation

213. The following Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) were negotiated and/or signed:

- i) Signature of MOU with **ATA** (Africa Travel Association) for promotion of tourism to Africa;
- ii) Signature of MOU with **ICAO** (International Civil Aviation Organisation) ICAO for sustainable development of civil aviation in Africa covering matters of safety, security, environment and capacity building;
- iii) Signature of MOU with **AFRAA** (African Airlines Association);
- iv) Establishment of a common African position on the proposed Joint Statement and Framework and Action Plan on EU-Africa Aviation

Cooperation: – Negotiations are on-going with a view to reaching conclusion and signature by end of 2011;

- v) Agreement with the EU and resource mobilisation on capacity building activities related to EGNOS – the EU Satellite navigation system);
- vi) Signature of MOU with Spanish Railways on railway training: - Negotiations are on-going.

2. ENERGY

a) Regional Geothermal Programme and the Creation of Geothermal Energy Risk Mitigation Fund for Eastern Africa

214. Pursuant to the implementation of this programme, it is needful to note the establishment of the Geothermal Energy Risk Mitigation Fund, including:

- a) The mobilization of additional 30 million Euros from the Africa-EU Infrastructure Trust Fund plus the 20 million Euros already set aside by the German Government;
- b) Technical discussions and elaboration of the Fund's Financing Agreement to be signed with the German Government represented by KfW before the end of 2011;
- c) The preparation of tender documents and the launch of the process for recruitment of a firm of consultants with a view to the signing of a services contract before the end of 2011 to provide the AUC with technical support in the operationalization of the GRMF scheduled to take place in early 2012 ;
- d) A Regional Geothermal Programme Coordination Structure including the GRMF and comprising a coordinator, an energy expert and an administrative assistant, to be established by the Commission before the end of 2011 ;
- e) The mobilization of financial resources and technical assistance, the creation of a collaboration framework in international institutions, especially USAID, UNEP, BGR and others, and the organization of an exhibition on renewable energies, particularly geothermal energy, in Durban, South Africa, on the sidelines of COP-17.

b) Elaboration and Validation of the Reports on the Studies and Training Workshops carried out under the Technical Assistance financed by the European Union (EU)

215. The following actions were undertaken in this regard:

- a) Production of documents on Africa's energy policy and regional hydro-electric projects development strategy;
- b) Organization of seminars and workshops as part of AFREC and AFSEC capacity building in: the standardization/harmonization of the electric sector; wind and solar energy development; and an African database and energy information system ;
- c) Assistance to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for analysis of : (i) the submissions for the purpose of selecting a private developer for the Inga 3 project; (ii) certain parts of the EDF/RSW studies for development of the Grand Inga project and (iii) organization of a workshop in Kinshasa on private/public partnerships for hydro-electric projects.

c) Africa/EU Energy Partnership (AEEP)

216. One of the key components of the AEEP is the Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP). The strategy document setting the target date of 2020 developed in the course of this half-year was the subject of consultations between the various parties and will be approved at the next meeting of the Joint Africa-EU Experts Group due to take place in Germany in February 2012. In this regard, a policy and technological options document for bio-energy development in Africa will be elaborated.

3. TELECOMMUNICATIONS, POSTS AND ICT

a) Harmonization of Policies and Regulations in the field of telecommunications/ICT

217. The Commission has finalized the following reports and studies and submitted to the bureau of the Ministerial ICT Conference for consideration:

- i) Report on Comparative study of the regional harmonized frameworks;
- ii) Roadmap for Analog to digital broadcasting migration strategy for Africa;
- iii) Report on Harmonized methodology to coordinate frequencies at the borders;
- iv) Prefeasibility study of the African Space Agency;
- v) Assessment and roadmap for the implementation of Dot Africa project;
- vi) Study on the GSM roaming in Africa;
- vii) Study on the creation of a single SIM Card for Africa.

b) Implementation and use of the Pan African e-Network for Tele-medicine and Tele-education

218. Under this programme, the following actions/achievements have been made:

- i) This network has been implemented and being used in 47 countries. 150 VSAT equipment have been installed and fully operational. The total cost is around 150 Million USD;
- ii) 7000 Graduate and post graduate Students are pursuing their education in different Indian universities through the network;
- iii) 346 medical consultations has been made in two years during which three African live have been saved;
- iv) 1650 Continuous Medical Sessions have been conducted for more than 5000 Doctors nurses;
- v) Soon the Chairperson of the African Union will be able to communicate by videoconference and direct phone line with the Head of states and government.

c) African Regional Action Plan for Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE)

219. Under this project, the Commission undertook the following actions:

- i) Finalized the Cyber Security Convention in collaboration with UNECA; and started the adoption process by RECs;
- ii) Developed a topology and routing plans for the regional research and education networks and their interconnection to the European Network (GÉANT);
- iii) Signed:
 - a Financing Agreement with the Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation to support the implementation of the African Internet Exchange System project (AXIS) followed by an effective transfer of the tranche of funds ;
 - a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Finland in October 2010 to support implementation of the African Leadership in ICT (ALICT) and to train and build the capacity of 150 potential leaders and policy makers in knowledge society issues.

d) Harmonization of Postal Policies and Regulations and Strategies for the Postal Development

220. Under this activity, the following studies were completed/ undertaken:

- i) Enhancing quality of mail transportation by road in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region
- ii) Development of Postal Electronic Payments
- iii) Launching of the following studies:
 - Strategies for financial inclusion of low-income revenue populations;
 - Model and Guidelines on Universal Postal Service
- iv) Preparation of the e-Post project:
 - Signing of an MoU RASCOM STAR QAF for 15 VSAT antennas for the pilot phase of the project.

4. PROGRAMME FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (PIDA)

221. Inputs and guidance have been received from stakeholders (AfDB, AUC, NPCA, RECs, UNECA, R/LBOs, Specialized Institutions in the Energy, ICT, Trans-boundary Water Resources & Transport Sectors and Development Partners) through workshop organized in each of the Regional Economic Communities.

222. During this adoption process, the stakeholders have agreed on:

- i) the definition of a strategic framework to develop a prioritised infrastructure development program and the creation of a priority action plan (PAP);
- ii) The formulation of draft strategies and programs.

223. It should also be noted that the outcome of the PIDA studies to be submitted to the AU January 2012 Summit has been also adopted by the sectoral Ministerial conferences notably by the ICT, Transport and Energy Ministers.

5. INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (IAIDA)

224. Appraisal of the elaboration of the Institutional Architecture (IAIDA) has been made for the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development with the objective of a better coordination among actors.

225. In this connection, the Commission signed an Agreement with the German Government by which the latter would provide technical support to the Commission and NPCA in terms of capacity and organisational development.

III.3 INTEGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1. *PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF FLAGSHIP PROJECTS IN AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT*

a) The African Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASBP)

226. The Commission, in collaboration with the FAO, has put in place institutional arrangements for the effective implementation of the ASBP, including the establishment of the Forum for African Seed Testing (FAST) which presently has its secretariat located in the Kenyan Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) in Nairobi, Kenya. This forum is developing seed quality testing protocols and standards in order to promote seed trade. In addition, the Forum is promoting exchange of technologies in seed science and technology among AU Member states thus enhancing technology dissemination and adoption on the continent.

227. The programme has contributed towards an increased awareness and appreciation of the challenges faced by the seed sector, and therefore it is important that the Commission continues to provide leadership in mobilizing partnerships for enhanced actions.

b) The African Fertiliser Financing Mechanism (AFFM)

228. Progress on implementation includes the establishment of the Financing Instruments and Institutional Framework for the operationalization of the AFFM, as well as the establishment of the Fund itself at the AfDB. However, the Fund could not be operational because of a short-fall in cash or in the form of instruments of commitment from Member States of their partners (amounting to USD 4,544,107.00) to make the AFFM Fund effective. African Development Bank Group contribution to the AFFM Fund stands at US\$ 7.65 million, but funds from the Bank cannot contribute to its effectiveness. Thus far, it is only Nigeria that provided 50% of its initial pledges of USD 10 million; and therefore there is an urgent need to mobilise additional funds for AFFM to be operational and undertake its activities.

c) The African Land Policy Initiative (LPI)

229. Since its adoption, the Framework and Guidelines (F&G) on land policy has been serving as an important advocacy instrument to trigger debates on land issues in Africa and globally. A Secretariat has been established to facilitate implementation; regional taskforces are also in the making to support the efforts of Member States as they engage with land policy reviews/formulation. A capacity-building programme is being implemented through financial support provided by the EU. Capacity constraint to respond to the growing demand for use of the F&G by Member States hinders progress.

While the capacity-building programme contributes to addressing some of this challenge, it is important that this be addressed more strategically.

d) Capacitating Agricultural Producers: Farmers and Pastoralists

230. The Commission's work in respect of assisting the network of regional farmers organizations has led to the establishment of the Pan-African Farmers Forum (PAFFO), which is expected to enhance the capacity of farmers and their organisations to articulate their voices in an organised and strong manner as part of the policy making and implementation process.

231. As regards pastoralism, the adoption of the "Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa", during the 16th Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is expected to contribute towards creating and improving the enabling environment for African pastoralists to play their rightful roles in the process of socio-economic development process. The Commission will continue to engage Member States, RECs, and partners to facilitate the implementation of this important Policy Framework.

e) The Inter-Africa Phytosanitary Counsel (IAPSC)

232. The main focus of the phytosanitary coordination and assistance work of the Commission was directed at strengthening the phytosanitary capabilities of Member States with a view to improving crop production and productivity, ensuring food security and promoting trade in accordance with international phytosanitary treaties and standards. These were achieved through conducting a comprehensive phytosanitary capacity assessment which was subsequently used to guide the development of national and regional strategic plans; harmonization of pesticides registration laws; control of trans-boundary pests; establishing an effective surveillance programme to provide a basis for developing and updating national and regional pests-list and an information management systems for phytosanitary/trade data; maintaining a regular consultative forum on the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures with national plant protection organizations; and continuous capacity strengthening through provision of training on Pest Risk Analysis and Pest Surveillance procedures.

f) Improvement of Rural Livelihoods in Semi-Arid Areas

233. The Semi-Arid Food Grains Research and Development (SAFGRAD) has been instrumental in enhancing regional partnership networks and providing support to Member States¹ to contribute towards their efforts in control of parasitic weeds. Similarly, through the project on biological control of insects that affect fruits production and trade, SAFGRAD has brought together and facilitated exchange of regional expertise and other resources for successful implementation of the project, including putting in place an Insectarium in Burkina Faso which can serve the sub-region, and training of experts from 8 Member States with a view to promoting regional actions. SAFGRAD, in collaboration with partners, continues to work towards strengthening the

¹ Burkina Faso, Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, Sudan and Botswana

capacities of Member States and other relevant actors in selected relevant themes, including on climate change and desertification.

g) Promotion of Livestock Production and Health programmes

234. The Commission's work in promotion of livestock production and health programs are organised through its three specialised technical offices, namely: IBAR, PANVAC, and PATTEC.

i) The Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources - IBAR

235. IBAR continued to provide support to Member States which contributed to:

- a) institutional capacity strengthening, combating trade-sensitive diseases of livestock, improving animal health certification to enhance the livestock export trade and creation of employment opportunities and enhancing trade infrastructure;
- b) enhanced coordination of fisheries development initiatives among Member States, RECs, and Fisheries Bodies;
- c) capacity strengthening of the emergency relief and preparedness of Member States for early detection and response against Avian Influenza;
- d) mobilisation of resources as part of the response to the food crises in the Horn of Africa Region worth Euro 24 Million for use in livestock specific interventions aiming at strengthening the capacity of livestock keepers to cope with food insecurity;
- e) capacity strengthening of Member States to carry out vaccination² campaigns as well as on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues;
- f) establishment of a Pan African Forum for livestock Exporting Countries (PAFLEC) as well as the analysis of marketing pathways; and
- g) promotion of partnerships to advance the African agenda on animal production and animal health (through ALive, ISCTRC, etc.), among others.

236. One of the hallmarks of the reporting period is the global declaration made by the World Organisation for Animal Health of freedom from Rinderpest, which continues to serve as the foundation and model for the control of other Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs).

² Against Newcastle disease (ND) in chickens, Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) in goats, Contagious bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in cattle and *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) in small ruminants

ii) The Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign - PATTEC

237. Some of the achievements of PATTEC include: (a) the commitment by Member States of their own resources in a regional cooperation arrangement, which led among other things to experience sharing by other Member States to eradicate tsetse flies in trans boundary areas. Resource mobilisation drive has been focused first and foremost on African sources to enhance African ownership³; (b) harnessing regional efforts in developing of regional projects which involve cooperation among Member States; (c) bringing together 14 Member States to sign the Kinshasa Agreement to work together to eradicate tsetse; (d) enhanced awareness raising and advocacy through the use of champions; (e) putting in place a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track progress on implementation, and (f) continuous capacity strengthening to Member States experts.

iii) The Pan-African Vaccine Centre - PANVAC

238. The service provision by PANVAC of International Independent Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines in Africa, has led to increased use by Member States as a result of which the number of certified vaccines used in the vaccination campaign has increased considerably, which will have a growing impact on the improvement of animal health on the continent.

239. In addition, PANVAC has contributed to facilitation of standardization of production of veterinary vaccines through provision of standardization of veterinary vaccines production and harmonization of their quality control techniques. PANVAC has since 2009 been establishing the main technologies for the production of essential biological reagents (protein expression and monoclonal antibody production). The Pan African Repository of vaccine strains has been established at PANVAC, with the launch of the Bio-Safety Level 3 Laboratory in October 2011. Similarly, an independent husbandry for laboratory animals has been established. In addition, in partnership with partners, PANVAC manages the newly established New Process Development Laboratory.

240. As part of its efforts to provide capacity building support to Member States, PANVAC has been regularly organizing training workshops and technical support services to veterinary vaccines and quality control laboratories of Member States. In partnership with partners, PANVAC has also been instrumental in facilitating the transfer of appropriate vaccine production technologies in Africa.

³Among commitments made include Equatorial Guinea USD12 million; Nigeria over one million USD per year; Cameroon, Angola USD 4.7 million; Zambia USD 3 million; Ethiopia, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Ghana, etc. increasingly allocating more national funds for the cause.

2. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

a) Climate Change

241. Since 2008, the Commission has become an important interlocutor and regional and global player in matters of climate change. This was largely achieved thanks to the historic AU Assembly Decision adopted in February 2009 which essentially charted the way for Africa to do 'business unusually' in matters of climate change negotiations, with Africa to have articulated its Common Position on Climate Change and to have negotiated it with a single voice. Subsequent, several Assembly Decisions established and further refined coordinating mechanisms, notably mandating the Committee of Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) to provide political guidance to the negotiation process. CAHOSCC has been providing the much needed guidance and direction on strategic issues over the last three years for Africa's effective participation at COP15 held in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2009; COP16 held in Cancun, Mexico in 2010; and recently COP17 held in Durban, South Africa in November-December 2011.

242. Pursuant to the Assembly Decision to establish an African Pavilion at COP17/CMP7 in Durban, the Commission, in collaboration with the African Development Bank, the UN ECA and the Government of the Republic of South Africa has successfully mounted an African Pavilion that hosted a series of roundtables, side events, exhibitions and high level panels, and thus provided an opportunity to stakeholders to showcase how Africa perceives climate change concerns, not as a mere passive victim but also as an active party towards finding a sustainable solutions to it.

243. Important lessons have been learnt from such a rewarding experience that Africa must coordinate and organise itself better and act in unison if it has to achieve desired results as it engages the rest of the world. In fact, it was based on such a recognition that the Assembly adopted a Decision in July 2011 to enhance coordination not only at a technical level, but also at a political level, for an effective Africa's participation in the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), otherwise known as Rio+20. The Commission, together with the UNECA, AfDB, UNEP, among others, has been facilitating the *African Preparatory process for Rio+20*, which led to the articulation of Africa's Consensus Statement which is being submitted to the Assembly in January 2012 for its consideration, before it is presented at Rio+20 Conference in June 2012.

244. The Commission has been actively engaged in providing the much needed facilitation of coordination of these endeavours, and in due course has created crucial capacity for use by African stakeholders. A *Strategy on Climate Change for Africa* has been developed and awaits endorsement by the Bureau of African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN). A *Climate Change and Desertification Unit* has been established within the Commission, and work towards its operationalization is currently in progress.

b) Disaster Risk Reduction

245. In recognition of Africa's vulnerability to natural disasters such as drought, floods, cyclones, etc., the Commission, in collaboration with partners has been mobilizing Member States, RECs, and other stakeholders for putting in place systems, mechanisms and capacities for transitioning from managing crises to managing risks of disasters. These efforts have led over the last few years to two inter-related achievements, which are: (a) development and adoption of a Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015), which provides strategic guidance for disaster risk reduction intervention of Member States, RECs, and development partners – based on which institutional mechanisms and legislative frameworks are now in place in the majority of Member States and RECs. The Commission has taken an important step to strengthen coordination and technical support at regional levels through the establishment and operationalization of the African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2011, and (b) initiation of the *African Risk Capacity project*, which is envisaged as African owned, stand-alone financial entity that will provide African governments with timely, reliable and cost-effective contingency funding in the event of a severe drought by pooling risk across the continent. Together, these initiatives are believed to contribute towards better preparedness, improved response and enhanced resilience of African economies to natural disasters.

c) The African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD)

246. Through implementation of AMESD, it has been possible to (a) improve the access by African users to existing basic Earth observation, field and ancillary data; (b) establish operational information services to improve decision-making processes; (c) strengthen political and policy development frameworks to ensure active and sustainable participation of African governments in the global environmental surveillance initiatives; and (d) ensure an adequate technical level of AMESD African stakeholders. The Commission's engagement of the partners (notably the EU and RECs) on options to continue to cater for such significant capacity needs on a sustainable basis has resulted in an agreement for the continuation of the support during a second phase in terms of financing the Monitoring of the Environmental Security in Africa (MESA) project.

247. In addition, the *Climate Information for Development in Africa* (ClimDEV Africa) initiative, one of the programmes that the Commission joined hands with the AfDB and the UNECA to champion, has now become operational, further enhancing Africa's capacity to access and utilize climate information for policy making purposes.

248. The Commission, in collaboration with partners, convened the First Conference of African Ministers responsible for Meteorology in April 2010, which effectively established the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET), whose immediate preoccupation would be to facilitate the preparation of an integrated African strategy on meteorology and a related framework for action.

d) Trans-boundary Forest Management

249. Within the framework of revitalizing the contribution of forest and other biological resources to sustainable development and poverty eradication in Africa, the Commission has been working with RECs and regional forest Commissions (Commission sur les Forêts en Afrique centrale (COMIFAC), ECCAS, CENSAD, Mano River Union, etc.) towards enhancing regional collaboration in forest resources management through policy harmonization and capacity building through developing *trans-boundary forest management* systems and mechanisms.

e) The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI)

250. Implementation of the GGWSSI in thirteen (13) participating Member States have commenced with elaboration of national strategies and action plans through technical and financial support made available through collaboration with the EU and FAO. With the establishment by a Decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the CENSAD, of a pan-African Agency for GGWSSI in Ndjamena, Chad, full scale implementation of the initiative should be accelerated. The Commission will continue to support and work together with the pan-African Agency to ensure that efforts are aligned and harmonised for better results.

f) Water Resources Management

251. Following the 2008 Sharm-el Sheikh Declaration on Water and Sanitation, the Commission's efforts, through technical and financial support provided by Germany (GIZ), have been directed towards collaborating with the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) with a view to putting in place a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism for tracking progress on achievement of Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments by Member States. The M&E Reporting Format on water and sanitation at country level was developed and discussed at AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting in July 2011 and endorsed by the meeting of the AMCOW Executive Council (EXCO) held in October 2011.

g) Capacity Building Project on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

252. Since its launch in 2009, the Project has been implementing activities in the areas of enhancing negotiation skills of African negotiators on climate change, desertification, and Mercury, among others, through facilitating training as well as interaction between the political leaders and the technical experts. It has also contributed towards awareness raising and information exchange through mounting effective advocacy tools and strategies to enhance visibility; and towards promotion of regional conventions and development of adequate regulatory and legislative frameworks, and institutional strengthening. Through this project, it has been possible to support the efforts of RECs and Member States in undertaking consultations and assessment of needs to implement MEAs leading to better environmental management.

