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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
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DRAFT
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, MONETARY AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC PLANNING AND INTEGRATION

GENERAL PROVISION

The Executive Council,

HAVING REGARD to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, and in particular Articles 14, 15 and 16;

RECALLING the provisions of Article 25 of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;

HAVING REGARD to Decisions Assembly/Dec. 227 (XII) and Assembly/Dec. 365(XVII) on Specialized Technical Committees,

HAS ADOPTED THESE RULES OF PROCEDURE:

RULE 1
Definitions

In these Rules:

"Assembly" means the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union;
"**Chairperson"** means the Chairperson of the Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration;
"Commission" means the Commission of the African Union Commission;
"Constitutive Act" means the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
"Executive Council" means the Executive Council of Ministers of the African Union;
"Member State" means a Member State of the African Union;
"STC" means a Specialized Technical Committee of the African Union;
"STCs Coordination Mechanism" means the Bureaus of all STCs of the African Union;
"Union" means the African Union established by the Constitutive Act;
"**Vice-Chairpersons**" unless specified otherwise, means the Vice-Chairpersons of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration.

RULE 2
Status

The STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration is an Organ of the Union in accordance with Article 5(1)(g) of the Constitutive Act. It shall be responsible to the Executive Council.

RULE 3
Composition

1. The STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall be composed of one Minister from each Member State chosen among Ministers in charge of Finance, Economic Planning and Integration, Statistics, Customs or Central Bank

Governors of Member States, or such other Ministers or authorities duly accredited by the Governments of Member States.

2. The STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration includes Experts from Member States responsible for sectors falling within the areas of competence of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, whose meetings shall precede the Meetings at the Ministerial level. Unless specified otherwise, the meetings of Experts shall be governed, *mutatis mutandis*, by relevant provisions of these Rules.

RULE 4
Accreditation

Delegations of Member States to sessions of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall be duly designated and accredited representatives of Member States.

RULE 5
Powers and Functions

1. In addition to the functions provided for in Article 15 of the Constitutive Act of the Union, the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall, inter-alia:

a) review progress in the implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and decisions in the respective sectors;

b) assess the impact of economic policies adopted at national, regional, continental and global levels on Member States;

c) share experiences with regard to the implementation of policies and strategies with a view to determining and adopting best practices;

d) deliberate on contemporary economic issues;

e) identify areas for greater cooperation among Member States and establish mechanisms for regional, continental and global cooperation in each sector or subsector within the competence of the STC;

f) elaborate Africa's Common Position in the areas of finance, monetary affairs, economic planning, development and other related themes that are subject to international negotiations;

g) prepare projects and programmes of the Union on issues related to Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and submit them to the Executive Council and the Assembly for their consideration;

h) advise the AU in matters pertaining to priority programmes, resources needed for implementation of these programmes and the impact of such programmes in improving the lives of the African people;

i) identify and strengthen regional and continental centers of excellence and best practices in respective sectors;

j) carry out any other functions assigned to it by the Executive Council or the Assembly.

2. The STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration may set up Sub-committees and *ad hoc* working groups, as it deems necessary and shall determine their mandate, composition and functioning.

RULE 6
Venue

1. The Sessions of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall be held at the Headquarters of the Union, unless a Member State offers to host any such Session.

2. In the event the session is held outside the Headquarters of the Union, the host Member State shall be responsible for all extra expenses incurred by the Commission as a result of holding the session outside the Headquarters.

3. In conformity with Rule 5(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, Member States offering to host sessions of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall not be under sanctions and shall be required to meet pre-determined criteria, including adequate logistical facilities and a conducive political atmosphere.

4. Where two (2) or more Member States offer to host a session, the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall decide on the venue by simple majority.

5. Where a Member State that had offered to host a session of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration is unable to do so, the session shall be held at the Headquarters of the Union, unless a new offer is received and accepted by Member States.

RULE 7
Convening of Sessions

The Commission shall be responsible for convening and servicing all the meetings of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration.

RULE 8
Quorum

1. The quorum for a Ministerial session of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall be a two-third majority of the Member States eligible to vote.

2. The quorum for meetings of Experts, Sub-committees or *ad hoc* working groups of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall be a simple majority.

RULE 9
Ordinary Sessions

The STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall meet once a year.

RULE 10
Agenda of Ordinary Sessions

1. The STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall adopt its Agenda at the opening of each session.

2. The Provisional Agenda of an ordinary session shall be drawn up by the Commission in consultation with the Bureau of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and may include item(s) proposed by Member States. The Commission shall communicate the provisional agenda and the working documents to Member States at least thirty (30) days before the opening of the session.

RULE 11
Other Items included in the Agenda

Any additional agenda item, which a Member State wishes to raise at a session of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, shall only be considered under the agenda item “Any Other Business”. Such agenda items shall be for information only and not subject to debate or decision.

RULE 12
Extraordinary Sessions

1. The STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration may meet in an extraordinary session, subject to availability of funds, at the request of:
    a) the policy organs of the Union,
    b) the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration itself, or
    c) any Member State, upon approval by a two-third majority of the Member States.

2. The extraordinary sessions shall be held in conformity with Rule 6 above.

RULE 13
Agenda of Extraordinary Sessions

1. The Commission shall communicate the Provisional Agenda and working documents of an extraordinary session to Member States at least fifteen (15) days before the opening of the session.

2. The Agenda of an extraordinary session shall comprise only the item(s) requiring the urgent attention of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration.

