

DECISION ON WTO NEGOTIATIONS – DOC.EX.CL/359 (XI)**The Executive Council:**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations;
2. **WELCOMES** the resumption of the negotiations and **CALLS** on the WTO members to display the political will and the flexibility in negotiating positions that are necessary to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion with the development dimensions at the core as agreed in Doha;
3. **COMMENDS** the AU Ministers of Trade and the African Group in Geneva for their continued efforts in articulating the concerns and interests of Africa in the WTO negotiations;
4. **RECOGNISES** the relevance of the Hong Kong WTO decision on providing aid for trade to developing countries in order to enable them to benefit meaningfully from the trade liberalization agenda of the WTO;
5. **CALLS ON** AU Member States to adopt appropriate measures to take full advantage of the flexibilities and amendments in the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, including the signing of the Protocol that will make these amendments effective in accordance with the WTO Agreement;
6. **URGES** AU Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to establish appropriate mechanisms and structures for operationalizing and deriving maximum benefits from the Aid for Trade Initiative;
7. **FURTHER URGES** the EU and other development partners to take concrete steps for the early operationalisation of the Aid for Trade initiative;
8. **REQUESTS** United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), to provide adequate support to AU Member States and RECs for the effective design of their Aid for Trade programmes.

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