3. CHALLENGES/PROBLEMS FACED AND MITIGATION MEASURES UNDERTAKEN

a) Challenges

253. The most important challenge faced with respect to follow-up and coordination of the implementation has been the lack of a clear reporting and monitoring mechanism between Member States and the Commission. While the Commission regularly reports to the Summit on progress of what it has accomplished, information on the actual progress of implementation of programmes/initiatives at Member States level has often been unidentified. The result has been that there is little way of knowing if those Decisions have actually been implemented or not. In absence of such information, it has been difficult to formulate and coordinate support for implementation.

254. More than 90% of funding to support programme implementation has been financed through partners support. This obviously raises fundamental questions of ownership and sustainability of those programmes. It has also caused concerns over reliability on programming.

255. The Commission's structure is no longer commensurate with the volume of work that is growing over time. Shortage of human resources has been a very serious challenge.

b) Solutions and Actions Proposed and Undertaken

256. There have been attempts to develop Mutual Accountability Frameworks to track progress on implementation of CAADP, and the results have been encouraging. Joint planning has been seriously considered by the Commission, AU-NPCA and RECs in coordinating CAADP. These need to be strengthened and sustained, while similar approaches need to be employed in other areas as well. In addition, Member States should seriously consider reporting on implementation of those Decisions that they have collectively adopted in AU Summits.

257. The Commission has been attempting to address the challenge of depending on piece-meal donor's support, through engaging partners for a multi-year planning and budgetary support for its CAADP related activities. There is an encouraging experience which has given sufficient leverage to judiciously allocate resources to implement programmes in agriculture and food security. This is what needs to be encouraged as part of the engagements with other partners.

258. The organizational structure of the Commission needs to be revisited urgently with a view to making it possible to recruit enough number of qualified staff to deliver on results. The Commission currently attempts to address the problem of staff shortage through short-term experts and secondments made available by partners (FAO, GIZ, UNISDR, WPF) to fill in the significant staff shortages that it has been facing. This will continue to be the case until such time as a lasting solution is found through making adequate provisions in the structure.

III.4 INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL MARKET AND ASSETS

1. *FOLLOW UP ON THE G8 AND G20*

259. The G8-Africa Outreach Session was held in Deauville, France, on 27 May 2011. Amongst the issues discussed were peace, security and governance; development issues, including economic growth, regional integration, climate change and energy access; and mutual accountability, based on reports prepared by the African and G8 sides. Significantly, the Deauville Summit recognized Africa as becoming a new pole for global growth but that challenges remain, particularly those pertaining to the development of Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

260. Concerning peace and security, the Summit affirmed its commitment to remaining constructively engaged in Somalia and to support international efforts to secure peace and stability in the country. On development, the G8 committed itself to supporting Africa's regional integration processes, free trade areas and the full implementation of the Minimum Integration Programme (MIP) of the African Union. Emphasis was also placed on supporting the efficiency of key trade corridors, trade liberalization processes as well as exploring negotiating options to successfully conclude the Doha Round. However, it should be noted that the Ministers of Trade at their Eight Session, held in Accra, Ghana, from 29 November to 3 December 2011, underscored that any new approaches canvassed by WTO members to unlock the current impasse in the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) must be multi-laterally acceptable and in keeping with the basic principles of Most Favoured Nation (MFN). Ministers also strongly objected to any attempt to add "new issues" to the WTO's DDA agenda, before the issues of interest to LDCs, Special & Differential Treatment (S&DT) and implementation related concerns are adequately delivered.

261. Regarding mutual accountability, the G8 and Africa committed to meeting their commitments, with the G8 re-affirming commitments on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and enhancing aid effectiveness, with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, strengthening economic growth and job creation, and addressing global challenges. In view of the foregoing, it is, however, difficult to envisage how G8 commitments on ODA will be maintained in light of the on-going crisis in the Euro zone, increased uncertainties in the global economy and the reticent economic recovery in many G8 industrialized economies. Africa should, therefore, brace itself for possible declines in ODA in the near to medium term and disbursements to be far below the UN target of 0.7 per cent of donor countries' Gross National Income (GNI). Rather, the Continent should put greater emphasis on domestic resource mobilization, innovative financing mechanisms and identify how it can play a stronger role in global rebalancing.

III.5 INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTION CAPACITIES

1. *AGRICULTURE (CAADP, FOOD CRISIS)*

262. Three inter-related core and strategic development concerns guided the Commission's work in the agriculture, food security, rural development and environment and natural resources management portfolio. These are:

- i) advancing the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) agenda through mobilization of political, technical and financial support;
- ii) enhanced coordination of the implementation of flagship projects pursuant to relevant AU Decisions; and
- iii) promotion of sustainable management of the environment and natural resources.

a) Progress in Coordinating the Implementation of CAADP

263. Significant progress has been registered in advancing the CAADP agenda, which could be measured in terms of mobilisation of political commitment, harmonization of policies and strategies, and mobilization of investment resources for implementation. The number of Member States that have signed their national CAADP compacts, which was only One (Rwanda) before 2008, has now reached Thirty (30)⁴, with many more in the pipeline to do so. Twenty One (21) Member States have successfully completed the formulation of CAADP-based country investment plans which have also been independently reviewed, of which fifteen (15) have had their business meetings and financing modalities agreed upon.

264. Encouraging results have been registered as a number of Member States have increased their budgetary allocations to the agriculture sector although few have thus far reached the set 10% targets. Recent statistics show that up to nine (9) countries⁵ stand out as having reached or surpassed the 10% target. Another group of nine (9) countries are currently spending between 5 and 10 per cent, with increasing trend. It is expected that such a positive trend will be further enhanced with the operationalization of the investment plans.

265. Operationalization of investment plans necessarily entails mobilisation of the private sector. In this respect, the Commission, in collaboration with the AU-NPCA, Member States, RECs and partners, has been working towards mobilizing national, regional and global private sector companies to invest in a series of opportunities

⁴These include: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, DRC, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

⁵Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, and Senegal.

created by Member States. Building on initial partnership models piloted by the World Economic Forum, the Commission together with NPCA, and in partnership with World Economic Forum, established an Agriculture Growth and Investment Task Force to support governments in engaging private sector partnerships to finance national priorities identified under CAADP. As of November 2011, seven (7) Member States⁶ have been supported to develop investment blueprints that are being used to rally private sector companies to engage with governments and sign investment deals.

266. Further, the Commission, working with NPCA and RECs, has also made significant progress in mobilization of the Development Partners community towards coordination, harmonization and alignment of development assistance to African Agriculture through CAADP in line with Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and Accra Agenda for Action. For example, as of November 2011, seven (7) Member States⁷ have benefitted from ...GAFSP Trust Fund resources to support financing of their country investment plans based on their demonstration of CAADP principles. This is in addition to what Member States secure investment financing through bilateral funding⁸ to support CAADP implementation.

267. Credible mechanisms to facilitate effective partnership engagements are put in place as part of this alignment process and strengthening of these commitments. The CAADP Partnership Platform (CAADP PP) has now been increasingly used as an important instrument for joint planning, assessment of progress and experience sharing in CAADP implementation, instilling a sense of mutual accountability. The establishment and operationalization of a M & E system which provides up-to-date information, based on indicators agreed upon by all African stakeholders, on progress on agricultural performance continent-wide and at country level. A Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) has also been developed, which uses the CAADP M&E outcomes together with an additional set of accountability indicators to facilitate review, dialogue and therefore enhance accountability among stakeholders. Mechanisms such as agricultural sector reviews at country level, and annual CAADP Partnership Platforms are increasingly being used as review and dialogue platforms in fostering accountability for results on agriculture performance.

268. Another critical aspect of the CAADP process has been enhancing the capacity of key African institutions at regional and continental levels for them to be able to facilitate and support an effective rolling out of the CAADP framework at country and regional levels on sustainable basis. These institutions include first and foremost the Commission, NPCA, RECs and Pillar lead institutions, but also other actors such as farmer organizations, that have clear mandates and roles to facilitate the coordination of CAADP implementation. To this effect, a Multi-Donor Trust Fund was established at the World Bank, and resources were subsequently being made available to support a

⁶Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania.

⁷Ethiopia, Liberia, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Togo

⁸For example, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has allocated substantial resources through its Feed the Future Programme in support of CAADP; other partners such as the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), Germany through the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), Canada, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, among others, are also supporting a series of CAADP-based programs at country level.

number of these institutions for them to enhance their capacity and play their respective roles in CAADP implementation. The Multi-Donor Trust Fund⁹ has also been instrumental to support the country processes leading towards preparation and subsequent signing of CAADP Compacts as well as during the post-Compact engagements to prepare investment plans. African institutions with regional and continental mandates and roles in CAADP implementation have also benefited from capacity strengthening support from partners¹⁰.

III.6 INTEGRATION AND TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING

1. INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE

269. In preparation for the January 2012 Summit on Boosting intra-African trade, the Commission organised a Retreat in Kuriftu, Ethiopia from 25 to 27 October 2011 with grassroots stakeholders with a view to gathering their contribution on a number of documents aiming at boosting intra-African trade. These are a proposed Framework for fast-tracking a continental free trade area (FTA): Road Map, Architecture, and Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism as requested by the last Summit, and an Action Plan on Boosting Intra-African Trade. The Chambers of Commerce, private sector and other trade institutions and research centres contributed by enriching the documents with their experience on the ground.

270. In the same vein, the Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), organised a Trade Forum where the Action Plan on Boosting Intra-African Trade and the Framework for fast-tracking the continental free trade area (FTA): Road Map, Architecture, and Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism were presented to Member States trade officials, RECs and a larger group of private sector, civil society, entrepreneurs, women representatives, etc. High interest was shown for the project and valuable recommendations were made towards the enrichment of the documents.

271. The Commission further organised the 7th Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Trade from 29 November to 03 December 2011 in Accra, Ghana. The Ministerial Conference recommended for adoption by the Assembly the Action Plan on Boosting Intra-African Trade and the Framework for fast-tracking the continental free trade area (FTA): Road Map, Architecture, and Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism. The Conference also adopted a Declaration on the WTO and on Boosting Intra-African Trade.

⁹The European Commission, Great Britain, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, and the USA have contributed to the MDTF.

¹⁰ These include the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and the German International Technical Cooperation (GIZ), among others.

2. CUSTOMS

272. The Commission continued its work on harmonization of Customs procedures, rules and regulations. The Commission took stock and reflected on the transit procedures applicable within the Regional Economic Communities with a view to harmonizing them, and produced a Draft Protocol on Transit. It is expected that once this Protocol is adopted, it will ease some of the major challenges faced by the Member States in the handling of goods in transit.

273. The Commission also produced a Draft Statement of Policy on Interconnectivity of Computerized Customs Systems. This statement aims at contributing to a shared understanding and increasing focus on the necessity for interconnected computerized Customs systems and contributing to the wider agenda of Trade Facilitation within the framework of the establishment of regional Free Trade areas, Customs Unions and foster arrangements for the same at the continental level as provided for in the Abuja Treaty.

3. MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

a) 8th WTO Ministerial Conference

274. As part of the preparations for the 8th Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference (MC8) held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 15 to 17 December 2011, the Commission organised a preparatory workshop in Accra, Ghana on 27 and 28 November 2011. The workshop provided a forum for the exchange of views on the key negotiating issues, the political climate for negotiations and the need to strengthen the rules-based institution which is the WTO in the run-up to the 8th WTO Conference. It also prepared African countries for effective participation in the Conference with a united vision.

III.7 ROLE OF ALL ACTORS IN STRENGTHENING THE INTEGRATION PROCESS (PUBLIC SECTOR, PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY, DIASPORA,

275. In this area, the activities of the Commission focused on the following activities: Implementation of the AU's Diaspora Programme, Training Programme for CSOs on understanding the AU and support for ECOSOCC.

1. AFRICAN CITIZENS AND DIASPORA

a) The Diaspora Programme

276. The main thrust of efforts was the implementation of the Diaspora Programme in the lead up to the Global Diaspora Summit scheduled to take place in Pretoria, South Africa on 25 May 2012.

277. Further to the adoption of the Roadmap through Assembly/AU/Dec.354 (XVI) by the Assembly in Addis Ababa in January 2011, the Commission, in close collaboration with the Republic of South Africa, continued to undertake steady, cumulative steps to

implement the Roadmap and consolidate effective preparations for the Global African Diaspora Summit.

278. An important feature of the Roadmap among others, was the convening of a Technical Experts Workshop in Pretoria, South Africa in February 2011 to review and update the Ministerial Outcome Documents of 2007 in the light of developments that had taken place since then on programmatic, organizational, political, economic and social fronts. The report of that Workshop was submitted to the policy organs (PRC, Council and Assembly) in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June/July 2011. By its Decision Assembly/AU/ Dec.367(XVII) the Assembly directed that the outcome of the Technical Experts Meeting and related aspects of the progress report on the Implementation of the Diaspora Roadmap be submitted to a Second Ministerial Conference to be held on the margins of the UN General Assembly on 24 September 2011.

279. The Ministerial meeting was held as scheduled. Its objectives were three fold: to use the outcome of the Technical Experts meeting to improve the Ministerial documents and update them to take account of significant developments that have taken place since 2008; to promote a common understanding among Africans within the continent and the Diaspora, with particular emphasis on securing agreement on the issues left unresolved by the Ministerial meeting of 2007; and to establish a framework for action that will serve as a global charter for the Diaspora Initiative.

280. The Ministerial Conference was very successful. A full report of the meeting with its outcomes and recommendations is being presented to the current session of the Executive Council for consideration. The Ministerial Conference underlined the need for the Union to commit appropriate resources for the Diaspora programme and to faithfully implement priorities of the Diaspora programme as approved in the Roadmap. The Ministers further committed themselves to ensuring that priorities set in the current program budget for 2012 will reflect this pre-occupation. Finally, the Ministerial Conference emphasized that the Diaspora program does not begin and end with the Diaspora Summit. Much more important work lies ahead as the Union becomes seized with the monitoring and implementation processes of the Summit Outcomes.

b) High Level Diaspora Consultation, New York, 26 October 2011

281. In light of this indication and in accordance with the provisions of the roadmap, the AU Commission through CIDO and the Permanent Mission in New York organized a high level Diaspora Consultative meeting in New York on 6 October 2011 to sensitize the Diaspora Community in New York and the US to the AU vision, missions, programmes and activities in general and to mobilize the Diaspora Community on the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting and consequent preparations for the Global Diaspora Summit. The meeting was attended by several high level participants in the UN system, the African diplomatic community as well as Diaspora representatives from all walks of life, including Ambassador Dudley Thompson, Martin Luther King Junior and the Chairperson of the Conference of African Mayors. The meeting resolved to set up an Advisory Panel made up of Eminent Persons to support its work.

c) Facilitating CSO Participation in the Policy Process: Workshop on Understanding the AU

282. The Commission has commenced an annual training programme for African Civil Society organizations with a Workshop held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 21 to 23 July 2011. The purpose of the programme is to facilitate productive CSO interaction with Member States and other stakeholders in order to fulfil the objective of the Constitutive Act of the Union to create a people-oriented community in the Union.

283. The specific intent of this workshop were three fold: to familiarize CSOs with the philosophy and orientation of the African Union as it has developed including its fundamental law, the Constitutive Act of the Union and the vision, missions and strategic plan of the Commission; to acquaint CSOs with the realities of the policy making processes, the structures and organs involved and post-Summit implementation processes; and to give a better understanding of the AU and its mains organs as well as to explore within this context the entry points and interaction mechanism available to civil society and how they can be maximized for the purposes of the Union in general and the interests of civil society in particular.

284. The Workshop, which was held in collaboration with Oxfam International through its Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, generated great interest and achieved important and valuable results. It increased CSO understanding of the AU and its structures and processes among civil society. Conversely, it also served to enhance similar understanding within the Commission and the Union at large on the requirements, roles and responsibilities of the civil society and how their activities can support the AU and its Member States to achieve peace, security and development on the continent.

d) Institution and Capacity Building: Support for ECOSOCC

285. In accordance with the Decision of the Executive Council EX.CL/Dec.633(XVIII) of January 2011, the Commission through its Secretariat located within the CIDO Directorate continues to provide effective support for the operationalization of ECOSOCC.

286. Accordingly, the Commission supported the Organization of the 6th Ordinary Session of the Standing Commission of ECOSOCC in the Diaspora in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in July 2011. The Standing Committee took several important decisions and approved the Report of ECOSOCC submitted to the Council and Assembly in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June/July 2011. Subsequently, the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council endorsed the decision of the Standing Committee to convene the 4th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of ECOSOCC in October 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya and further requested the Standing Committee to take appropriate steps to ensure mid-term elections as well as subsequent elections into the General Assembly in 2012 and to finalize and submit a framework report on operationalization of Clusters in June/July 2012. The Commission effectively supported the organization of the 4th Ordinary Session that oversaw the mid-term elections in Nairobi, Kenya, from 30 October to 3 November 2011. This session of ECOSOCC was held amidst some concerns about the security situation in relation with the Somalia

conflict. The Commission would like to thank the Government of Kenya that hosted the event, for its support in ensuring the security and safety of all delegates and the successful organization of the meeting.

2. SECOND CONGRESS OF AFRICAN ECONOMISTS

287. The Second Congress of African Economists was held in Abidjan from 24 to 26 November 2011. The objective of this Congress which holds every other year is to develop responses to the major economic and social concerns facing Africa. The Congress of African Economists which is in its second edition has a peculiarity or special features in relation to the classic fora of economists convened in Africa at various venues. The first peculiarity of the Congress is that it is the handiwork of the African Union in the pursuit of its mission to effectively implement its regional and continental integration agenda. The second peculiarity lies in the fact that the Congress brings together not only the economists resident in Africa, but also those of the Diaspora. The third feature of the Congress is that it is conceived and organized exclusively by Africans for Africans. On this score, the challenge must be placed before African economists, irrespective of their philosophical persuasion, to produce the shock of ideas needed for the development of economic models capable of bringing about accelerated economic emancipation of Africa.

288. This African Union's strategic think-tank framework is an open window for African economists, which enables them to bring their contributions to bear on the implementation of our continent's economic and political integration agenda. The objective sought is to facilitate interaction among political and economic policy makers and intellectuals, thus enabling the latter to place their science and knowledge at the service of their continent's development and, thereby, contribute to the enrichment of African policy makers' brainstorming and position taking on issues of strategic importance to the continent. It is evident that Africa cannot develop with the ideas of others. It has to find within itself the genius necessary to take up the challenges posed by an ever-changing world by making its mark in the concert of the international community.

289. The theme of the Abidjan Congress ***“How to achieve a strong and sustainable economic growth in Africa in order to curb unemployment and sustain regional and continental integration dynamics”*** is highly topical. It is an undisputable reality that, today, unemployment is a tragedy for the African youth and a nightmare for African leaders. For the youth of the continent, finding a first employment is an uphill task. Many of them remain at the frontiers of the labour market without ever accessing it before being hit by the retirement age in our countries. Joblessness in its diverse form is the daily lot of the majority of the youth of Africa. This distressing situation leads some of them to go for the adventure of migration at a grave risk to their lives. African leaders, for their part, have their sleep troubled by unemployment and its trail of woes which characterize the youth of their countries. Creating strong and sustainable growth thus constitutes for them an equation with several unknowns that is difficult to solve. The political and social stability of their countries is strongly dependent on their ability to solve such equation.

