

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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**INFORMATION NOTE ON ELECTIONS OF MEMBERS OF
THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION (2007)**

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COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION (2007)**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This brief information note is intended to enable Council consider well in time the way forward with regard to elections of the members of the Commission scheduled for July 2007 and if it deems it appropriate decide on the appointment of a Ministerial Panel, as provided for in Article 14 of the Statutes of the Commission.

2. It will be recalled that in July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique, the Third Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly and the Executive Council, elected Members of the Commission¹, for a four (4) year term of office pursuant to Article 40 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. The term of office of the current Members of the Commission will come to an end in July 2007, and they are eligible for re-election for one (1) further and final four (4) year term².

3. The modalities for the election of the Members of the Commission are based on the provisions of the Constitutive Act, the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and the Executive Council as well as the Statutes of the Commission.

II. SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

4. In conformity with Articles 13 and 16 of the Statutes of the Commission of the African Union, candidatures for the Office of member of the Commission shall be circulated to Member States at least three months before the elections.

5. Article 13 provides for a pre-selection stage³ at regional level wherein each region will determine its own selection modalities and is required to nominate two (2) candidates for each portfolio one of whom must be a woman. Candidates selected through this process then form part of the continental pool without prejudice to the provisions of Article 6(2) of the Statute⁴. These selected candidates are then submitted to a Ministerial Panel as provided for in Article 14

¹ In terms of Article 2 of the Statute of the Commission, the Commission shall consist of ten (10) members made up of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and eight (8) Commissioners.

² Pursuant to Article 10(1) of the Statutes, all Members of the Commission may serve for a maximum of eight (8) years.

³ Pursuant to Article 13 of the Statutes of the Commission as read together with Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, and Article 37 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council.

⁴ The region from which the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson are appointed are entitled to one (1) Commissioner each whereas the other regions shall be represented by two (2) Commissioners each.

of the Statutes. The Panel is assisted by a team of independent consultants to conduct the selection.

6. For the first elections of the members of the Commission held in July 2003, a Ministerial Panel was established to undertake the tasks set out in Article 14 of the Statutes. The Panel short listed the candidates and made proposals to Council on how the process of elections would be taken forward. In carrying out its tasks, the Panel had observed that the process as envisaged by the Rules was tedious, cumbersome and time consuming given the applicable method of nomination for candidature, pre-selection, selection and elections of the members of the Commission.

III. Recommendations

7. Taking into account that elections are due in July 2007 for members of the Commission and pursuant to Article 14 of the Statutes, there is need to put in place the central selection process.

8. Accordingly, the Executive Council should set up a Ministerial Panel which will be composed of two (2) representatives from each region and develop modalities and procedures for the selection of the members for the Commission and submit a report thereon to the next session of the Executive Council for consideration.

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