

**DECISION ON THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE THIRD JOINT RETREAT BETWEEN
THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE AND
THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION,
Doc. EX.CL/663(XIX)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Conclusions of the Third Joint Retreat between the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) and the African Union Commission held in Nazareth, Ethiopia, from 31 March to 2 April 2011;
2. **ADOPTS** the Guidelines on the preparation, adoption and reporting on the implementation of Decisions;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in close collaboration with the PRC, prepares guidelines/criteria on minimum requirements for the Hosting of Summits (Standard Host Agreement), holding of side events during Summits, and submission of items proposed by Member States;
4. **CALLS UPON** the Commission and the PRC to strengthen their working relations aimed at attaining an effectively and efficiently run organization in accordance with all the Regulations and Rules of the African Union;
5. **URGES** all Member States and the Commission to adopt concrete measures to operationalize without delay, decisions so far taken on the issue of alternative sources of funding the activities of the Union;
6. **DECIDES** in particular that the following be observed:
 - **On themes, their structure and periodicity:**
 - One Theme per year should be retained at the January Session and would be the same also for Africa Day (25 May).
 - **On Summit Venues and Host Agreement:**
 - The PRC should be part of the evaluation mission in the preparation of Summits through its Representative.
 - **On items proposed by Member States:**
 - (i) Adherence to criteria for proposing such items as spelt out in the Guidelines on the preparation and adoption of Decisions. The Commission and the PRC should act as the clearing house for these items;

- (ii) Harmonization should be ensured and duplication with existing Decisions and Programmes avoided. Member States and Line Departments should work in close collaboration in this respect;
- (iii) The Legal, financial and structural implications of proposed Decisions should be established prior to their adoption in accordance with the Rules of Procedure;
- (iv) The procedure and timing for reintroducing items for which Decisions have been taken should be worked out.

- **On invitation of Guests of Honor List of Speakers at Executive Council and Assembly Opening and Closing Sessions:**

- Addressing the Assembly or the Executive Council by Guests and Observers should be done in strict observance of Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council.

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the PRC that in the ongoing preparatory process for the celebration of the OAU/AU, should consider the possibility of publishing a “Jubilee Book” which would encompass the achievements of the Organization in political, economic and social fields, the challenges encountered and future prospects; in implementation of the January 2011 Summit Decision on the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of the OAU/AU;
8. **EMPHASIZES** the need to respect time for starting meetings, to keep to the time allocated and to observe decorum in interventions during PRC and its Sub-Committees’ meetings in line with the established rules;
9. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made on service delivery and **URGES** the Commission to continue its efforts to enhance fairness, transparency and accountability in the Management of the Commission and coordination of other Organs;
10. **AGREES** on the establishment of synergies between Commission and PRC with regard to contributions by AU Partners, who should support the AU-owned plans and programmes;
11. **REQUESTS** the Commission to propose practical modalities for the rationalization of Sectoral Ministerial Conferences in view of the fourteen (14) Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) created by Assembly Decision/AU/Dec.227 (XII) of January 2009;
12. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission in consultation with the PRC to identify issues to be discussed during the January/February and June/July Summits

respectively and to make appropriate recommendations to the Executive Council at its 20th Ordinary Session in January 2012;

13. **REQUESTS** the Commission to initiate a review of the class of travel and payment of per diem to members of the PRC and representatives of Member States on official mission of the AU so as to ensure harmony with conditions offered to AUC officials;
14. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the PRC, to report on the implementation of the various recommendations of the PRC-AUC Retreat held in Nazareth from 31 March to 2 April 2011, including the preparation of the various above-mentioned guidelines/criteria, at the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in January 2012.



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