290. The correlation between growth and employment has several times been tested by economists. It is generally recognized that strong growth is at the origin of numerous jobs due to the multiplier effect generated by income surge, demand solvency, increased investment, etc. Is the positive effect of growth a reality in Africa? In other words, is the growth generated by African economies a purveyor of job opportunities? In reality, it seems that the growth achieved by most African economies produces virtually zero or very limited impact in terms of elimination of mass unemployment. This paradoxical situation leads us to raise a series of questions. Are there several types of growth? Are there types of growth that create jobs and other types that do not create jobs? Why is growth in Africa less job creating?

291. An attempt at finding answers to these questions can throw up two major concerns for Africa, namely: How to create strong and sustainable growth, and what type of growth should be created to curb unemployment? These two questions were at the core of the objectives of the Abidjan Congress, the recommendations of which will no doubt help us to articulate scenarios for a solution to the employment equation and rekindle the hopes of the African youth.

III.8 PARTNERSHIPS AND RELATIONS WITH THE WORLD

1. ON-GOING PARTNERSHIPS

a) The 2nd African Union (AU) - Organisation of American States (OAS) Forum on the Promotion and Defense of Democracy and Human Rights in Africa and the Americas.

292. Following the First Forum entitled: “Democracy Bridge; Multilateral Regional Efforts for the Promotion and Defense of Democracy in Africa and the Americas” at the Headquarters of the OAS, held in Washington DC, in June 2007, it was the turn of the African Union Commission (AUC) to host in Addis Ababa, the 2nd Forum with the theme “Challenges and Opportunities in the Promotion and Defense of Democracy and Human Rights in Africa and the Americas”, from 12 to 13 October 2011.

293. The Forum was attended by representatives of 28 Member States of the AU and 9 Member States of the OAS, as well as Representatives of ECA, International IDEA, which provided financial support, as well as Organs of the AU and OAS operating in the field of Democracy and Human Rights.

294. The two-day Forum, conducted through two Panels and three simultaneous Working Groups of Experts, has the objective of exchanging knowledge, best practices and experiences about the state of Democracy and Human Rights in Africa and the Americas as well as challenges and solutions; informing about the context of regional instruments designed to promote and protect democracy and human rights; promoting ties between authorities and experts of the two regions and institutions in their respective work on democracy and human rights; and developing a common framework for civil society involvement in fostering democracy and human rights in the two regions.

295. One of the three Working Groups also focused on Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention and Resolution in the two regions. The AU Experts discussed the African Peace and Security Architecture and its key pillars and also identified challenges facing Peace and Security in Africa, including the lack of an effective punitive capability and machinery to punish perpetrators of insecurity and funding for maintaining peace and security on the continent.

296. For their part, the OAS experts indicated that there was low level of conflict in their region because of common values shared among Member States, such as the principle of non-interference and non-intervention, territorial integrity, respect for sovereignty and the peaceful settlement of conflict, which have all been reflected in several inter-American instruments adopted by Member States. On challenges, they mentioned how to incorporate civil society into conflict resolution processes and identifying and attracting sustainable sources of financing conflict situations, among others.

297. On the whole, the Forum was a success because it placed emphasis on finding solutions to challenges facing both Organisations and regions in the areas of democracy and human rights. It recognised the existence of convergence in certain areas of their mandates, which need to be explored for the benefit of both Organisations. Furthermore, it also recognised the need for enhanced cooperation between the two regional bodies and the establishment of appropriate mechanisms to do so, such as continuous Working Groups, exchange of personnel, organization of joint training activities and sharing of experiences and best practices.

b) The 8th Senior Officials Meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

298. At the joint invitation of China and Egypt, current Co-Chair countries of the FOCAC process, the Commission attended the 8th Meeting of the Senior Officials of FOCAC in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province of China, from 25 to 29 October 2011 and were later admitted, alongside South Sudan, as new full members of FOCAC.

299. The meeting reviewed a Chinese Report on the implementation of the follow-up actions of the 4th Ministerial Conference of FOCAC held in Egypt in November 2009. The Report highlighted, among others, the fact that political consultations and cooperation between China and Africa continued to be developed; there was mutual support for each other's position on regional and international issues as well as mutual trust in each other; dynamic economic and social cooperation between both sides has reached higher levels and FOCAC institutional building continued to be improved. While several delegations expressed satisfaction and gratitude for the results achieved, they observed that in the next decade, the FOCAC process will have to pay attention to other urgent issues like consular and legal matters, organized crimes and clandestine immigration, protection of the Congo Basin as well as multilateral cooperation and implementation of the NEPAD agenda, among others.

300. The meeting also considered preparations for the 5th Ministerial Conference of FOCAC, with the provisional theme of “Building China-Africa Strategic Partnership”, which is scheduled to take place in China in mid-July 2012.

301. An incident worth highlighting is that when the leader of the AUC delegation, Ambassador John K. Shinkaiye, Chief of Staff of the Bureau of the Chairperson of the Commission, was given the floor to make the AUC’s acceptance speech following the admission of the AU as a full member of FOCAC, the Ambassadors of Guinea, Mozambique, Morocco and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) interrupted his speech on a point of order. This was when he referred to the Decision of the Assembly of the Union which stipulated that the Commission should play a coordination role in the management of partnerships in collaboration with the Permanent Representatives’ Committee (PRC) and Africa’s diplomatic representatives in the capitals of countries/regions that have cooperation agreement with Africa. While Morocco stated that it was not opposed to the Commission being a full member of FOCAC, it wanted its role to be defined. Guinea, DRC and Mozambique, for their part, stated that there was still no agreement on the membership of the Commission, much less its role and objected strongly to the use of the expression “coordination of partnerships”.

302. In their reaction, some delegations like those of Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa accepted the role of the AU in the FOCAC process and indicated that in the coming decade, there will be need for FOCAC to focus also on the aspect of multilateral cooperation, especially the NEPAD agenda, to assist in the implementation of Africa’s main continental projects.

303. It was sobering to observe that some Ambassadors in Beijing accepted the AU’s role in the FOCAC process. There will be need for Member States to enlighten and instruct their representatives in the countries where the AU has partnership arrangements about their role and to respect the decisions of the Assembly.

c) The Thirteenth Meeting of the Africa-EU Joint Task Force (JTF)

304. The Thirteenth meeting of the Africa-EU Joint Task Force (JTF) was held on 19 October 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting reviewed the political and policy dialogue between Africa and the EU, and explored cooperation in new areas of mutual interest “beyond development”.

305. The meeting called on the Joint Expert Groups to focus on prioritization of activities and the delivery of concrete outcomes through developing clear roadmaps, and highlighted the urgency to explore all possible avenues, including existing and new instruments, to support the implementation of the Joint Africa – EU Strategy (JAES) Action Plan and ensure more concrete results, such as the set-up of the technical support mechanism; the creation of a Pan-African programme; and the new JAES Communication strategy.

306. The thirteenth meeting of the Africa-EU Joint Task Force (JTF) also noted that some progress had been achieved, albeit uneven across partnerships. However, it acknowledged that some challenges continue to hamper the pace of implementation

and stressed the need for collective action to address them. The meeting emphasized also the need to look at the current functioning of the structures and working arrangements, ensure an evaluation of progress made in all partnerships, and to reflect on ways to improve their effectiveness. It was suggested to follow a dual track approach whereby: i) changes would be introduced to the working arrangements of the partnerships; and ii) a longer term strategy would be developed to address structural challenges beyond the Brussels Summit in 2013 so that both Africa and EU can reap the full benefits of this strategic partnership.

307. Furthermore, the 5th Informal Joint Expert Group (IJEG) Meeting of the Africa-EU Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights was held on 29 and 30 September 2011 in Brussels, Belgium. The 9th AU-EU Human Rights Dialogue took place in Brussels on 23 November 2011. It reviewed and considered actions relating to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) and the Right to Development. The meeting took note of recommendations that emerged from the 3rd Africa-EU Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Seminar on Human Rights, held on 21 and 22 November 2011. The Seminar provided an opportunity to appreciate African and European CSOs perspectives on the Rights to Housing and Post-Election Conflict.

308. On the whole, it should be noted that significant progress has been achieved in elevating the Africa-EU relations to a new strategic level since the adoption of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) at the Lisbon Summit of December 2007. Since then, much effort has been exerted by both sides to implement the JAES and its successive Action Plans. Despite the achievements recorded, a number of challenges still remain. These include the inadequate involvement of all stakeholders in the implementation process and inadequate focus on the development dimension. The lack of dedicated financing for the JAES also remains a major impediment of implementation. In this regard, the Commission will continue to engage the EU side with a view to finding a lasting solution to the problem, including the possibility of setting up an African Integration Facility or an appropriate alternative as a long-term solution. In the meantime, consultations with Regional Economic Communities are on-going, aimed at increasing synergy between the JAES and the Regional Indicative programmes. The JAES holds a lot of promise for the peoples of Africa and the EU. Consequently, all stakeholders on both sides need to intensify efforts to ensure the successful implementation of the JAES and its successive Action Plans. The Commission will continue to work closely with Member States, RECs, civil society, the Pan African Parliament and the private sector, among others, to ensure the realization of the objectives of the Joint Strategy.

d) The 7th Meeting of the Governing Board of the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDA)

309. I attended the 7th meeting of the Governing Board of the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDA) which took place in Tunis, Tunisia, on 11 and 12 November 2011. The event was held back to back with the Annual Mo Ibrahim Foundation event on 12 and 13 November 2011, during which, among other things, the 2011 Mo Ibrahim Africa

Leadership Prize was awarded to the former President of Cape Verde, H.E. Mr. Pedro Pires.

310. The CoDA Board meeting considered the report of the CoDA, which included the Land Policy Initiative (LPI) and Policy Forum on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Land in Africa: Risks, Opportunities and Challenges, which took place in Lisbon, Portugal, on 7 June 2011. It also considered the follow-up event on the Lisbon Forum, which was organised in Nairobi, Kenya, and which adopted the Nairobi Action Plan on Large Scale Land-Based Investments in Africa. The Nairobi Plan of Action provides for CoDA to develop a detailed work plan and implementation mechanism for the plan, while the Commission has been charged with the responsibility of identifying a High Level Panel of Africans to support the AU Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa and the Nairobi Action Plan.

311. The Tunis meeting also received a briefing on the African Mining Vision and agreed on several measures to support the work that the three African continental Institutions, namely the AUC, AfDB and UNECA, are doing on this important subject.

312. Another major event which took place along with the CoDA Board meeting was the Forum on “Two Decades of Democratic Transitions in Africa”. The Forum carried out a candid assessment of democratic transitions across Africa since the 1990s and examined the “Arab Spring”, which has swept through North Africa and some parts of the Middle East. A report on the Forum will be prepared by CoDA and would be made available through CoDA’s website.

313. It is to be noted that, apart from the Leadership Award by Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the Foundation organised a cultural event which brought together several leading African musicians who entertained over 5,000 young Tunisians. It also had a Discussion Forum on the subject: “African Agriculture from Meeting Needs to Wealth Creation”. I had the honour to make the opening remarks and to declare the event open. The Discussion Forum was extremely productive and I hope that the outcome will be available to Member States.

314. The Board also considered CoDA’s budget for the next one year, which is estimated at US\$1,541,250.00. The private sector and civil society are expected to meet 51% of the budget, while the three sponsoring organisations- AU, AfDB and ECA – are to meet the rest.

315. The 7th CoDA Board meeting was attended by most of its Board Members, including the Chair of the Board, H.E. Mr. Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana, Mr. Paul Martin, former Prime Minister of Canada, the President of AfDB, Mr. Donald Kaberuka, the UNECA Executive Secretary, Mr. Abdoulaye Janneh, Dr. Mo Ibrahim, Chair, Mo Ibrahim Foundation and Prof. Abdoulaye Bathily of Senegal. Ambassador Gaetan Ouedraogo, the Executive Director of CoDA, attended his first full meeting having been appointed to the position at the 6th Board Meeting. The process of signing a Headquarters Agreement for CoDA is now on-going with the government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The conclusion of the Agreement will enable the CoDA Secretariat take off fully in Addis Ababa. I appreciate the effort by the

Ethiopian Government to conclude the Agreement and, together with the UNECA, the Commission will work towards it being signed shortly.

e) Africa-Arab Partnership

316. In August 2011, the Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States convened a joint technical consultative meeting in Cairo and elaborated the various mechanisms that need to be put in place for the smooth implementation of the new Africa-Arab Partnership Strategy and Joint Action Plan, adopted by the 2nd Africa-Arab Summit held in Sirte, Libya in October 2010. It was agreed that the on-going process of transforming the Africa-Arab Cultural Institute into an Africa-Arab Institute for Culture and Strategic Studies should be accelerated. The Institute will be responsible for guiding the overall Africa-Arab Partnership through research based approaches.

317. The two sides have been undertaking significant steps through studies, developing frameworks and guidelines and setting up technical committees towards implementation of some outstanding decisions such as the establishment of Committees of Africa-Arab Ambassadors in selected capitals and cities and establishment of an Africa-Arab Film Festival which will be coordinated under the Africa-Arab Institute for Culture and Strategic Studies. The two initiatives would facilitate implementation of the diplomatic and cultural agendas of the Partnership Strategy and the Joint Action Plan and encourage people-to-people interactions.

318. Progress was also made towards the establishment of a Facilitation Unit, under the auspicious of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, for implementation of the Joint Action Plan on Agricultural Development and Food Security, adopted by the First Joint Africa-Arab Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in February 2010.

319. The Executive Council of the Africa-Arab Cultural Institute also held its 11th Meeting in Iraq, in October 2011. In December 2011, the Commission hosted the 6th Annual General Cooperation Meeting in Addis Ababa, which reviewed progress of the Africa-Arab Partnership activities and endorsed a Joint Work Plan for 2012. The Work Plan is based on the approved programmes of the Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States. The 2nd meeting of the African and Arab Joint Peace and Security Councils was also held in Addis Ababa and developed consensus on a number of issues of mutual interest.

2. REPRESENTATIONAL OFFICES

(1) NEW YORK OFFICE

320. The Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations continued to implement its mandate both in the context of its representational functions as well as its coordination of and support to the activities of the African Group at the United Nations. The Mission also provided support and assistance to the AU Chairperson, accompanied by Commissioners and other Senior Officials, during the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly. In that context, the Office facilitated participation of the Chairperson and his

delegation in high level meetings held on the margins of the UN General Assembly, particularly those of high interest and priority to Africa, notably: the UN Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter Terrorism, the Ministerial Meeting on the Humanitarian Response to the Horn of Africa, the UN Alliance of Civilizations Group of Friends Ministerial Meeting, the High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases as well as the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly to Commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Adoption of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action " Victims of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance: Recognition, Justice and Development".

321. On the representational front, the Office engaged with the United Nations Secretariat and the relevant components of the UN, agencies, Funds and Programs to consolidate existing partnerships and further strengthen the institutional working relations between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission. As a result of the increasing global visibility of the African Union, the Permanent Observer Mission witnessed a high number of interests for bilateral engagement with the AU Observer Mission from the Diplomatic Community, Researchers/Academia and various entities as well as representatives of the African Diaspora in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean. During this period, efforts of the Mission remained focused in the relevant pillars of the African Union Commission's strategic vision.

322. In the area of peace and security, the Mission remained constantly engaged in various consultations and open debates of the Security Council relating to issues of peace and security, particularly in Africa given that at least 70% of the Security Council's agenda is devoted to Continent. The reporting period witnessed a number of important developments in the management and resolution of hot beds of tension and crises situations on the continent.

323. OnLibya, the Mission facilitated the participation of the Chairperson of the Commission in the high level meeting on the situation in Libya organized by the UN Secretary-General on the margins of the 66th Session of the UNGA and also spearheaded the organization and hosting on 21 September 2011 of the Ministerial Meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council on Libya, as mandated by the AU High Level Ad Hoc Committee on Libya at its meeting held on 14 September 2011 in Pretoria, South Africa.

324. The political dynamics which emerged during the high level discussions on the situation in Libya were considered to be critical lessons learned for the African Union in terms of its perception of and, aspirations for genuine partnership between the AU and the UN in the framework of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. These forums also proved to be a testing ground for the African Union's mediation efforts in Libya in the context of its established roadmap. Drawing on these pertinent lessons, the Mission wishes to encourage continued engagement with the UN and other stakeholders at the highest political level, particularly within the context of AU-UN Partnership to ensure better political coherence and synergy. Subsequent participation in a meeting of stakeholders convened by the UN Department of Political Affairs on Friday 18 November 2011 enabled the Mission to share the African Union's concern about the regional impact of the Libyan crisis and its call for a comprehensive and coordinated approach.

325. On Somalia, the Mission facilitated the participation of the Chairperson of the Commission at the Mini Summit on the Horn of Africa organized by the UN Secretary General on 24 September 2011 which provided a good opportunity to reiterate the African Union's appeal for additional and predictable funding for AMISOM including effective coordinated donor response and support.

326. The discussions and actions of the UN Security Council as observed by the Mission demonstrated a degree of commitment that goes beyond the support of the African Union's efforts in Somalia through AMISOM to addressing the wider regional implications of the crisis in Somalia in all its manifestations, especially the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia. The adoption of Resolution S/Res/2015(2011) on 24 October 2011 is therefore considered as a robust response to the ever-increasing transnational threats in the Horn of Africa and other parts of the Continent such as the Gulf of Guinea.

327. As regards to the Sudan and South Sudan, the Mission followed closely the unfolding of events at the UN in the wake of the successful referendum leading to the admission of the new Republic of South Sudan as an integral member of the community of Nations. In the same vein, the Mission facilitated the participation of the Republic of South Sudan as a new Member of the African Group at the United Nations.

328. The Office monitored and reported on developments regarding: (i) the Situation in Abeyi and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur; (ii) engagement of the Security Council vis- a-vis the need to strengthen relations between the two new neighbours and implications for the two parties commitment for a peaceful settlement of pending issues; (iii) the envisaged adjustment in the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) to incorporate border monitoring mechanism and related financial implications proposed by the UN Secretary General in his letter dated 10 October 2011.

329. On Thematic Debates, the Mission participated in several public meetings of the Security Council:

- i) Debate on the theme, *"Moving Forward with Security Sector Reform: Prospects and Challenges in Africa"* The Mission's participation provided the opportunity to share information on the background and circumstances which informed the African Union's role in Security Sector Reform including efforts on the way forward;
- ii) Debate on the Lord Resistance Army and the Activities of the UN Office in Central Africa. The Intervention of the Mission outlined the African Union's efforts to address this question including concrete steps taken towards that regard. The Presidential Statement S/PRST/2011/21 adopted at the conclusion of the Debate clearly mirrored the importance the Security Council accorded to the centrality of the African Union's leadership on this question.

- iii) *The Mission also followed with great interest the “Briefing on the question of Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea”.*

330. It should be noted that the coming year 2012 will usher in new African Members in the Security Council and, more importantly, witness successive African leadership of the Security Council in the months of January (South Africa) and February (Togo, new member). The Mission underscores the critical importance for Africa to exploit this window of opportunity in order to ensure that issues of high priority and urgency to Africa are addressed by the UN Security Council.

331. The Mission followed closely the debate on the question of Reform of the Security Council, provided support and facilitated the work of the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten in the execution of their mandate pursuant to Assembly Decision AU/Dec.370(XII). While noting the growing momentum for decisive action from the various interventions on this question during the debate, the Mission considers this as a unique opportunity for Africa to forge strategic alliances in order influence progress in the right direction.

332. On the issue of Peace Building and Post Conflict Reconstruction, the Mission monitored and participated in the activities of the Peace Building Commission (PBC), notably the High Level Meeting on Peace Building in Guinea and Burundi held on the margins of the UN General Assembly. The Mission also facilitated the convening of the Ministerial Meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea Bissau on 26 September 2011 and noted the renewed commitment of the ECOWAS, the Community of Portuguese Language Speaking Countries and the wider international community in supporting and assisting Guinea Bissau to meet its obligations for the maintenance of stability and constitutional order as reflected in the Final Communiqué.

