

**DECISION ON THE STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND
RATIFICATION OF OAU/AU TREATIES
Doc. EX.CL/728(XXI)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Status of signature and ratification of OAU/AU Treaties the modalities for the establishment of a -Committee of the Executive Council on the Challenges of Ratification/Accession and Implementation of OAU/AU Treaties elaborated in conformity with Article 5(n) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council for the implementation of Decision EX.CL/Dec. 459 (XIV) adopted by the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and endorsing the recommendations of the Conference of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General held in Kigali, Rwanda in November 2008;
2. **AUTHORISES** the establishment of a Ministerial Committee on the challenges of ratification/accession and implementation of the OAU/AU treaties within the context of the fiftieth anniversary of the OAU while noting that this does not involve any financial and structural implications;
3. **WELCOMES** the efforts by the Commission and Member States towards signature, ratification/accession of OAU/AU Treaties during the period February to June 2012;
4. **URGENTLY APPEALS** once more to Member States to sign, ratify and implement OAU/AU treaties, thus reaffirming commitments made;
5. **REITERATES** its appeal to Member States to ensure that they initiate the process of ratification of new treaties within a period of one (1) year after its adoption in accordance with Executive Council Decision EX. CL/Dec.459 (XVI) on the Status of Signature and Ratification of OAU/AU/Treaties and the Harmonization of Ratification Procedures adopted by the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2009;
6. **INVITES** all States Parties to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights that have not yet done so to make a declaration accepting the competence of the Court to receive cases under Article 5 (3) of this Protocol and to ratify the Protocol on the merged Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights;
7. **TAKES NOTE** of the efforts by the AU Organs including the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the AU Commission on International Law (AUCIL), the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) as well as the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), International and Regional Organisations, and Civil Society towards advocacy and sensitisation of Member States to expedite the process of

ratification of/accession to OAU/AU Treaties and **REQUESTS** them to persist in these efforts;

8. REQUESTS Member States to continue giving special attention to the ratification of the following instruments that are not yet in force:

- i) African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (revised version) (2003);
- ii) Charter for African Cultural Renaissance (2006);
- iii) Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights (2008);
- iv) African Charter on Statistics (2009);
- v) Protocol on the African Investment Bank (2009);
- vi) African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) (2009);
- vii) Constitution for the African Civil Aviation Commission – AFCAC (REVISED VERSION) (2009);
- viii) Revised African Maritime Transport Charter (2010); and
- ix) African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration (2011).

9. ALSO REQUESTS the Commission to report on regular basis on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council through the Permanent Representatives' Committee.



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