RULE 14
Open and Closed Sessions

All the sessions of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall be closed. The STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration may, however, decide by simple majority whether any of its sessions shall be open.

RULE 15
Working Languages

The working languages of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall be those of the Union.

RULE 16
Bureau

1. The STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall, on the basis of rotation and geographical distribution, elect, after due consultations, a Chairperson. He/She shall be assisted by other members of the Bureau, namely, three (3) Vice-Chairpersons as well as a Rapporteur, elected on the basis of agreed geographical distribution and after due consultations.

2. The Members of the Bureau shall hold office for a period of two (2) years.

3. The Bureau will meet at least once every year.

RULE 17
Duties of the Chairperson

1. The Chairperson shall:

   a) preside over all the proceedings of the Ordinary and Extraordinary sessions;
   b) open and close the sessions;
   c) submit for approval the records of the sessions;
   d) guide the proceedings;

e) submit to a vote matters under discussion and announce the results of the vote taken;
f) rule on points of order.

2. The Chairperson shall ensure order and decorum during the proceedings of the sessions.

3. In the absence of the Chairperson or in case of a vacancy, the vice-Chairpersons or the Rapporteur in order of their election shall act as the Chairperson.

4. The Chairperson shall attend the sessions of the Executive Council and take part in the annual meeting of the STCs Coordination Mechanism.

RULE 18
Attendance and Participation

1. In accordance with Rule 4, the Ministers in charge of Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall attend and participate personally in the sessions. In the event that they are not in a position to attend personally, duly accredited representatives shall represent them.

2. The Representatives of the Organs of the Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) shall be invited to attend the sessions of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration.

3. The STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration may invite, as Observer, any person or Institution to attend its sessions. Such Observer may be invited to make written or oral interventions but shall not be entitled to vote.

RULE 19
Majority required for decisions

1. The STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall take all its decisions by consensus, failing which:

   a) at the Ministerial level, by a two-thirds majority of the Member States present and eligible to vote;

   b) at the Experts' level, by a simple majority of the Member States present and eligible to vote.

2. Decisions on questions of procedure shall be taken by a simple majority of Member States eligible to vote.

3. Decisions on whether or not a question is one of procedure shall also be determined by a simple majority of Member States eligible to vote.

4. Abstention by a Member State eligible to vote shall not prevent the adoption by the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration of decisions by consensus.

RULE 20
Amendment of Decisions

1. A proposed decision or an amendment(s) thereof may at any time, prior to it being submitted to a vote, be withdrawn by the initiator.

2. Any other Member State may reintroduce the proposed decision or amendment that has been withdrawn.

RULE 21
Point of Order

1. During deliberations on any matter, a Member State may raise a point of order. The Chairperson, in accordance with these Rules, shall immediately decide on the point of order.

2. The Member State concerned may appeal against the ruling of the Chairperson. The ruling shall immediately be put to a vote and decided upon by simple majority.

3. In raising a point of order, the Member State concerned shall not speak on the substance of the issue under discussion.

RULE 22
List of Speakers and Use of the Floor

1. The Chairperson shall, subject to Article 23 of the Constitutive Act, during the debate, grant the use of the floor in the order in which the speakers indicate their intention.

2. A delegation or other invitee shall not have the floor without the consent of the Chairperson.

3. The Chairperson may, during the debate:

   b) read out the list of speakers and declare the list closed;

   c) call to order any speaker whose statement deviates from the issue under discussion;

   d) accord the right of reply to any delegation where in his/her opinion a statement made after the list is closed justifies the right of reply; and

   e) limit the time allowed to each delegation irrespective of the issue under discussion, subject to sub Rule 4 of this Rule.

4. The Chairperson shall, on procedural questions, limit each intervention to a maximum of three (3) minutes.

RULE 23
Closure of Debate

When a matter has been sufficiently discussed, the Chairperson shall close the debate at his/her discretion.

RULE 24
Suspension or Adjournment of the Meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a Member State may move for the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted. The Chairperson shall immediately put such motion to a vote.

RULE 25
Order of Procedural Motions

Subject to Rule 21 of these Rules of Procedure, the following motions shall have precedence in the order listed below, over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

a. suspend the meeting;

b. adjourn the meeting;

c. adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;

d. close the debate on the item under discussion.

RULE 26
Voting Rights

1. Each eligible Member State shall have one vote.

2. Member States, subject to sanctions under Article 23 or Article 30 of the Constitutive Act, shall not have the right to vote.

RULE 27
Consensus and Vote on Decisions

After the debate has been closed, and there is no consensus, the Chairperson shall immediately put the proposal with all the amendments to a vote. The vote shall not be interrupted except on a point of order related to the manner in which the vote is being taken.

RULE 28
Vote on Amendments

1. When there is no consensus, the Chairperson shall put all amendments to vote.

2. A proposal shall be considered as an amendment to a text if it adds or removes there from.

RULE 29
Methods of Voting

The Methods of Voting shall be determined by the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration.

RULE 30
Reports and Recommendations

The STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration shall submit reports and recommendations arising from its deliberations to the Executive Council for consideration.

RULE 31
Implementation

The STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration may lay down guidelines and supplementary measures to give effect to these Rules.

RULE 32
Amendments

The STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration may propose amendments to these Rules to the Executive Council for consideration.

RULE 33
Entry into Force

These Rules shall enter into force upon their approval by the Executive Council.

Adopted by the……Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held……

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Draft rules of procedure of the specialized technical committee on finance, monetary affairs, economic planning and integration

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