333. The African Union's participation at these High Level Meetings on Peace Building aimed at ensuring the close alignment of PBC efforts with AU Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development with particular focus on the principles of national and local ownership, cooperation and coherence and capacity building.

334. On the Question of Palestine, the Mission also followed closely related developments both at the level of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Non-Aligned Movement. In that regard, the Mission observed the intensity with which the Palestinian Authorities advocacy for admission to membership in the United Nations gained momentum during this period. The Mission's participation in the annual meeting marking the international Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People held on 29 November 2011 afforded the opportunity to reaffirm the African Union's position on the question of Palestine and its just cause.

335. The Mission intensified its collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA). The joint organization of the annual briefing on the work of African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and joint celebration of the Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of NEPAD were major highlights. The Mission worked closely with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to support the activities of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency in the various celebration activities.

336. In the area of cooperation, the Mission continued to facilitate and strengthen cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations in the context of the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) at the highest political level, operational and field levels. In the same vein, the Mission held a series of bilateral meetings aimed at nurturing its cooperation with other multilateral and non-governmental entities.

337. The Mission coordinated efforts to support African Candidatures endorsed by the Executive Council to fill vacancies in various organs and posts within the UN System during the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.

338. The Mission is of the view that past and recent experiences underscore the need for a serious review of the rules and procedures governing the endorsement of African Candidatures for posts in the International System. Such a review can only achieve the desired results if joint efforts are undertaken to ensure close coordination between the African Group Candidatures Committee in New York and the AU Ministerial Committee of Candidatures.

339. The Mission coordinated a high number of meetings held by the African Group both at Ambassadorial level and the level of experts in the various Committees. The Mission also monitored the evolution of the agenda items of the 66th Session of the General Assembly and within the various deliberative Committees considered of high priority and interest to Africa. In this context, the Mission made available relevant Decisions adopted by the AU Summit in Malabo to the African Group and ensured that the letter and spirit of African Union Decisions were duly taken on board in interventions made on behalf of the African Group as well as integrated into relevant UN Resolutions.

340. The Mission draws attention to two important UN Conferences to be held in the year 2012, notably, *The 2012 Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects*, and *The Rio + 20* to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012.

341. In this regard, the Mission facilitated a meeting between the African Group and H. E. Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, Forestry Economy and Environment of the Republic of the Congo in his capacity as Chairperson of African Ministerial Conference for Environment (AMCEN) who shared with the Group “*Africa’s Consensus Statement to Rio +20 as adopted by the Africa Regional Preparatory Conference*” held in Addis Ababa from 20 to 25 October 2011. The Commission is strongly encourages Africa’s effective participation at both Conferences, highlighting the pivotal role of African Permanent Representatives in spearheading the relevant preparatory processes in New York with a view to safeguarding Africa’s interests and priorities.

342. In the area of promoting shared values, the Mission facilitated the organization of the African Ministerial Conference on Diaspora held on 24 September, 2011 on the margins of the UN General Assembly in accordance with the Decision

AU/Assembly/367(XVII) adopted by the 17th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly. The Mission also facilitated the High Level Diaspora meeting including carrying out activities to facilitate the work of the AU Diaspora Task Team.

343. Similarly, the Permanent Observer Mission worked closely with the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations to sensitize international opinion in favor of financial contributions for the erection of a Permanent Memorial at the United Nations in honour of the victims of slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The Commission encourages Member States to contribute to the Fund for the erection of the above mentioned Memorial.

(2) WASHINGTON DC OFFICE

344. The mandate of the AU Representational Mission to the USA-Washington DC is to develop, maintain, and consolidate constructive and productive institutional relationships between the African Union and the Government of the USA, Africans in the Diaspora, and the Bretton Woods Institutions.

345. Within the framework of the AU Strategic Plan 2009 -2012, the African Union Mission contributed to the following achievements:

- i) Partnership strengthened between the AU and the US Government. The Annual U.S. - African Union High Level Bilateral Meetings have been institutionalized since 2010. During those meetings, a full range of Africa/ U.S. priority areas for cooperation are discussed notably Governance and Democratic Institutions in Africa; strengthening Peace and Security Institutions in Africa and supporting Africa in building capability to look into complex transnational issues that confronts Africa, such as: Climate Change, narcotics trafficking and terrorism, enhancement of peace keeping capabilities, improvement of health conditions, attainment of food security and agriculture development through CAADP initiative, Education, Youth Development and Empowerment, Trade and Regional Integration. With the US Congress, the Mission is partnering with the Congressional Black Caucus to build constituency with African Diaspora at political, socio-economic and community level. With the US private sector, the Mission is promoting efforts to increase US-Africa trade and investment, and the cooperation in the areas of education and health;
- ii) African Strategies/positions on key AU policies mainly, Peace and Security, CAADP, PIDA, Trade and investment, Health, Education and Technology, Environment, youth, and Diaspora are well coordinated and promoted through the African Ambassadors' Group meetings to which the Mission plays the role of Secretariat;
- iii) The partnership with the Bretton Woods Institutions: The World Bank is funding a project to strengthen the Mission to enable it promote productive institutional relationships with the African Diaspora in the Americas. In addition, the World Bank is supporting the Commission's programs in the

field of agriculture, diaspora and infrastructure. Other areas including AU higher education initiative, the implementation of the Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Africa are also under consideration for support. With IMF, discussion is underway to cooperate in different areas, including in providing technical support for establishment of the 3 AU Financial Institutions, i.e. African Monetary Fund, African Investment Bank and the African Central Bank;

- iv) Relationship strengthened with OAS and CARICOM: AUC and OAS have signed an MOU on cooperation which is an important platform for strengthening and deepening of the relations between the OAS countries and Africa. With respect to the relation with CARICOM, there were initial discussions to review the draft MOU between the Commission and CARICOM with a view to strengthen the relations between the two Organizations;
- v) Purchase of AU Mission chancery: by the end of 2010, the Office had managed to implement the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.392 (XII) of January 2008 to purchase property for Washington DC Office. The property is currently undergoing renovations and construction of a conference hall to host the African Diplomatic Corps in Washington DC. The renovation is expected to be completed by end February 2012.

(3) GENEVA OFFICE

346. Geneva Office organized several meetings at ambassadorial and experts level to enable the African Group to get informed, deliberate, take decisions on issues of importance and adopt common positions on matters discussed in various international organizations. The Mission provides support to the presidency of the African Group, which rotates on quarterly basis, in the implementation of the decisions taken by the Group.

347. Geneva Office invited to the meetings of the African Group several personalities from international organizations as well as other international negotiating partners. At the meetings, common strategies were defined and useful information was exchanged.

348. In the bid to enhance the capacities of the Group, the Mission organized workshops on trade, human rights, health and intellectual property matters. At the end of the workshops, common African positions and proposals were defined, and these were subsequently used as strategies and basis for negotiations at the meetings held in Geneva.

349. The Mission convened meetings of the Geneva African Group Candidatures Committee and provided it with support as well as the documentation required for its deliberations. It also provided the AU Ministerial Committee on Nominations in Addis Ababa with relevant information for consideration of African candidatures in the international system. A provisional version of a guide has, meanwhile, been developed

to help African institutions and African countries to better understand the procedures to be followed with regard to vacant posts in the international system.

350. As regards trade matters, Geneva Office is the facilitator of the African Group activities on multilateral trade negotiations and development issues. The continuous dialogue established between the Office and the International Trade Centre addresses matters relating to trade capacity building programmes aimed at fostering and enhancing African regional integration and developing intra-African trade. The Mission plays an active role in UNCTAD 13th session preparatory process which kicked off in 2011. This phase will constitute the greatest challenge for developing countries, as it will enable UNCTAD to safeguard and bolster its mandate on development and trade matters.

351. In this regard, the Office organized for the African Group several seminars and workshops on the Doha Round negotiations. The workshops led to the development of African common positions on trade matters in both WTO and UNCTAD. The activities also helped to enrich the reports and declarations of various annual Conferences of Trade Ministers. In the course of the present half-year, two workshops were staged to prepare the annual Conference of Ministers of Trade and the 8th Conference of Ministers members of WTO. From these workshops emerged a contribution to the draft declaration and the proposals which the Ministers will consider in preparation for the WTO Ministerial Conference.

352. As regards intellectual property, telecommunication and meteorology, the Mission provided support to African negotiators in the various World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Committees by preparing the technical documents for the negotiations and making proposals regarding African positions at the negotiations, especially through the organization of technical workshops.

353. The workshops were, in particular, aimed at preparing African positions on a WIPO international treaty on the protection of traditional knowledge, folklore and genetic resources, the exceptions and limitations to copyright and discussions on development agenda. The workshops allowed the African Group to bring to the negotiating table, proposals and projects which are currently under discussion.

354. Geneva Mission also participated in the deliberations of the World Congress against Piracy and Counterfeiting. It followed with sustained attention the deliberations of the World Meteorological Organization Congress and the entire preparations for the third Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Geneva in May 2011. The Mission also covered the work of the Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

355. In the area of human rights, the Mission covered several ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and availed itself of these occasions to make presentations on African Union 's programmes and initiatives in this area. It accompanied the African Group in its management of the human rights situations in certain African countries (notably DRC, Burundi, The Sudan, Guinea,

Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire, Libya and Tunisia); situations which generated intense discussions in the Human Rights Council.

356. In 2011, the HRC concluded the process of revision of its work methods and procedures. The Mission organized a consultation seminar for the African Group to define common positions, thus leading the Group to contribute effectively to improvement of the Council's work methods.

357. During the past four years, the HRC was able to actualize its periodic universal review mechanism. All African States went through this mechanism and are currently focused on the process of implementing the recommendations they accepted. The Mission accompanied the Francophone Member States on the occasion of a seminar organized by the Human Rights Commission and the International Organization of the Francophone on implementation related issues. The Mission will explore with Member States, the technical assistance required to facilitate the process of implementation of the recommendations.

358. The question of combating racism has been omnipresent on the Geneva landscape even though little progress has been made in this direction. Geneva Office organized several seminars culminating in the development of road maps which reflect African common positions and coordinated negotiation strategies. As a result, racism has continued to be retained at the top of the concerns of the international community.

359. Realization of the right to development is another issue of importance to Africa. The year 2011 is the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development; and at the end of this quarter of the century, poverty and other scourges have continued to rage in several parts of the world including Africa. In 2010, the Mission organized a seminar on this issue, which brought together the representatives of regional groups and politicians as well as the top executives of development agencies. The seminar culminated in the emergence of synergies between the African Group and other regional groups or politicians.

360. With respect to humanitarian affairs, the Mission covered all the meetings of HRC Standing Committee as well as all sessions of its Executive Committee. The Mission was often strengthened by the participation of a high-level delegation from the Headquarters comprising notably the Commissioner for Political Affairs and the Chairperson of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons who, in close collaboration with the African Group, were able to brief the international community on the efforts deployed by Member States and the African Union Commission in this area.

361. In the realm of social affairs, Geneva Office has continued to provide support to the African Group for the defense and promotion of Africa's interests and vision at meetings of the Governing Body of ILO, World Health Organization (WHO), UNAIDS and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

362. With regard to capacity building, the Mission has since organized three important workshops on the theme: Health and Migration. The workshops benefitted from the

technical contributions of experts from the Headquarters, the RECs and other relevant international organizations (European Commission, ICO and the Arab League). The conclusions of the workshops provided the essential elements for Africa's positions which were defended at the meetings of WHO and IOM.

(4) BRUSSELS OFFICE

a) Implementation of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership

i) EU

363. The Mission organized, in Brussels in September this year, a conference on the financing of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and the related Action Plan 2011-2013. The conference offered the opportunity not only for a review of the role of the European External Action Service (EEAS) in the implementation, but also for consideration of alternative sources of financing the African Union, as proposed by the Commission. After an in-depth analysis, it was noted that the mixed results realized in the implementation of the joint strategy could be explained in particular by: the lack of accession to the principle to (i) "treat Africa as a single entity" as agreed in the Joint Strategy ; (ii) the non-accession to the principle of subsidiarity; (iii) the lack of correlation between the action of the Joint Experts' Groups (JEGs) for implementation of the Strategy and the actions undertaken at country and regional levels ; (iv) the lack of ownership and, above all, the absence of specific financial outlay for the successive Action Plans (2008-2010 and 2011-2013). Amongst the recommendations put forward to remedy the situation, the following may be noted: (i) need for an Africa-wide financial instrument specifically dedicated to the Joint Strategy; (ii) acceleration of the process of aligning the existing funding instruments with the exigencies of the Joint Strategy; (iii) creation of a Pan-African instrument (for example, an African integration facility or an alternative thereto, and (v) finalization of the establishment of a support mechanism for the Joint Strategy. One could add to these proposals: a re-evaluation of the objectives of the various partnerships to limit the activities in the areas that offer value added; involvement of development financing institutions (African Development Bank and European Investment Bank); need to encourage Member States and the RECs to strive further to integrate the principles of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy in their programming processes.

364. As a prelude to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 17), and to enable the African Group of Ambassadors in Brussels to get well acquainted with the relevant African positions, Geneva Office last November organized a retreat on this subject. The retreat also considered the said positions as well as the stakes involved in the Conference, ahead of the 6th partnership of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy on climate change and the environment. The occasion was also used to undertake an overview of Africa-EU cooperation for better understanding of the related challenges, constraints and prospects. Furthermore, the African Group in Brussels availed itself of the occasion to carry out an in-depth exchange of views on how best to get further involved in the implementation and monitoring of the Africa-EU cooperation.

b) Implementation of the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement**i) Meeting of Heads of ACP Regional Organizations and ACP Chief EPA Regional Negotiators**

365. The objective of the meeting was to get the heads of regional organizations of ACP States including EPA chief negotiators (ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreements) to brainstorm the creation of a coordination mechanism for the ACP Inter-regional Organizations Committee, exchange views on the effectiveness of development assistance, discuss trade issues (the developments in the still ongoing Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations), preparations for the 8th WTO Conference and the participation of ACP States in global trade). On that occasion, the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission brought substantial contribution to bear on the consideration of these issues. As regards EPAs in particular, the meeting backed the development-oriented African common position for the EPAs adopted at the Conference of AU Ministers of Trade. Referring to the pressure represented by the imminent withdrawal, on 1 January 2014, of the rule in respect of access to EU market for ACP countries that would not have signed an EPA, the point was made that priority should be accorded to the content of EPA, rather on the calendar.

ii) Participation in the work of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

366. The Mission continued to participate in the sessions of the Joint ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly to popularize AU positions on the political and development issues discussed in the said sessions. The sessions thus offer African parliamentarians the opportunity to more effectively imbibe AU actions in the relevant areas and, hence, to ensure coherence of the decisions taken at these sessions with African strategies on the issues under discussion. The Mission also participated in the session of the Sustainable Development Commission held in Brussels in October this year and monitored the plenary session of the JPA held in Lomé, in November 2011.

iii) Joint Conference of the Stakeholders of the ACP-EU EDULINK and Science and Technology Programmes

367. The Mission participated in the Conference of the Stakeholders of the ACP-EU Education and Science and Technology Programmes held in Brussels in October. That meeting examined the status of implementation of the projects developed in the various segments of the programmes (education, health, higher education, research and agriculture). A comprehensive exchange of views helped to measure the scope and impact of the projects on development in ACP countries. The projects in question are the REEP (Project on Renewable Energies in the sphere of education); EACEA (Education, Audio visual and Culture) and the ERASMUS MUNDUS programme on innovation through Science and Technology; LIVE (Linking Institutions for Veterinary Education in Africa) for improvement of the veterinary sector, etc.

368. As regards other representational activities undertaken by the Mission, the following deserve to be mentioned:

- i) **Organization in Brussels of a meeting of the representatives of States Parties to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** for briefing on the current developments in the organization and for in-depth exchange of views on the preparations for the 16th session of the Conference of State Parties which took place from 28 November to 2 December.

The Ambassadors of OPCW States Parties were thus enabled to get well acquainted with the strategy that Africa was expected to adopt in the perspective of this conference.

- ii) **Organization of a meeting of the representatives of African States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)** for exchange of views on the key points to be discussed at the 10th session of the Assembly of States Parties to be held in New York from 12 to 21 December 2011, such as protection of victims and their effective participation in judicial proceedings, public awareness-building and enlightenment, the challenges posed by the 2012 budget of the Court, developments regarding the case of Libya and Côte d'Ivoire. The dialogue thus entered into proved to be constructive given that it represented an extension of the dialogue that had been initiated between the Court and all the States Parties as well as international organizations like the AU, EU and others.
- iii) **Celebration of Africa Industrialization Day 2011,** in close collaboration with UNIDO Office in Brussels to further sensitize Africa's partners, particularly the EU, on the need to articulate international cooperation instruments on Africa's industrial development strategies adopted by African continental (AU) and regional bodies. The effective participation of EU, ACP States and several UN agencies was a testimony to the importance attached to this message.

(5) LILONGWE OFFICE

369. The African Union Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO) was established to promote the objectives of the African Union in Southern Africa, develop and maintain constructive and productive relationships between the AU and Member States in the region and foster benign relations with the core Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), which are part of the pillars for the attainment of full continental integration.

a) Refugees Situation in the Region

370. As regards to refugee situation, UNHCR continues to provide international protection and material assistance to refugees, asylum seekers and other persons of concern in Southern Africa. The statistics show that many people still cross borders in

the region due to previous political, war and other insecurity issues. Between January and August 2011, Malawi had so far received 15,181 refugees and asylum seekers from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda. The Regional Delegate to Southern Africa, visited Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Dowa district in the central region of Malawi in company of the UNHCR Resident Representative to assess the situation in the Camp. It was noted that the UNHCR and WFP, through the Malawi government provide security, food, shelter, health care, safe water, child protection education and counselling among others.

371. The AU-SARO assisted the African Court on Human and People Rights at a meeting held in Lilongwe which was aimed at promoting the African Court of Justice. The meeting was opened by H.E. the State President of Malawi and was attended by the entire Malawian government senior officials, cabinet ministers and the diplomatic corps based in Lilongwe. The good media coverage of the events was a testimony of awareness of the African Court on Human Right and People Rights

372. The AU-SARO actively participated in the annual meetings of the Association of African Central Banks (AACB), the Fifth Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Integration (COMAI V); the 15th Summit of the COMESA Heads of States and Government ; the 30th Meetings of COMESA Policy Organs; the ongoing Sub-regional Harmonization Process on Bio-safety by ECOWAS, SADC and EAC; and ECA-SARO-SA meeting on New Trends in South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Implications for Southern African countries.

373. The Annual General meeting of the Association of African Central Banks was held in Lilongwe in August 2011 on the theme: *“Impact of the International Financial Crisis on Monetary Unions: The Challenge of Coordinating Budgetary and Monetary Policies in Africa”*, where the Commissioner for Economic Affairs represented the Commission and made two presentations and keynote address. A notable outcome of these meetings was the General Assembly’s acceptance of the Commission’s invitation for central bank governors’ active participation in the Joint Meetings of the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance, jointly organized by the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

374. The 15th COMESA Heads of States and Government Summit and the 30th Policy Organs meetings took place in Lilongwe, Malawi from 4 to 15 October 2011 on the theme *“Harnessing Science and Technology for Development”*. Great emphasis was placed on the successful launch of the COMESA-EAC-SADC negotiations for the establishment of the Tripartite Free Trade Area which placed the region in a better position to address challenges it faced and would contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the African Economic Community. The Free Trade Area has contributed to the increase of the Intra-COMESA trade among the three RECs.

375. The Office during this period continued to work closely with UNECA-SA and participated in a workshop on a study titled *“New Trends in South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC): Implications for Southern African countries”* organized by ECA-SARO-SA, in Windhoek, Namibia-. The workshop reviewed the background report of the

study which adequately addressed the effectiveness of SSTC in development priorities of Member States in the sub region; and how the two pivotal countries of the SADC sub-region (Mauritius and South Africa) are performing in triangulating development cooperation to the rest of the sub-region among others.

376. The Office closely monitored the recently concluded elections in Zambia and Seychelles.

377. The AU-SARO Bulletin has been re-launched and the first new look bulletin was issued in July 2011. The Bulletin provides current information on regional development and integration programs on which the office focuses its programs and activities. It has helped in popularizing AU-SARO as it is widely distributed throughout the region and to the outside world through print and electronic media.

378. Moreover, AU-SARO has been working with the Government of Zimbabwe through its Embassy in Lilongwe in preparation for the 2012 African Union Model Summit which intends to involve students from different Universities in Zimbabwe. The programme is one of AU-SARO's mandate to popularize the Organization in the region and to play an advocacy role. The first Model summit took place in Malawi in March 2011 and registered success. The programme trains university students on the principles and practices of AU, and exposes them to a wide range of actual global and continental issues.

(6) CAIRO OFFICE

379. As part of its mandate, the Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the League of Arab States (LAS) monitored not only the strengthening of political relations that are of common interest to the African Union and the League of Arab States, but also the implementation of the Africa - Arab States Strategic Partnership and the Plan of Action 2011 - 2016.

380. It is worth mentioning that during the reporting period, the Council of the League of Arab States, meeting in its 136th session in Cairo, on 13 September 2011, adopted resolutions relevant to the African Union.

a) Political Developments in the Palestinian Question and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

381. Arab ministers confirmed their support to the Palestinians to submit their application to the United Nations for recognition of the State of Palestine, based on the borders of 4 June 1967, with Alqods East (East Jerusalem) as its capital, and obtaining the status of full member of the Organization. In this context, it should be noted that the African Group at the United Nations, in cooperation with the Palestinian delegation and groups of Arab and Islamic countries, supported the Palestinian application, in accordance with the decisions of the Malabo Summit of June-July 2011 and with the decision of the coordination meeting held in Cairo, Egypt, on 4 September 2011, between the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Secretary General of the League of Arab States (LAS-SG), the Deputy Secretary General of the Organization of

Islamic Cooperation, and the Egyptian foreign minister, in his capacity as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, relating to coordination between these groups during the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

382. In this connection it is worth noting the important role played by South Africa, Gabon and Nigeria through their support for the Palestinian request to the United Nations Security Council, despite the fact that the Palestinian application did not obtain the required number of votes for consideration by the Council.

383. On the other hand, events worth mentioning include the accession of the State of Palestine to UNESCO at the 36th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, on 4 November 2011, by 107 votes for and 50 abstentions. Such accession will enable the Palestinian people to contribute to the promotion of education, scientific research and the arts and also to defend its cultural and archaeological heritage.

b) Support for peace and development in Sudan

384. The Council of the Arab League adopted resolutions, among others, calling on Arab countries to cooperate with the Sudanese government in strengthening relations between Arab countries and South Sudan, to promote good neighbourly relations, deepen mutual interests and strengthen the Sudanese economy to face the consequences resulting from the separation of South Sudan. It also called on the armed factions in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile to cease all violence and join the negotiating table to find a political solution. The Council also made the commitment to continue efforts to coordinate the positions of the Arab, Islamic and African countries in support of peace actions and to strengthen the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur while commending the Peace Agreement signed between the Sudanese Government and the Liberation and Justice Movement on 14 July 2011. It further called on all armed movements in Darfur to sign the Agreement to end the conflict. Lastly, it reiterated its position rejecting the decision of the International Criminal Court against President Omar Hassan El Bashir.

c) Support to the Somali Republic

385. In this regard, the Council of the League hailed the positive developments in the security situation in the Somali capital, which facilitated the access of humanitarian convoys to the victims of war. It moreover reiterated its full support to the African Union mission in Somalia and the joint forces, and condemned all military operations targeting the African Union forces in Somalia. It requested the Arab countries from Africa to contribute troops to complete the deployment of the African peacekeeping force and to support the African Union's request for the deployment of UN forces to replace the African forces as soon as possible. Lastly, it stressed the need for effective coordination between the African Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the United Nations for the organization of a conference on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia.

d) Support for the Union of the Comoros:

386. With regard to the Comoros, the Council of the League commended the coordination of joint efforts by the Arab League, the African Union, the United Nations and neighbouring countries, particularly relating to the implementation of the National Reconciliation Agreement, while affirming the Comorian identity of the Island of Mayotte and rejecting the French occupation of that island. It asked France to pursue the dialogue with the Comorian Government to find a solution to the return of the Island of Mayotte to Comorian sovereignty. It further welcomed the steps taken by the State of Qatar and the General Secretariat of the LAS towards the implementation of the commitments made at the Arab meeting on investment and development of the Comoros, and called on Member States, donors and the Arab countries to solve the debt problem of the Union of Comoros as part of the peace-building and development process.

e) Peaceful settlement of the conflict between Djibouti and Eritrea

387. The Council of the League launched a fresh appeal for the two countries to respect the principles of good neighbourliness and the inviolability of borders existing between them on the eve of independence. It confirmed the Agreement signed under the patronage of the State of Qatar on 6 June 2010, and asked both parties to implement the provisions of the Agreement.

f) Monitoring of cooperation between Africa and the Arab World

388. The Permanent Delegation of the African Union held the first joint technical consultation meeting the AU Commission and the Secretariat of the LAS, on 27 and 28 August 2011, to exchange views on the modalities of implementing the Strategic Partnership and Joint Action Plan 2011 - 2016, by establishing a specific programme that should be completed before the end of 2011. The programme includes particularly the establishment of Arab-African film and cultural exchange festivals.

389. As part of the 2011-2016 Action Plan, a joint meeting was held in Cairo on 18 and 19 September 2011 between experts of the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States on the cultural and cinema field and between other private sector experts in the same area from African and Arab countries. The conclusions adopted at the meeting notably seek to promote and strengthen cultural relations between the Arab and African regions and disseminate a balanced and positive image among peoples of both parties, through films, the sharing of knowledge and experiences between the two regions in the film industry, the promotion of artists, directors and producers by awarding prizes and encouraging joint film production. Following these conclusions, an expert was recruited on 15 December 2011 to prepare the technical study on the establishment of the festival. A meeting is scheduled during the first week of February 2012, at the headquarters of the Afro - Arab Institute for Culture and Strategic Studies that provides oversight of the project, to validate the study.

g) Africa - Arab World Joint Action Plan on the Development of Agriculture and Food Security

390. It should be noted that the inaugural session of the Steering Committee of the Joint Action Plan Facilitation Unit (JAP) was held on 30 April 2011 and 1 May 2011 at the headquarters of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development in Khartoum. The meeting discussed, among others, the composition, structure and rules of procedure of the Facilitation Unit and the terms of reference and procedures for recruiting Unit staff.

391. A technical consultation meeting between the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States was held from 23 to 25 November 2011 in Addis Ababa. The meeting focused on the conditions for the effective launch of the implementation, in the Arab world, of the Joint Action Plan on the development of agriculture and food security in Africa. The meeting recommended that the Joint Action Plan Facilitation Unit on the development of agriculture and food security should be established before 2012 ending. In this context, an experts' meeting was proposed for 27 to 29 December 2011, in preparation for the second session of the Steering Committee and to develop detailed proposals for resource mobilization for the Unit to enable it to operate over a period of three to five years, before any decision is made about it.

392. Lastly, it should be noted that the sixth general cooperation meeting between the African Union Commission and the League of Arab States, held on 17 and 18 December 2011 in Addis Ababa, adopted the joint working plan for 2012. The meeting placed particular emphasis on strengthening Afro - Arab joint institutions and the establishment of agreed mechanisms as well as mobilizing resources for the effective implementation of priority activities of the Africa - Arab World Strategic Partnership and the Joint Action Plan 2011-2016. Similarly, the meeting stressed the need to begin preparations for the third Africa-Arab World Summit and planned activities to ensure that the Summit is held on schedule.

IV. SHARED VALUES

393. During the period under review, the Commission focused its programmatic work on facilitating implementation and support to Member States. In this regard, the priority of the Commission was to secure the requisite ratifications of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration, and the establishment of an implementation mechanism. In the realm of humanitarian affairs, the highlight of the Commission intervention was facilitating AU's response to the drought and famine crisis in the Horn of Africa.

IV.1 DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE

1. GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY

a) African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance

394. The Commission has continued to deploy efforts to facilitate and secure Member States' ratification of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. The Commission has held targeted consultations with Member States and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate ratification of the Charter. These consultations have resulted in increased ratification. For the time being, twelve (12) Member States have ratified, whilst thirty eight (38) have signed the Charter. Some Member States have undertaken significant steps in the ratification process.

395. The Commission has begun the process of putting in place measures and modalities to support Member States in the implementation of the Charter. In this regard, the Commission convened in Freetown, Sierra Leone from 11 to 15 October 2011, a consultation with Member States that have ratified the Charter. It was recommended that Articles 44, 45, 46 and 49 provide the basis for the development of a framework to facilitate domestication and implementation.

b) Year of Shared Values

396. With guidance provided by the Decision of the 18th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council on Shared Values (EX.CL/Dec.635 (XVIII)), the Commission organized two Retreats (22-24 August and 24-25 November 2011) in Ethiopia, to develop a work programme for the Year of Shared Values. As outcome of these Retreats, the Commission together with AU organs/institutions with a formal mandate on Democracy and Governance, RECs and other relevant stakeholders like UN agencies and civil society, have established a work programme for the Year of Shared Values. It is anticipated that implementation of the work programme will strengthen Member States' commitments in the areas of Democracy, Governance, Elections and Human Rights as well as in enhancing the role of the Commission in this regard.

c) Public Service

397. The Commission has continued to engender wider ownership of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration through popularization in line with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 337 (XVI). In this regard, consultations (15-16 September 2011, Mauritius and 5-7 December 2011, Congo) have been held with Member States, RECs and other relevant stakeholders on how to facilitate and secure Member States' ratification. Currently, fourteen (14) Member States have signed the Charter while two (2) have ratified it. The Commission facilitated the meeting of the Bureau of the 7th Conference of African Ministers of Public Service which was held from 9 to 14 May 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Bureau adopted the Work Plan of the 7th Conference and reflected on how to capacitate the Commission to support and service the ministerial programme.

d) Developing a Framework to Support Implementation of Democracy and Governance Instruments and Decisions

i) Greater Synergy between the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)

398. As part of efforts to implement the Decision of the 18th Executive Council and the Declaration of the 16th Ordinary Session of the Assembly calling for greater synergies between the African Governance Architecture and the Peace and Security Architecture, arrangements are being made to convene a retreat between the two line Departments (Political Affairs and peace and Security). The objective of the retreat is to explore modalities on how to ensure that developments in the terrain of Democracy and Governance feature prominently in the work of PSC. Indeed, Article 3 (f) and 7 (m) of the Protocol relating to the PSC objectives and functions within the realm of Democracy, Governance and Conflict Prevention provides a firm foundation for interaction between the AGA and APSA. As such, there is need for sustainable and predicable engagement between the two Departments and the PSC.

ii) Periodic Review of Member States' Compliance to Shared Values Instruments

399. To facilitate implementation of the AU instruments on Democracy and Governance and direct support to Member States, the Commission is pursuing its efforts to develop a framework to monitor and review Member States' compliance with AU instruments on Shared Values ((EX.CL/Dec.635 (XVIII)). As outcome of a consultation with experts (14-15 October 2011, Sierra Leone), it was recommended that all AU instruments on Democracy and Governance should form the basis of identifying indicators and benchmarking. It was further recommended that the indicators should allow for country specificity and be responsive to demand and interest of Member States so that the review results are relevant. It was also recommended that the review process should be a shared responsibility between the Commission and Member States.

iii) African Governance Platform

400. The African Platform on Governance Platform was formally launched on the 22 December 2010, in South Africa, in accordance with the Decision of the Executive Council (EX.CL/619 (XVIII)). The African Governance Platform will coordinate evaluation on implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance with other key organs of the Union, Regional Economic Communities and appropriate national-level structures (Article 45 paragraph c of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance).

e) Local Governance

401. The Commission held a consultation on 23 November 2011 in Awasa, Ethiopia, to explore how to integrate the All Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralization and Local Development (AMCOD) into the AU structures and processes within the framework of the new Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) to be established. This

will respond to the need for a clear and collective understanding on how the AU can support Member States in matters of Local Governance as per Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.158 (VII).

2. ELECTIONS AND ELECTION OBSERVATION

a) Technical Assistance to Election Management Bodies (EMBs)

402. The Commission is providing training and technical support to national EMBs in Central, East, Southern and West Africa. Some of this assistance is provided upon request to address specific training needs of EMBs that are not covered at the regional trainings. The pilot stage of this programme was launched on 21 November 2011 with the National Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone. The Commission is also engaged in this process with the EMBs of Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. The Commission has also entered into cooperation agreements with some countries and organizations that support democracy institutions.

403. As part of efforts at developing and improving AU election observation systems, the Fourth Orientation/Training for AU observers was held from 14 to 16 November 2011 in Tunis, Tunisia.

b) Post-Election Audits

404. In the absence of a framework for post-election observation, the Commission held workshops on a framework for Regional Post-Election Audit in each region where 3 to 4 elections have held within 6 months.

c) Improving AU Election Observation Systems

405. With the support of UNDP, the Commission is in the process of transforming its methodological approach to election observation from one based on pre-election assessments and election-day observation to long term election observation based on the electoral cycle approach to afford early engagement in the assessment of electoral processes.

d) Election Observation

406. During the past six months, the Commission has monitored elections in Zambia, Liberia, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Tunisia, Sao Tome and Principe, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and The Gambia. Generally, the management of the electoral processes is improving and national election management bodies have become more effective and organised. Whilst there is need to maintain this positive momentum, the Commission has also noted that there is urgent need to enhance the capacity of Member States with regards to the pre- and post-election phase.

IV.2 HUMAN RIGHTS

407. The Commission is continuing the process of exploring how the AU can complement and enhance the capacities of Member States on transitional governance and justice. In this regard, consultations were held from 8 to 10 and 12 to 13 September 2011, in Cape Town, South Africa, with experts and some Member States who have initiated transitional justice processes. The consultations have contributed to a collective and more coherent understanding of contemporary application of transitional justice in Africa in light of the on-going processes towards the development of an African policy framework on transitional justice, as recommended by the Panel of the Wise.

408. The Commission has continued to use commemorative events as opportunities for outreach. The Commission commemorated Africa Human Rights Day on 21 October 2011, International Day for Tolerance on 16 November 2011 and International Human Rights Day on 4 December 2011.

a) Human Rights Strategy

409. In collaboration with the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Commission organized the 4th Conference of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from 4 to 6 August 2011 in Banjul, The Gambia. The meeting provided an opportunity for experience sharing on reporting and access by National Human Rights Institutions to the African Human Rights System. It was recommended that a guideline should be developed which will enhance awareness and comprehension of the African Human Rights System.

b) Knowledge Generation and Management

410. The Commission continues to upgrade and update the Resource Centre for Democracy, Governance and Human Rights in order to improve the quality of research and knowledge on emerging development and policy trends on governance and human rights.

IV.3 HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

411. Africa continues to host the largest number of refugees and IDPs in the world in spite of the improved conditions that have resulted in the return of thousands of them. The worsening global conditions have adversely affected the Continent's ability to cope with such magnitude of shock and this has had a devastating impact on the already vulnerable populations who have been victims of forced displacements. These conditions include climate change, global food crisis, natural disasters, population growth and urbanization, competition for scarce resources as well as international migration and mixed movements of peoples.

412. During the past six months, the Commission implemented the directives and Decisions of the Executive Council and the Summit, in close collaboration and cooperation with the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally

Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the AU partners, in particular the UNHCR, ICRC, WFP, IOM, and OCHA. Major achievements include the convening of the first African Union Pledging Conference on the Drought and Famine in the Horn of Africa held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 25 August 2011 and the revitalization and reconstitution of the Coordinating Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons. There were also spirited efforts to promote the signature and ratification/accession to the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs, the first ever legally binding international instrument of its kind. It is expected that all these efforts will go a long way in the search for durable solutions to the problem of forced displacement in the long term.

413. With respect to the Pledging Conference, African countries and institutions showed solidarity by pledging the sum of US\$ 351.706 million in cash and US\$ 28.8 million in kind. Since the Conference, more contributions have been received from various sectors, including Members of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), Staff Members of the Commission as well as spouses of Ambassadors in Addis Ababa.

414. It should be observed that the African Union cannot possibly tackle the numerous challenges in the area of humanitarian action on its own. It is therefore imperative that concerted efforts be deployed to face the complex and multi-dimensional nature of emergency response in a concrete manner which brings immediate succour to those in dire need, with the longer term aim of promoting peace, security and stability, including national reconciliation, where necessary, for the total elimination of the problem of forced displacement.

415. The Commission would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the occasion of the celebration of both the 60th Anniversary of the Refugee Convention and 50th Anniversary of Convention on the Elimination of Statelessness, which was held in Geneva last December. As one of the AU's long standing partner, the Commission is determined to further the common ideals it shares with the UNHCR to ensure that durable solutions to the problem of forced displacement is seriously tackled on the Continent through greater commitment to the very ideals of the shared values.

IV.4 GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

416. The Commission has been in the forefront of mainstreaming Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the AU system in general and within itself in particular both as a cross-cutting issue within the Four Pillars of the Strategic Plan 2009-2012.

a) The AU Pre Summit on Gender in Malabo

417. In order to incorporate women and gender concerns into the outcome of the overall theme of the 17th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, which was on "Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development", the Commission organized its Fifth Pre Summit on Gender from 21 to 23 June 2011 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The Pre-summit created a space for the

participants to discuss the theme of the Summit. The Pre-Summit also presented an opportunity for the Steering Committee of the Fund for African Women and Committee of 30 of African Women's Decade (AWD) to meet and consider projects submitted for funding by Member States in line with the AWD theme for 2011. The Malabo Pre-Summit was unique because it had three segments namely, the continental segment, the host country National Pre-Summit held on 24 June and attended by all national women leaders from Parliament, Judiciary, Executive, Academia, Religious leader and Civil Society Organizations and finally the Grassroots Women's Pre-Summit held on 26 June and attended by Equatorial Guinean rural women farmers and traders who requested the rural segment in line with the African Women's Decade Theme which is "*Grassroots approach to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*".

b) Building Partnership

418. The Commission and the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa in Ethiopia jointly organized a Seminar on the Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO) with the theme "*Celebrating the Women's Month (Republic of South Africa): The focus was on PAWO at 50th Anniversary and 17th Conference on Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 17) to be held in Durban, South Africa in December 2011*". The meeting made recommendations on PAWO's 50th anniversary and the gender-specific dimensions of COP 17. The meeting was held at the premises of the Embassy of South Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 24 to 26 August 2011.

c) Implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)

419. From 28 to 29 October 2011, the Commission organized a Capacity Building Workshop for AU Member States that have not yet reported on the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA). The meeting identified the constraints and difficulties faced by those countries and mapped out strategies for the reporting and implementation of the SDGEA.

d) The AU Ministerial Meeting on Gender and Women's Affairs

420. The 4th AU Conference of Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs was held from 2 to 3 November 2011 at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was preceded by the Experts Meeting held from 31 October to 01 November 2011.

421. The meeting considered, among others, the gender dimension of COP 17 and the briefing on PAWO's 50th Anniversary. The meeting also considered and adopted the composition of the Ministerial Committee of 10 of the African Women's Decade, the Theme of the African Women's Decade for the Year 2012 as well as the Report of the Ministerial Committee of 10. It is to be noted that the discussion on the issue of Hosting of the Secretariat of the African Women's Decade was deferred until a hosting criteria was developed. Furthermore, the NPCA was requested to submit projects to be financed under the Spanish /NEPAD Fund within 3 months from the date of their meeting.

e) The AU Protocol on Women's Rights in Africa

422. Regarding the popularization and advocacy on AU Protocol on Women's Rights in Africa, the Commission continues to work with the Coalition of CSOs named the Solidarity for Africa Women's Rights (SOAWR) for the ratification and implementation of the Protocol by all AU Member States.

f) Resource Mobilization for the Fund for African Women

423. In addition to the 0.5% allocation to the Fund for African Women, the Commission was able to mobilize a further US 170,000 from the Spanish Government and an additional Euro 50,000 from the NEPAD-Spanish Fund. Furthermore, a technical AUC-NEPAD Meeting was held from 4 to 7 July 2011 in Midrand, South Africa, in order to harmonize and coordinate their approaches to this critical issue of resource mobilization for the Fund.

g) Implementation of the Fund for African Women

i) Steering Committee of the Fund for African Women

424. With regards to the Fund for African Women, which was launched in January 2010, the Commission organized the Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Fund for African Women twice, first on the margins of the Malabo July 2011 Summit and thereafter on 30th October 2011 at the AU Headquarters. The Steering Committee of the Fund for African Women is a technical group and its major role is to review the financial aspects of the projects submitted by Member States (both Government and NGOs). In total, the Steering Committee, in conjunction with the Committee of 30 of AWD, appraised 96 projects, both at Malabo and Addis Ababa meetings.

ii) Technical Meeting of the Committee of 30 on the implementation of the AWD

425. The Commission organized 2 technical meetings of the Committee of 30 on the implementation of the AWD to appraise the programmatic aspects of the project proposals received to be financed under the Fund for African Women following an earlier call. The experts appraised 64 projects at Malabo meeting in June and 48 projects at 30 November Addis Ababa meeting, taking into account the responses to the queries that were raised in Malabo. The Committee made appropriate recommendations to the Ministers for projects that had complied with the funding criteria. These projects were categorized as follows:

- i) Projects to be funded
- ii) Projects to be funded with some conditions or adjustments
- iii) Projects to be deferred

h) Validation of the AU Gender Training Manual for AU Peace Support Operations (PSO) and Training of Trainers of AU Peace Support Operation

426. The two Departments of the Commission (Women, Gender and Development Directorate and the Peace and Security Department) jointly organized the 2nd Validation Workshop of the AU Gender Training Manual for AU Peace Support Operations on 26 September 2011 at the AU Headquarters. This workshop validated the AU Gender and Training of Trainers (TOT) Manual and a Policy Brief.

427. The validation Meeting was followed by two Training Sessions for Trainers (ToTs) from 28 September to 30 September 2011 and from 2 to 4 October 2011, in Nazareth, Ethiopia. The aim of the ToTs was to train the trainers who will in turn train the peace keepers and other relevant personnel, to reduce or stop cases of Gender based violence in conflict situations. This is undertaken in recognition of the fact that it is mostly women and children's rights that are victims in conflict situations. Fifty five (55) participants from AU Liaison Offices, Member States, AUC Peace Support Operations (PSO) Division, National Defence College and CSOs were trained as future trainers of AU PSO, and especially the African Standby Force.

428. At the same time, the Commission worked closely with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in the development of its training course on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA). In this connection, the Commission participated at the Technical Experts' Meeting in May 2011 and made a presentation during the Pilot Course in November 2011.

i) Implementation of the AU Gender Policy

429. The Commission is continuing to build its institutional capacity to guide and encourage the process of gender mainstreaming at the country and regional levels. To make this continental commitment as a reality, the Commission organized a Workshop on the Harmonization of the National and Regional Gender Policy with the African Union Gender Policy from 28 to 29 October 2011, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Meeting was organized back to back to the Capacity Building Workshop on Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)

j) Harmonization of Gender Policies for AU Organs, RECs and Member States for AU Member States

430. This meeting was organized a back to back to the Capacity Building Workshop on AU Member States that have so far not Reported on the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA). The meeting adopted a Policy harmonization matrix developed by the Commission and circulated to Member States for use as a tool for gathering the necessary information for the policy harmonization exercise.

k) The AU Course on Gender Responsive Economy Policy Management

431. The 4th AU Course on Gender Responsive Economy Policy Management was a key capacity building activity of the Commission. The Course was organized from 6 to 16 December 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and involved policy makers of Ministries of Economic, Planning, Budget and Gender Affairs from AU Member States.

432. Such a Course would enable participants to better understand the importance of gender mainstreaming in economic policy formulation in Africa, to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular MDG 3 on gender equality and women's empowerment, taking fully into account the different needs and roles of women and men in their expected contribution to national economic growth.

IV.5 CULTURE**a) Meeting to prepare the Feasibility Study for the Establishment of the African Film Commission**

433. The 2nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Maputo, Mozambique from 10 to 12 July 2003 called for the creation of an African Film Commission as a way of giving renewed action and impetus to this cultural and creative sector. The creative economy of the continent in general and that of the Member States in particular has the potential to be the leading sector in generating economic growth, employment and trade, as is the case in many advanced economies.

434. In this context, a meeting of experts was held in Niamey, Niger, from 23 to 26 August 2011 to review and finalize the documentation for the Feasibility Study for the Establishment of the African Film Commission.

b) Launch of the Campaign for African Cultural Renaissance for SADC Member States

435. The Charter of the African Cultural Renaissance was formally adopted at the 6th Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Khartoum, Sudan, on 24 January 2006. Since its adoption, the Charter has been ratified by only three (3) Member States, namely Mali, Nigeria and Senegal and signed by twenty (20) Member States.

436. The Campaign for the African Cultural Renaissance to expedite the ratification and implementation of the Charter was launched at continental level during the 3rd Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Culture, held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 25 to 29 October 2010. Subsequently, the launch of the Campaign for SADC Member States was held in Pretoria on 30 November to 1 December 2011.

IV.6 LEGAL MATTERS (LEGAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE UNION)

i) Depositary Functions

437. It should be recalled the Commission is now depositary to forty two (42) treaties, the most recent being the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2011. This Treaty has been signed by fourteen (14) States and ratified by only one (1) State.

438. Twenty five (25) of these Treaties have entered into force. Furthermore, three (3) additional Treaties namely, the Constitution of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (1974), the African Maritime Transport Charter (1994) and the Constitution of the African Civil Aviation Commission (revised version) (2009) are in force provisionally in conformity with the provisions of the respective Treaties that provided for provisional entry into force.

439. During the reporting period, Member States have continued to make efforts to sign, ratify or accede to OAU/AU Treaties. The pace of ratification/accession has been higher than during the previous reporting period in that nineteen (19) Instruments were deposited against eight (8). However, it should be noted that that only fifteen (15) new signatures were appended to the Treaties as compared to thirty (30) during the previous reporting period.

440. A lot remains to be done with regard to the signature and ratification of the Union's legal instruments despite several Council appeals to Member States in its various relevant decisions. Indeed, the slow pace of ratification of OAU/AU Treaties is a matter of great concern to the Commission.

441. The Commission has continued to intensify its efforts during the OAU/AU signature week (first week of December, each year) and to convene regular seminars for all relevant officials involved in the ratification process in order to encourage Member States to overcome the challenges faced in the ratification of OAU/AU Treaties in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministers of Justice/Attorney General's meeting held in Kigali, Rwanda in November 2008 and as adopted by Council in its decision EX.CL/AU/Dec. 459 (XIV) adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2009.

442. In this regard, the Commission convened a Regional Workshop on the Signature, Ratification/Accession and Domestication of OAU/AU Treaties of Direct Relevance to Shared Values. The main purpose of the Workshop was to discuss issues and agree upon actions and recommendations aimed at sensitising Member States on the importance of ratification and domestication of OAU/AU Treaties (specifically those with direct relevance to shared values), encourage them to become State Parties to the Treaties and for them to take the necessary measures to speed up ratification of or accession to all OAU/AU Treaties. This first workshop was organized for Member States from the Central and Southern regions in view of the fact that these two (2) regions have the lowest number of ratifications. The Commission will be organizing the same workshop for other regions in 2012. It is hoped that Member States will support these

initiatives in encouraging Member States to accelerate the pace of the ratification processes.

ii) Accreditation of Non-African States to the African Union

443. In accordance with Part II, Section II (3) of the Criteria for Granting Observer Status and for a system of Accreditation within the African Union (the Criteria), adopted by the Executive Council in July 2005, the Commission has continued to receive and consider requests for accreditation from various non-African States and Organisations, bearing in mind the supreme interest of the Union. Since the last reporting period, ten (10) non-African States and three (3) international organizations were accredited in line with the provisions of Part II, Section II (3) of the Criteria for the granting of AU Observer Status and a System of Accreditation within the AU. The names of the representatives accredited since my last report and their respective States/Organizations are listed in the table below:

NON-AFRICAN STATES/ ORGANISATIONS		
No.	Name & Title	Country/Organisation
	H.E. Mr. James Kember Ambassador of New Zealand to the AU	New Zealand
	H.E. Mr. António Luís Peixoto Cotrim Ambassador of Portugal to Ethiopia	Portugal
	H.E. Mr. Hugues Chantry Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Ethiopia	Belgium
	H.E. Mr. Jose Valencia Ambassador of the Republic of Ecuador to South Africa	Ecuador
	H.E. Mr. Xie Xiaoyan Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	China
	H.E. Mr. Archil Dzuliashvili Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Arab Republic of Egypt and Syria	Georgia
	Amb. Rashid Al Faleh Al Haljri, Ambassador of Kuwait to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Kuwait

NON-AFRICAN STATES/ ORGANISATIONS		
No.	Name & Title	Country/Organisation
	Amb. Miguel Ángel Fernández-Palacios Martinez, Ambassador of Spain to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Spain
	Amb. Kim Jong-geun, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Republic of Korea
	Amb. Greg Dorey, Ambassador of UK to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	UK
REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS		
	Hon. Judge Ahmed Mohammed Abuzeid Permanent Observer of AOMA to the AU	African Ombudsman and Mediators association (AOMA)
	Mr. Steve Were Momamo Resident Representative of WFP-LO to the AU	World Food Programme Liaison Office (WFP-LO)

444. The total number of non-African States and International Organizations accredited to the Union is now seventy nine (79); i.e. sixty five(65) non-African States and fourteen (14) Regional Integration and International Organizations.

iii) Implementation of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 292 (XV) on the Abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction

445. Council would recall that pursuant to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 292 (XV) adopted by the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2011 on the Abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction, I had presented to Council in my previous report a summary of the actions taken by the Commission to implement the above mentioned Assembly Decision in respect of the European Union and the United Nations. Following consideration of this Progress Report, the Assembly adopted Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 335 (XVI) during its Sixteenth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2011.

446. With respect to the implementation of this Decision, it should be stated that only marginal progress had been made in the discussions between the African Union (AU)

and the European Union (EU). The difficulty in the discussions with the EU relates to the fact that the European Commission (EC) argues that the matter falls within the competence of its Member States and therefore the EC is unable to carry out discussions on the matter. The view of the AU has been that a matter which has the potential to adversely affect the partnership or relations between two continents cannot be left to individual States.

447. However, with respect to the process at the level of the United Nations, it should be noted that pursuant to Resolution A/RES/65/33 adopted in December 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction, the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) prepared a report on the matter which is under consideration by the Sixth Committee of UNGA within the framework of its Working Group. Pursuant to UNGA Resolution, the Commission submitted to the UN Secretary General a Memorandum on the scope and application of the principle of Universal jurisdiction, which views have been reflected in the UNSG's Report. However, among AU Member States, only Botswana submitted comments and observations to the UNSG during the extended period. Previously, only a few African States, including Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda and Tunisia had submitted their observations.

448. The General debate by the said Working Group took place in New York at the UN Headquarters on 13 and 14, and on 20 and 21 October 2011. At the end of its deliberations, by a Resolution submitted to the Sixty-Sixth Session of UNGA for consideration, the Sixth Committee recommended that consideration of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction be continued within the framework of its Working Group in order to fulfil the mandate referred to in paragraph 2 of UNGA Resolution 65/33. It also recommended that the matter be included in the provisional agenda of the Sixty-Seventh session under the item entitled "*The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction*" and to extend the period of submission of comments and observations by UN Member States and Observers.

449. Additionally, the Commission has decided to assist Member States to overcome the constraints in exercising the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction and in capacity building in other legal matters relating to serious crimes of international concerns such as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and torture. In this regard, the Commission has prepared a Draft Model Law on Universal Jurisdiction, a Study and Conceptual Framework of Model Legislation. Further, a Validation Workshop on the said documents took place at the Headquarters of the Pan African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa, from 30 November to 2 December 2011. Thereafter, the Model Law, the Study and the Conceptual Framework of Model Legislation on Universal Jurisdiction will be considered by a meeting of government experts from AU Member States in 2012 before submission to the policy organs.

iv) Implementation of Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/ Dec.213(XII) on Granting Competence to the African Court of Justice and Human Rights to Deal with International Crimes

450. Council will recall that as previously reported, the funds for carrying out the activities envisaged in the implementation of the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 213(XII) adopted by the 12th Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2009 had been secured and that the comprehensive study on the implications of the Court being empowered to try international crimes had commenced. Council had also been informed that validation of the draft Protocol by independent experts took place in August and November 2010, respectively.

451. Council in its decision EX.CL/Dec.659 (XIX) adopted in July 2011 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, requested *‘the Commission in collaboration with the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights (AfCHPR) to finalize the process of examining the implications of the Court being empowered to try international crimes and report thereon to the Assembly, through the Executive Council in January 2012’.*

452. Accordingly, the Commission convened a meeting of government legal experts from 31 October to 11 November 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which considered the draft amended Protocol and recommended its submission to a meeting of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General before adoption by the Assembly after its consideration by the Executive Council. In this regard, the draft legal instrument on the revision of the Protocol Relating to the African Court of Justice and Human rights will be finalised by a meeting of Ministers of Justice-Attorney General scheduled for February/March 2012 before submission for adoption by the Assembly through the Executive Council in July 2011.

v) Implementation of Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.223 (XII) on the Review of the Protocol Relating to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP)

453. Council would recall that the Assembly vide Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 223 (XII) on the Review of the Protocol relating to PAP, requested the Commission to initiate the review process of the Protocol in accordance with its Article 25 taking into account the views of PAP and in consultation with the Permanent Representatives’ Committee (PRC) and make appropriate recommendations thereon to the AU Policy Organs.

454. Council, in its decision EX.CL/Dec.667 (XIX) adopted in July 2011 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea *‘stressed the need to speed up the process of the revision of the PAP Protocol to enable this Organ to play its mandate in an effective manner’.*

455. In the previous reports Council was presented with a summary of the actions taken by the Commission to implement the above mentioned Assembly Decision which included amongst other the validation of the draft Protocol by independent experts during two (2) validation workshops that took place from 10 to 13 August and 8 to 12 November 2010, respectively.

456. During the reporting period, the Commission convened a meeting of government legal experts from 31 October to 11 November 2011, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to consider the draft amended Protocol before submission to a meeting of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General before adoption by the Assembly after its consideration by the Executive Council.

457. In this regard, the draft legal instrument on the revision of the Protocol Relating to the Pan African Parliament will be finalised by a meeting of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General scheduled for February/March 2012 before submission for adoption by the Assembly through the Executive Council in July 2011.

vi) Meeting Of Legal Advisors of the African Union and Regional Economic Communities

458. Council would recall that since October 2009, the Legal Advisors of the African Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have been meeting once a year in order to exchange views on best practices and on particularly the respective roles of the legal advisors of AU and RECs in promoting synergies and effective cooperation between the different organizations and thus contributing to the continental integration agenda.

459. During the reporting period, the Legal Advisors met in Arusha, Tanzania at the Headquarters of the East African Community from 11 to 13 July 2011. This meeting was also attended by prominent legal personalities including the Legal Advisors at State Department (USA), the UN Assistant Secretary General and Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), the Deputy President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Chief Executive of the Pan African Lawyers Union, a member of the African Union Commission on International Law and the African Legal Support Facility of the African Development Bank.

460. Some of the issues discussed during this meeting included the work of the Ad hoc Criminal Tribunals; the responsibility to protect; the work and activities of the African Union Commission on International Law; the opportunities and challenges for the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; the challenges for the AU and RECs in relation to Immunities and Privileges, and; the activities of the African Legal Support Facility in assisting Member States especially on how to deal with the issue of vulture funds and capacity building in negotiating international loan agreements.

461. In this regard, Council might wish to note that the Legal Advisors of the AU and RECs are ready to consider any matter that may be referred to them by organs of the AU and RECs.

vii) The Ad Hoc Administrative Tribunal

462. According to Article 2 of the Statute of the Administrative Tribunal, the Tribunal has competence to adjudicate disputes between staff members and the Organization.

463. However, the operations of the Administrative Tribunal have in the past been underfunded and there is also a difficulty in recruiting a Secretary since most qualified lawyers with good court practice experience often do not take interest in short-term employment.

464. However, the activity was later on allocated the necessary funding in order to convene a Tribunal hearing. There are currently ten (10) listed cases for hearing and a meeting of two Judges was convened at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa from 23 to 25 November, during which they reviewed the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the Tribunal and prepared a work plan for 2012. At this session, Council is requested to nominate another member State to replace Madagascar, currently suspended from participating in the activities of the Union and which had been previously nominated by the Executive Council to designate a Tribunal Judge. In line with the applicable rules, it should be Mauritania in view of the fact that nominations are done in the alphabetical order of Member States. The Commission, while awaiting the nomination of the third Judge, convened a preliminary session for the available two (2) Judges from 23 to 25 November 2011 aimed at familiarizing them with the pending cases as well as the legal instruments including the Staff Regulations and Rules of the African Union. It is expected that the Tribunal will be in a position to hold its two (2) sessions in 2012 without any hindrance.

**viii) Infringement of the Intellectual Property Rights of the African Union -
Internet and Commercial Scams in the Name of the African Union**

465. The attention of Council should be drawn on the fact that some individuals and/or entities have unscrupulously been communicating with unsuspecting members of the public by acting as institutions of the African Union with the aim of defrauding, obtaining financial gratification or advancing their business interests.

466. Council may wish to note that while some of these activities are just purely internet scams, some of these entities are legally registered in some of our Member States using the African Union's name, logo and link to the AU website. These entities in using the name and paraphernalia of the AU, have been solicited money from the wider public in order to render certain services or to provide access to identified goods or services. Some of these entities are companies that include trust funds agencies, credit institutions; and trade and investment agencies, amongst others and use names such as *African Union Chamber of Commerce (AUCC)*, *African Union Finance Commission (AUFC)*, *African Union Trust Fund (AUTF)*, *African Union Holdings*, *African Development Fund*.

467. The name, logo and other paraphernalia are protected by WIPO under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property of 20 March 1883, as revised at Brussels on 14 December 1990. In this regard, the use of the AU name, logo and website by these entities is an infringement of the African Union's intellectual property rights. The use of the name African Union by some of these entities, for which some are apparently involved in fraudulent acts, will undoubtedly tarnish the image of the African Union and perhaps the Government where it claims to be registered and operating openly.

468. Accordingly, Council is called upon to draw the special attention of Member States on the need to take the necessary measures to assure the protection of the Intellectual Property Rights of the African Union, in their various countries through the enactment of appropriate national legislation. Article 6*ter* of the Paris Convention requires Member Countries to refuse registration to conflicting and offending marks and to prohibit use of the armorial bearings, flags, other emblems, abbreviations and names of countries or International Intergovernmental Organizations (IIO's) of which one or more countries are members.

469. Most AU Member States are State Parties to the Paris Convention. This means that Member States that are parties to the Convention have a duty and responsibility to protect the AU paraphernalia and those of its programmes, the NEPAD as well as APRM, from misuse by unscrupulous businessmen. Some AU Member States (State Parties to the Convention) have gone a step further to incorporate the benchmark provisions of Article 6*ter* into their domestic laws. Others have only incorporated the basic provisions of Article 6*ter* into their domestic legislation and law. Even though there may be deficiencies in protection as compared to the benchmark, these countries nonetheless, acceded to the Paris Convention and they provide protection in accordance with Article 6*ter* in their municipal laws. In respect of AU Member States that have not acceded to or become members to the Paris Convention and do not have any domestic legislation that provides for the protection of IIO's trademarks, the AU will enjoy protection only if it applies for and obtains registration of its trademarks or publishes cautionary notices in these countries. Therefore, the Commission wishes to appeal to all Member States to ensure that they take the necessary steps to provide for the protection of AU's trademarks in their domestic legislations.

V. STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONS

V.1 THE COMMISSION - BUILDING CAPACITY AND ENHANCING SERVICE DELIVERY

470. The transformation of the Organization of African Unity to the African Union brought with it an urgent need for the Commission to put in place significantly enhanced human and financial resource management capacities and capabilities, as well as administrative systems, procedures and processes that would enable it to deliver effectively on its mandate.

471. Since 2008, the Commission has taken an aggressive and ambitious approach to organizational change and reform for greater efficiency, effectiveness and better service delivery. The focus has been on strengthening processes and procedures for policy and programme planning and budgeting, human resource development and management, financial management, other administrative services, the management of meetings and conferences, the delivery of medical services, Information Communications Technology, procurement and facilities management, overall interdepartmental coordination as well as partners and stakeholder management, all within the overall objectives of the Institutional Capacity Building Programme - Pillar 4 of the Strategic Plan 2009-2012.

1. HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

472. The importance of human resources within an Organization cannot be overemphasized in today's rapidly changing and uncertain business environment. It is through proper people management that success in any Organization can be achieved. The Commission recognizes that the staff of the Commission are its main and most important asset.

a) Performance Management.

473. Over the last two years, efforts have been made to improve the management of staff performance. The draft enabling policy, Performance Management and Accountability Framework, has been endorsed by the Commission and appropriate structures within the Commission are considering it for final adoption. Within this framework, the performance cycle for staff members has been synchronized to start in March of each year and to end in February of the ensuing year. A unified performance cycle is easy to manage since performance targets and deliverables (for all staff) are agreed at the beginning of the period, monitored throughout the period and evaluated at the end period. This approach of managing staff performance ensures objectivity, transparency, goal-oriented activities and equitable distribution of the workload.

b) Human Resource (HR) Master Data

474. The implications for maintaining accurate and update HR data do not need to be over-emphasized. The introduction and implementation of the SAP system has tremendously improved the integrity of HR data. Before the SAP system, it was not easy to vouch for the correctness of staff on post, for example. This is now a thing of the past. The time it takes to produce personnel reports, in all aspects, has been reduced from weeks to hours (if not minutes) with increased accuracy.

c) Training and Staff Capacity Building

475. In the current environment of ever-changing technologies and new methods of solving problems, training and skills developing is an on-going activity. The Commission has continued to develop and upgrade the skills of staff members in all areas of expertise. The Commission runs a robust Language Training Centre. Staff members, spouses of staff members and staff members from Member States receive language training in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

d) Recruitment

476. 2011 has seen visible improvements within the recruitment, selection and placement procedures of the Commission. Clear processes involving short-listing and interview sessions with laid down guidelines and scientific tools have increased the transparency of the process and lent credibility to this all important exercise.

477. Detailed planning is the foundation of the success of recruitment as well as close collaboration with user-departments in requesting the identification of their priority recruitments and ensuring that terms of reference for the posts are adhered to as per the AUC regulations in the vacancy announcements. Departments have also largely owned this process and through this they have been able to get suitable candidates for the jobs advertised.

478. Regular meetings of the Appointments and Promotion Board (APROB) have also assisted the Commission in reaching its annual recruitment target of 50 candidates. For 2011, this figure has been surpassed with the appointment of 65 candidates. A professional and thorough recruitment process has been established that ensures that the quota system and regional distribution is observed to achieve equity and diversity.

479. An E-Recruitment system was launched on 19th August 2011. The majority of African Union Commission members of staff have created their profiles on the system and are now using it actively to apply to vacancies announced. An overwhelming number of external applicants have also logged onto the site and are likewise applying for jobs and creating their profiles. To date, the Commission is running a parallel system where job announcements are available on both the AUC main website and the e-recruitment database. The parallel system will ensure that all possible candidates are able to apply for vacancies using either of the two sites.

e) Structural Reforms of the Commission and the Union Organs

i) The Commission

480. It is to be recalled that the structure of the Commission was adopted in 2003. At that time, the volume and diversity of the Commission programs, responsibilities and activities could not be anticipated. In recognition of the need to revamp the Commission structure and endow it with additional human resources, the Executive Council, since 2005, frequently approved additional structures for the Commission. However, these adjustments, although they provided needed human resources, were piecemeal and did not address the Commission structural reforms in a comprehensive manner. The Commission therefore embarked on a comprehensive review of the structure in 2009. A task force under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairperson was set up to carry out this task. Following intensive consultations with all Departments, Offices and Units, the Commission prepared and submitted to the PRC Sub-Committee on Structural Reforms a proposal for the rationalization of the structure in some key areas and the creation of related new posts. In January 2011, the Executive Council adopted Decision EX.CL/Dec 602(XVIII) which approved the creation of 123 new posts to be implemented over a period of five years. In July 2011, the Council by its decision EX.CL/Dec.646 (XVIII) established a Division for the Management of Strategic Partnerships in the Office of the Chairperson and provided it with 12 new posts. These adjustments will provide the Commission with additional capacities to address the challenges facing it.

ii) The Union Organs

481. During the period under review, the Commission carried out intensive consultations with all the Organs and Institutions of the Union, namely; NEPAD, PAP, The Court, APRM, AFREC and the Board on Corruption prepared proposals for the consideration of the PRC Sub-Committee on Structure. It is to be noted that all these Organs, with the exception of the Court, are operating with ad-hoc structures; hence the need to expedite the consideration of these proposals.

2. PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING, FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING**a) General Financial Accountability and Management**

482. The current Commission inherited enormous challenges in unaccounted funds and a backlog in reporting. A large number of recovery orders from development partners had to be handled. To- date however, significant improvements have been made in the accounting and financial reporting systems in line with international standards. The aim now is to move toward the full adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), which will improve the quality of financial reports even further.

483. Determined steps have been taken to enhance data integrity and clean-up of the backlog of financial transactions, especially those involving partner funds some of which went as far back as 2000. A significant volume of past unaccounted funds have now been explained and rationalized. Steps have also been taken to ensure that Financial Statements are prepared without significant delays.

484. The introduction of the SAP- EPR system in 2009 has contributed greatly to these general improvements in financial management. The SAP is now fully operational at Headquarters and some Regional and Liaison offices. Plans are underway to rollout the system to remaining Offices to maximize the benefits of the system.

b) A More Effective Management of Partner Funds

485. Work in this area aims at having an effective internal planning, budgeting and accounting systems, as well as, effective dialogue with external partners as a way of ensuring smooth resource flow to support the Commission's programmes. In this regard, Departments are effectively supported by planners in developing programmes and plans for use of partner funds. The Strategic Planning Directorate has been repositioned to coordinate the management of partner funds better. The Resource Mobilization Division of that Directorate has been strengthened and Desk Officers appointed to manage various partner funds. A Partner Fund Division has been established in PBFA which coordinates with resource mobilization Desk Officers. Accountability and reporting on partner funds has accordingly significantly improved.

c) Managing the Peace and Security Funds

486. Given the special challenges in managing the peace funds in terms of complexity of operations and the volume of funds involved, Financial and Administrative Guidelines for Peace Keeping Operations (e.g. AMISOM) and Liaison Offices have been developed and operationalized. These manuals have taken into account lessons learnt in implementation of earlier operations such as AMIS. This has substantially reduced the financial risks earlier faced in utilizing partner funds in this sector.

d) Working towards Contribution Agreements

487. In order to deliver on its expanding mandate, the Commission mobilizes partner resources to supplement those provided by Member States. Success in the management of these resources is conditional on having administrative and financial systems that meet generally accepted International Standards. The Commission on its part is keen to ensure that partner funds are received in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration including in particular the principle of effectiveness through ownership of programmes and predictability of funding. Consultations with partners in this regard have resulted in the establishment of the Joint Financing Agreement (JFA) to which a number of partners are now signatories.

e) Results-Based Programming and Budgeting

488. The 2012 Budget was adopted on 12 December 2011 by an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council. The adoption of the budget at this time, before the beginning of the financial year, was significant and historic in that it marked an important step in the reform of the planning and budgeting cycle in the Union. Adopting the budget at this time would provide a much needed head start for assembling and consolidating the resources and for establishing the required departmental and individual work plans for the timely and effective execution of the Budget. For this and other reasons, it is the intention to present subsequent annual Budgets of the Union at the June Summit preceding the particular financial year for approval. The budget that was presented and adopted by an extraordinary session of the Executive Council itself represented a major paradigm shift in terms of budget process and the quality and technical content of the budget document. The 2012 Budget was prepared through an intense inclusive process involving all Departments. There has been a shift from activity to results-based budgeting linking objectives to outcomes. This has led to greater concentration of resources, more transparency and efficiency. The budget review process undertaken by the PRC and its Sub-committees on Programmes and Conferences, Administrative Budgetary and Financial Matters was unprecedented in terms of time invested, rigour and interrogation from the perspective of achieving results and impact.

489. Efforts will continue to be directed towards improving the quality, content and presentation of the budget. Proposals are being developed for a move towards multi-year budgeting. Apart from reducing staff time and associated incidental costs, the multi-year budgeting will ensure greater predictability in resource availability and use and enhanced implementation of long and medium term strategic plans among other things.

3. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

a) Procurement

490. Focus for enhancing the procurement service has been on empowering staff to become more productive in their work, through provision of high quality and innovative customer services, and ensuring that the Commission's limited funds are economically utilized for their approved and intended purposes. This has been possible through the implementation of the annual Procurement Plan. There has also been improved collaboration and team work among staff to maintain synergy and ensure that procurement activities are consistent with the Financial Rules and Regulations and Approved Procurement Procedures. The purchasing cycle has been reduced significantly.

b) Estate Development and Maintenance

491. In addition to managing the existing facilities, technical support and liaison was provided to the approval and supervisory processes related to the design and construction of the on-going major projects of the Commission.

i) The AU Conference and Office Complex

492. 95% of the overall project is completed and arrangements are being made to inaugurate the Complex and hold the January 2012 Summit of the Assembly at the new facility. Office allocation and movement to the new Complex would be started after its commissioning and inauguration by the Assembly.

ii) AU Peace and Security Building

493. All the preliminary design works and contract documents were successfully completed. Construction work has begun. The building is expected to be completed by beginning of 2013.

iii) African Village Project and Residential Premises for the Deputy Chairperson and Commissioners

494. After acquiring a grant of 215,000 m2 of land from the Ethiopian Government, all the plots were secured and temporary fence work is completed. Design competition was launched to invite participants from all over the African continent and winners to undertake detailed construction drawings were selected. Based on the selected designs, production of detailed working drawings would be started early 2012.

iv) Renovation and Upgrading Works

495. Different maintenance works, modification and alteration of office space with the view to improving the existing facilities have been commenced. Scheduled and on-demand maintenance works to ensure normal supply of all utilities were undertaken. The servicing of all electromechanical systems was properly handled. The supervision of

the general cleaning and janitorial services including garbage disposal, garden improvement and maintenance were undertaken during the period. The major upgrading works of the 3rd floor on building-C of Commission Headquarters have been completed. Upgrading the exiting telephone systems and other miscellaneous maintenance works were also undertaken.

c) Information and Technology Management

496. ICT Service provision has focused on providing high quality, innovative, user centric and cost effective IT Solutions and Services that will empower staff members to become more productive in their day-to-day activity, irrespective of their geographical locations. The Commission sees the use of ICT facilities and services as a means to save time and money as well as increasing productivity, management and monitoring processes. Hence, the Commission will continue to encourage and push for the use of ICT across all the Offices.

497. Key outcomes have included:-

- Automated operation of the Finance, HR and stock management services via the ERP application (SAP) that greatly enhanced the management and monitoring of the workflow. Internally developed applications for different Departments to enhance operational activities in facilitating a workflow for efficient and swift service delivery;
- Construction of a Data Centre that provides more reliable and secure network infrastructure with minimum downtime and high availability of services, an expanded network that is more accessible to staff in the office and while they are roaming and guests visiting the Commission;
- All AUC Regional and Representational Offices and the RECs are connected to the AUC Headquarters via a private satellite network which has enabled services running at the HQ to be extended to these Offices. These include corporate applications (SAP, e-mail etc.), voice communication (extension telephone lines) and video conferencing;
- The level of security has been enhanced to protect information in the Commission's network from potential internal and external intruders;
- An ICT roadmap has been developed for the next five years to accommodate the future demands of the Organization and to cope with ever-increasing requirements and emerging technologies.

d) Security and Safety

498. The Security and Safety Service has continued to take steps to enhance the protection of the premises and property of the Commission as well as for staff and their dependents in their homes. A warden system is in place and operational. A telephone hot-line for staff is open and in use at all times. The locations of residences of higher

officials of the Commission have been plotted for emergency purposes. Security Officers are assigned at the three satellite office buildings rented by the Commission in order to provide similar security coverage that is provided to the staff at the Headquarters. Monthly updates are issued to all staff members to keep them informed about current security situations in and around Addis Ababa. A clearance of certificate procedure has been initiated in collaboration with the Federal Police Forensic and Crime Investigation Bureau, for staff members hiring private workers in their homes.

e) Other Administrative Services

i) Records Management

499. A project to computerize the entire registry system has been launched. Under this project, the records management system of the Commission which is currently paper based and is managed manually, shall be automated and all records from the time of creation to their archiving, shall be in electronic form. Records Management policies including Retention Manual have been prepared. Procurement of equipment such as Servers, Storage devices and digital scanners that are needed for the digitization of paper records is under process. It is expected that the new AU Electronic Records Management System shall be rolled out in some selected Departments by the first quarter of 2012. It will then be extended to cover other Departments and the Regional and Representational Offices. Staff Members, both at Headquarters and the Regional/Representational Offices shall receive the necessary training in the use of the new system which is intended to make the management of the records in the AU efficient and in line with international standards.

ii) Continual Improvement Programme

500. This programme commenced in 2009 and has the objective of eliminating waste, improving productivity, and achieving sustained continual improvement in targeted activities and processes of the Commission. The focus has been on the reduction of waste for operational efficiency and organizational excellence through physical workplace improvement; process improvement; policy improvement; and people involvement. The first phase of the Programme which was started in 2009 has been completed. The focus in this phase has been on the four main service Departments of the Commission namely, Administration and Human Resources Development; Programming, Budgeting, Finance and Accounting; Conference Services; and Medical Services. A second phase of the programme will implement a number of process improvement recommendations from the first phase and extend the Programme to all other Departments and Offices of the Commission including the field offices.

4. CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT AND PUBLICATIONS

a) Improved Working Tools and Methods

501. In the last few years, the Commission has embarked on an ambitious programme to modernize the Conference Services' tools and working methods. The introduction of a work-flow system and the use of computer-aided translation tools have helped speed

up and improve efficiency and quality of translation. There is improved coordination in meeting planning and event management. The introduction of CDs has cut down paper usage and preservation of the environment. Besides, the establishment of a server-based web page has enabled all Conference document users to easily retrieve working documents and all Assembly and Executive Council decisions. Regarding interpretation systems, a Software-based digital audio recording with a capacity of up to eight interpretation channels has been installed. This modern recording system is working in a networked manner and enables the Commission to record meeting proceedings and to establish digital audio archive system. New policies have also been introduced. Guidelines on document management have been prepared. An AU Terminology Bank is being compiled in order to standardize all documents.

b) Recruitment of Freelance Staff

502. To ensure more transparency in Freelance recruitment and extend its freelance data base, a web page has been opened for prospective candidates. The data base is regularly updated based on evaluation and new inputs. On the other hand and to ensure that meeting costs are reduced and to be able to provide staff on a short notice, a policy has been developed to enable the recruitment of staff on a monthly and rotational basis. The Commission recently established a task force whose terms of reference was to come up with recommendations for enhancing the management of freelance staff.

c) Staff Training and Peer to Peer Learning

503. Capacity-building through modernization of working methods has been a main thrust. Members of staff have been trained in their respective fields of competence, enhanced their performances, and interacted and exchanged experiences on best practices with their peers and counterparts from other International Organizations.

5. MEDICAL SERVICES

504. The AUC Health Centre has undertaken key development projects geared towards enhancing the effective provision of medical care to AUC staff and Diplomatic missions accredited to the African Union. Key improvements have included the installation of the new Radio Imaging and Dental equipment which are now functional. The laboratory is now well equipped and is capable of analysing 97% of the basic laboratory tests. The telemedicine equipment is in place and functional. Telemedicine consultations have started. The electronic medical records system has been installed and is now in its completion phase. The management of hospital generated waste has been enhanced by the installation of an incinerator with the state of the art technology. There has been continuous skills enhancement training for the Centre's staff. The supply of drugs has been kept at adequate levels thanks to adequate forward planning and enhanced procurement procedures. There is now a 24-hour service at the Center.

6. FORGING PARTNERSHIPS

a) Joint Secretariat Support Office (JSSO)

505. The Africa Union Commission, the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank have stressed the importance of cooperation amongst the three institutions in order to lend maximum support to development efforts on the continent. To deepen their partnership, the Chief Executives of AUC, ADB and UNECA have decided to strengthen the Joint Secretariat, by establishing a Joint Secretariat Support Office (JSSO) to coordinate their work and oversee implementation of their decisions. The Joint Secretariat will enhance knowledge sharing and foster stronger institutional and programme links between Departments and Divisions in the three institutions for the benefit of Africa.

b) Strategic Partners Dialogue

506. The Strategic Partners Dialogue was introduced in December 2009 as an annual forum to bring together Pan African Institutions and Africa's Strategic Partners to discuss issues pertaining to Africa's evolving role in global matters. It also marked a significant milestone in the paradigm shift in relations between Africa and its international partners from the traditional donor recipient relations to a mutually beneficial engagement between Africa and Pan African Institutions on the one hand and the International Partner community on the other as collaborating partners on key matters of global concern.

c) Implementing the UN-AU Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme (TYCBP)

507. It would be recalled that at its last session, the Executive Council took note for the first time, of a report submitted by the Commission on the implementation of the UN/AU Ten Year Capacity Building Programme. [TYCBP]. While recognizing the contribution that the TYCBP could make to the enhancement of the capacity of the AU to deliver on its mandate, Council welcomed the efforts being made to elaborate a capacity building work programme for the AUC, NPCA, and the RECs, as requested by the 11th Session of the Regional Co-ordination Mechanism (RCM) held in November 2010. It accordingly requested the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of the TYCBP, focusing on the results and concrete deliverables.

508. As a critical first step towards the elaboration of the above-mentioned capacity building work programme, a retreat was organized at the behest of the Commission and under the aegis of the RCM Joint Secretariat. In attendance were representatives of most Departments and Divisions of the Commission, representatives of the NPCA, APRM, and the RECs on the one hand, and representatives of the UN system, on the other. Its purpose was to familiarize participants with the issues involved in the elaboration of such a programme, thus laying the foundation for its actual elaboration through a process of engagement between a team of consultants [working jointly under the AU and UN] with departmental programme managers of the Commission, regarding their capacity building needs.

509. The said departmental needs-assessment exercise which then followed, was undertaken according to the principle of AU ownership of the implementation of the TYCBP, and was thus based broadly on the Strategic Plan, as well as departmental work plans and priorities. This was a break with the past, providing as it did an opportunity for the Commission itself to identify its capacity building needs. The outcome of the needs -assessment exercise was a report expected to constitute the core of a programme of support to be instituted by the UN for the AU's capacity building efforts.

510. The 12th Session of the RCM which was held in Addis Ababa in November, 2011, endorsed the report and requested the UN system Agencies which are grouped in clusters, to fully incorporate the outcome of the needs- assessment in their work plans, based on the AU's own requests. The RCM also reiterated that the work programme should be extended to all members of the AU family, including the NPCA, APRM, AU organs, and the RECs; and that this second phase of the needs-assessment exercise should be completed by November 2012.

7. INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION

511. The Office of the Secretary General of the Commission (OSGC) has pursued its activities as the focal point of the Commission in the discharge of its responsibilities as Secretariat of the Union. It will be recalled that the Office:

- i) Serves as Secretariat for meetings of the AU policy-making Organs, in particular the PRC, the Executive Council and the Assembly by producing draft agendas, coordinating the submission of relevant documents by concerned Departments, and producing reports for these Organs' meetings;
- ii) Assists the leadership of the Commission and the said Organs in the planning and successful conduct of their respective meetings;
- iii) Provides all necessary information as a point of entry to the Member States, the other AU Organs, the RECs and the AU Partners;
- iv) Assists the Chairperson of the Commission in monitoring and ensuring the implementation of the Decisions of the Union's Policy Organs;
- v) Provides technical advice to all Commission structures on how the working documents and draft decisions and recommendations are prepared with a view to ensuring quality and coherent documents in line with the standards set and in a result and action-oriented manner;
- vi) Serves as an Institutional memory for the Commission and Other AU Organs.

512. In carrying out such responsibilities, the OSGC has facilitated the accessibility of all Decisions and Strategic Documents to all users and publishes every semester the Official Journal of the Union encompassing all Decisions from all AU Organs and

ensuring its wide dissemination among Member States, AU Organs and other Stakeholders.

513. The OSGC has continued to provide support to the Commission's weekly meetings which enable the leadership of the Commission to coordinate and harmonize efforts deployed by all Departments and Offices to fulfil respective mandates in a coherent and organized manner. Since April 2008, the Commission has held as of date over 155 meetings which provided political and strategic guidance to all its structures. These guidelines are widely disseminated on a weekly basis to the entire staff at Headquarters and Regional/Representational and Field Offices through communiqués on the various decisions taken by the Commission and follow up actions required by all in this regard.

514. The Office has facilitated regular interdepartmental meetings of the Commission where relevant issues are addressed to ensure common approaches to technical issues such as preparations and servicing of meetings of the policy organs, guidelines and standards for submission of official documents, etc.

515. It oversees the planning, organizing and servicing of all major AU Conferences and Meetings as well as mobilizing the contributions of all relevant Departments and Service Providers; while establishing horizontal linkages for smooth coordination of activities and timely implementation of decisions;

516. Though some efforts have been made in the recent past, this Office still faces an acute shortage of staff and needs to be supported with adequate structure and commensurate financial support to effectively fulfil its mandate. Proposals have been made to the Sub-Committee on Structural Reforms in this regard, but due to financial constraints, they could not be granted in a substantial manner. There is now a critical need to establish a second Division dealing with internal coordination matters, in addition to the existing one dealing with relations with Member States, AU Policy Organs (PRC and its Sub-Committees, Executive Council and Assembly), other Organs, RECs and Partners.

8. STRATEGIC POLICY PLANNING, MONITORING, EVALUATION, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

a) Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

i) Re-designing and Development of AMERT

517. The shift from activity based planning and budgeting towards results orientation by AUC Management in 2009 necessitated the re-designing and subsequent re-development of African Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting tool (AMERT). AMERT is a computer based monitoring and evaluation and reporting tool, which is used for uploading project proposals and for tracking their implementation. It was developed in house and does not require a license in order to make it operational. The first version of AMERT has been operational since March 2009. AMERT designated users will be trained on its application from January 2012.

ii) Training workshops on AUC Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation

518. In its quest to internalize the results based approach to planning, budgeting and reporting, the Commission ran a series of training sessions with staff from Headquarters, Regional/Representational and Technical Offices, as well as from other AU Organs. The purpose was to make enable them to adjust to the requirements for a result-based management, greater ownership and accountability.

519. Notwithstanding the afore-mentioned result attained, challenges remain such as:

- Poor quality of monitoring and evaluation reports from Departments.
- Over planning of projects by Departments resulting in low budget execution rates by Departments.
- Non-submission of reports by Departments and Sections.

520. In order to overcome such challenges, the following measures are envisaged:

- i) AUC Management would introduce a mechanism to ensure timely reporting by all AUC Departments and Regional Offices, including the option of linking the release of approved funds to production of monitoring and evaluation reports;
- ii) Expediting the rolling out of the Result-Based Management (RBM) within the AUC. Rolling out of RBM would assist in developing a common understanding of key program and project implementation concepts such as goals, outcome, outputs, targets, results etc.;
- iii) Strengthening the capacity of Representational/Regional Offices in the areas of Program management;
- iv) Continuous training of AUC Staff at Headquarters and Regional Offices.

b) Knowledge Management

521. In its quest to improve knowledge management (which includes Library and Archives Unit), the Commission has set up and installed a web based Portal which will progressively transform the AUC into a Knowledge-creating Organization. The Portal is now fully operational and appropriate training through various relevant courses has been given to staff in all Representational and Regional Offices. The Knowledge Management system has been completed and is ready for use within the Headquarters and external Offices. Additional financial to facilitate the running of these activities.

522. The AUCLibrary acquired 1,000 volumes of books worth over US\$32,000.00 and subscribed to 150 journals at a total cost of US\$65,000.00. The purchased books and

subscribed journals are on the basis of requests received from Staff Members and are in various formats, such as printed books and journals, CD-ROMs, PDF etc. A Partnership Agreement was signed with the Library of the University of South Africa to share resources and services. It should be noted that the Library served over 5000 registered Library users. In addition, over 2000 library records were processed.

523. The Library's database was hosted in USA to enhance access from any part of the world. The Library is also in the process of procuring various equipment needed for the current and new Library in the new building.

c) Policy Analysis and Research

524. In line with its mandate to provide high quality policy analysis and research service to support the overall strategic thinking and planning process,, the Commission has embarked on the exercise of establishing a database of African Centres of Excellence in the field of Research, Policy analysis and formulation with a view of establishing and strengthening linkages between the AUC and reputable Centres in Africa. This will enhance interaction between the AUC and the research networks to keep abreast of research agendas and to design and implement a focused policy research and analysis programme. In this regard, the Commission commissioned a consultant to design a Strategy for Policy Analysis and research that will guide research service at the Commission.

d) International Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation

525. The biggest achievement has been the consolidation of bilateral partner funds (Notably DFID, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Spain, Norway and GIZ) under one pool fund called the Joint Partner Fund (JPF). Partners cooperating with the Commission under this modality have signed a Mutual Accountability Framework as negotiated between all concerned parties in relation with the two Joint Programming Agreements (JPA) of 2011. Cooperation with other main donors, i.e. European Union (EU) and the African Capacity Building Fund (ACBF) still remain under individual specific joint agreements.

526. The consolidation of these partner funds has greatly reduced crises management although some few difficulties are still encountered. Efforts will be pursued in this area to reinforce these cooperation frameworks/modalities so as to facilitate the day-to-day management of programmes.

9. AUDIT ACTIVITIES

527. The role of the Office of Internal Audit (OIA) is to provide assurance and advisory services mainly to the management of the Commission. The Office also supports Top Management in the effective discharge of their responsibilities by furnishing them with analyses, appraisal, counsel and recommendations on the activities reviewed.

528. In accordance with Article 70 of the Financial Rules and Regulations of the AU, the OIA is mandated to carry out review of transactions/activities of the Commission in

order to determine whether they are in compliance with the Financial and Staff Rules and Regulations, Decisions the AU Policy Organs and other administrative instructions issued from time to time.

529. It should also be noted that the OIA's mandate was expanded to audit the Accounts of other AU Organs following the Decision of the Executive Council (EX.CL/Dec.455 (XIV)) of January 2009.

530. During the years 2008 to 2011, the OIA carried out various audit projects on financials, compliance, operational/performance auditing, IT auditing, and investigations. The Office also provided consultancy and advisory services upon request of Management on the improvement of internal control systems and application of best practices.

531. During the years 2008 to 2011, the OIA planned and secured approval to conduct 149 audit projects and completed 126, out of which 36 were requests made by management outside the approved annual audit plan. The table below highlights the OIA yearly accomplishments of planned and unplanned audit projects.

	Year 2008		Year 2009		Year 2010		Year 2011	
	Planned	Done	Planned	Done	Planned	Done	Planned	Done (Jan-Nov)
Audit projects	45	22	33	19	35	28	36	21
Execution rate	49%		54%		80%		58%	
Unplanned Audits carried out	13		7		9		7 (as at November 2011)	

532. Following the audit exercises carried out during the period (2008 to 2011), the operations and activities of the Commission have been improving as Management continues to enhance internal controls on financial management including management of partner funds. Some improvements include:

- i) The setting up of the Audit Review and Implementation Committee (ARIC) and its working group by Management, was an encouraging step for the follow up of implementation of audit recommendations;
- ii) Management's commitment to act on fraudulent cases;
- iii) Management approved all internal audit reports submitted and instructed the concerned audited Offices to implement the OIA recommendations.

533. These actions resulted in improvement of internal control activities at the Headquarters, Organs, Representational and regional offices, as well as field missions.

534. The OIA also managed to implement two (2) audit software systems, with the support from Management. The Audit Information System which extracts data from the SAP modules; and the Audit Management System, as a tool for audit processes, including preparation of annual audit plans.

535. A Senior Management capacity building workshop on Risk Management and Good Governance was conducted and was attended by Top Management and the Bureau of the PRC Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters. The workshop came up with recommendations which will lead to the establishment of task forces to work on the setting up of the risk management function in the Commission as well as looking at some aspects of good governance practices. This will further improve the Commission's operations, as risk management and good governance are elements of the control framework in an organization.

536. Among the major challenges to be addressed, the focus will be made on following aspects:

- a) **Draft Internal Audit Charter** – The Commission is in the process of finalizing this important document which will be submitted for approval by the competent policy Organs, as per the pertinent recommendations of the AU Board of External Auditors and other Auditors under Partners, so as to comply with *International Standards for Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*.
- b) **Formal Risk Management Function** – The OIA has been preparing its annual plan and conducting the audits based on individual audit project risk assessments. The setting up of a Task Force to guide the implementation of a risk management system **is** being considered.
- c) **Implementation of Audit Recommendations** - The Audit Review and **Implementation** Committee (ARIC) set up by Management has so far handled most of the audit recommendations, especially those involving fraudulent acts. Efforts will be intensified to ensure timely implementation of all recommendations.
- d) **Delays in Receiving Management Responses** – The OIA has been experiencing challenges in getting management responses within the required 15 days **upon** issuing Draft Reports. Efforts will be made to ensure timely responses from all concerned Services.

VI. CONCLUSION

537. This report has given an exhaustive account of the activities carried out by the Commission since the Malabo Summit of July 2011. As it is also the last report of its mandate which began on 28 April 2008, the Commission sought, in addition, to paint a general picture of its accomplishments during its term of office, and present the

challenges and constraints it faced as well as the future prospects of the Union, which it had the singular honour and privilege to serve during the past four years.

538. This is an opportune moment for the Commission under my leadership to once again pay glowing tribute to all the leaders of Member States who conferred on us this great privilege of serving the continent at the helm of the African Union Commission; a Union which is increasingly gaining in stature in international fora; a Union whose views and positions are increasingly resonating in decision-making circles dealing with matters concerning Africa and the world in general, even if we have to arm ourselves with great determination and have it at the back of our mind that the struggle will be very rough and unabated to change certain habits inherited from the past, so that Africa, our Mother Africa, may be able to devise African solutions to African problems and have a say in the global decision-making process, just as all the other regions of the world. Restoring Africa's dignity and pride away from any form of simplistic Afro-pessimism, taking full advantage of Africa's many potentials and great assets in terms of its human and demographic potential and its vast natural and strategic resources; promoting shared values in conditions of good democratic governance, human solidarity and security, all of which are the ingredients for greater cohesion in our societies in peace and stability for a harmonious development - these were the main anchors on which the Commission hinged its actions throughout its mandate, in synergy with all Member States and stakeholders; and this, not only to deepen the discourse and forge consensus on the way forward, but also to resolutely engage in concrete actions to gradually achieve the Union's noble vision of a united, integrated, prosperous and interrelated Africa.

539. In consolidating peace and security in the continent, the Commission strove to achieve the objectives of the Year of Peace - 2010 proclaimed by the Assembly of the Union. At the Commission, in conjunction with the Peace and Security Council and other stakeholders like the RECs, we spared no effort to ensure that this historic declaration translates into concrete action on the ground, be it in terms of operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, prevention and facilitation of conflict resolution, support to the border programme, combating terrorism and other scourges like human and drug trafficking, or in terms of disarmament.

540. The year 2011 was a particularly difficult one with new challenges such as the popular revolutions and uprisings in North Africa, for which we had to devise new approaches to address, while ensuring that constitutional legality chimes with popular legitimacy. In this regard, I welcome the fact that the African Union, in conjunction with all Member States, in a spirit of cohesion and wide consensus, developed a pragmatic doctrine which takes the unfolding developments into account, thus enabling us to find appropriate solutions to accompany the Member States concerned as they strove towards a harmonious and democratic transition. It is also needful to highlight the huge efforts invested by the African Union in recent years, especially in terms of strengthening AMISOM, and support to the people of Somalia in restoring peace and the rule of law in their country ravaged by over 20 years of war. Equally deserving special mention is African Union's decisive involvement in efforts at stabilizing the situation in Darfur, Sudan, and facilitating relations of good neighbourliness between The Sudan and South

Sudan, not forgetting African Union's enhanced presence in other conflict and crisis zones in the continent, as the report amply indicates.

541. It is symptomatic that in the follow-up to the Year of Peace, the Assembly proclaimed 2012 the Year of Shared Values, at the end of the Assembly debate on this theme in January 2011. We stepped up our efforts at getting Member States to ratify a number of relevant instruments such as the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the African Charter on Values and Principles of Civil Service and Administration, the African Youth Charter, the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality and others. We initiated several field actions to translate these noble principles into deeds, such as electoral assistance and election observation, training seminars for youth and women, and other initiatives in support of Member States' efforts at implementing the various instruments, with the involvement of all concerned local stakeholders.

542. In the field of integration and development, the report provides an update on actions taken in execution of the flagship projects of the Union, in furtherance of the Strategic Plan 2009-2012 that the Commission developed and submitted for approval to the Assembly six months after it was installed in April 2008. We welcome with satisfaction the fact that tangible projects are now being implemented, such as the inauguration and operationalization of the first 3 Faculties of the Pan-African University; the launch of Centres of Excellence for training and exchange of academic programmes and scholarships; finalization of pre-feasibility studies in respect of the Dakar-Ndjamena-Djibouti and the Djibouti-Libreville road corridors; the successful conduct of studies on railway and energy interconnection projects, and other infrastructure projects like construction of bridges, development of new information and communication technologies, scientific and technological exchanges; the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) which now mobilizes a large number of Member States; the programme to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious diseases for which we intend to revitalize AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) by integrating therein the other aspects of the 2011 Abuja Summit Declaration, namely, tuberculosis and malaria; reform of African sports institutions; youth support actions and other inter-Member States' development and cooperation activities. The theme of this Summit, "Boosting Intra-African Trade", has come at a most opportune time for raising the awareness of all players in Member States all through 2012, given that the theme will be debated at the two sessions of the Assembly to be held in 2012 which will consider how best to foster trade and create appropriate mechanisms in that regard, and at the same time, increase Africa's share of global trade.

543. May I once again point out that in the drive to meet the many challenges facing it, the African Union has developed and adopted, more than any other regional integration organization, an impressive number of instruments and strategic plans in all sectors of human endeavour and continental cooperation - a tremendous achievement that could serve as the bedrock of our shared values. As the Commission is seeking to become a promotional tool for actualization of these commitments, it is of crucial importance that all Member States ratify the instruments adopted by the Union, and also take appropriate steps to domesticate and incorporate the instruments into their national legal arsenal. This indeed is the time to move from rhetoric to action, and thus give concrete

expression to all of these good instruments that are often consigned away as dead letters due to lack of adequate resources and non- mobilization of all stakeholders around implementation of our decisions. In this regard and as we have always emphasized, we must redouble our efforts from within ourselves, such that instead of awaiting external assistance as is unfortunately often the case in some situations, we can mobilize all our internal resources and our determination to promote, in a spirit of subsidiarity among our countries and regions and at continental level, the full development of the human person in all its dimensions through infrastructure and energy development, education and health actions and human rights protection with special attention to the most vulnerable groups; attainment of the MDGs, including eradication of hunger and poverty; and through combating corruption, terrorism, drugs and transnational crime as well as other scourges in our societies.

544. All these challenges call for our attention and all our Member States must take resolute collective and individual actions in the formulation and implementation of common strategies to effectively deal with them and ensure a radiant future for the next generations in a context increasingly marked by globalization. It should always be borne in mind that our continent is replete with abundant resources offering substantial advantages such as a youthful, blooming population, a majestic landscape, a history of solidarity and great human values, an economic performance the average of which attest to great comparative vitality in relation to other parts of the world, although the impact of the current economic and financial crisis is yet to be fully assessed. I can say it again that Africa can and should occupy a pride of place in the management of global affairs, if it is united and can speak with one voice. We demonstrated this in Copenhagen, Cancun and Durban during the negotiations on climate change. We can do the same for other international negotiations, and it is our duty and responsibility to help shape the world in the making, a more equitable and interdependent world underpinned by global democratic governance, a world in which Africa will have its place in the United Nations Security Council and also have a say in, and bring quality contribution to bear on, other forums where issues of strategic importance are decided, such as WTO, G8/G20 and many others.

545. As regards the Commission, we will always be attentive to the concerns of Member States and commit ourselves once again to prioritizing the culture of results, good internal governance and careful and responsible management of the scarce resources of the Organization, making full use of the effective tools of transparency and accountability. We have established fruitful cooperation with other organs, particularly the PRC, with which we are committed to improving working methods and our approaches in addressing all current challenges, and by so doing, achieve together, in harmony and judiciously, the programmes and activities set forth in the Strategic Plan 2009-2012 and beyond, and more generally, the goals enshrined of the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

546. I trust that this report will be carefully considered by Member States, thereby enabling the Union to take appropriate decisions commensurate with the current challenges. Accordingly, may I draw attention to the nagging issue of funding the African Union for which, so far, appropriate solution has been slow in coming, despite all the efforts deployed in this regard. It is indeed important and urgent to rethink the current

funding system if the Union is to fulfil its fundamental objectives in the near future. It is difficult for the Union to continue to rely to the tune of almost 75% on the contributions of five of the 54 Member States, for its operation. Similarly, we cannot continue to depend on our development partners for more than 85% of our programme budget, which necessarily exposes the Union to the obvious problems of ownership of its programmes. We must together devise a new, more reliable and sustainable funding system. We are expecting shortly the conclusions of the Panel of Eminent Persons led by President Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria, which was set up following the decision of the January 2011 Assembly, to come up with guidelines for a solution to this crucial issue. I have no doubt that the Assembly will ultimately find the ways and means of providing the Union with adequate resources to attain the goals of continental integration, peace consolidation, stability, development and cooperation in the continent.

2012

Report of the chairperson on the activities of the commission covering the period July to December 2011

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