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**REPORT OF THE 3RD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC ON
PUBLIC SERVICE, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, URBAN
DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALIZATION,
5-7 DECEMBER 2018, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**REPORT OF THE THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE NO. 8 ON PUBLIC SERVICE, LOCAL
GOVERNMENT, URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALIZATION:
3 – 5 December 2018
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

1.0 Introduction

1. The African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Governments, Urban Development and Decentralization (AU-STC8) held its Third Ordinary Session from 3 to 5 December 2018 at the African Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

2. In accordance with Articles 7, 9 and 16 (2) of the STC 8 Rules of Procedure, the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission, in its capacity as AU-STC8 Secretariat, convened the Third Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee No.8 on Public Service, Local Governments Urban Development and Decentralization with a view to elect a new Bureau of the AU-STC8; to assess the progress made by the outgoing Bureau of the AU-STC8 during its term (2017-2018) and evaluate the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Ordinary Session of AU-STC 8 which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 7 to 9 December 2016; to deliberate on specific issues concerning the functioning of the three (3) Subcommittees of AU-STC8.

2.0 Attendance

3. The meeting had in attendance delegates from 40 Member States of the African Union namely: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Congo, DRC, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Saharawi, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe. (See detailed list in Appendix 1)

4. Also present were development partners from the United Nations System namely UN-ECA, UN-Habitat, AMDIN, and APPAM. Invited guests and observers included academia and consultants from across the continent.

Experts Meeting –December 3 – 4, 2018

1 Adoption of Agenda

5. After deliberations on the form, structure, timing, content and availability of translated versions of the agenda, the delegation from South Africa moved a motion for adoption and was supported by Namibia.

6. The Algerian delegation, for its part, stressed that the fact that the election of new members of the Bureau had been scheduled not during the adoption of the Agenda of the Meeting of Experts, but at the end of this should not be a precedent for future meetings of this STC. The same applies to the adoption of the Agenda of the Ministerial Meeting that was to take place at the end of the Meeting of Experts.

2 Opening Ceremony

7. The Opening Ceremony began with Opening Statement by Dr. Khabele Matlosa, Director of Political Affairs, and a welcome remark by Mr Abasse Olossoumaré, Director General of Decentralization of the Ministry of Decentralization and Local Governance of the Republic of Benin who is the representative of the Chair of the STC 8 Bureau facilitated by Mr Calixte Mbari Aristide, Head of the Division: Democracy, Governance, Human Rights and Elections, Department of Political Affairs.

8. In his statement, The Director of Political Affairs articulated the visioning of an 'integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena' with a view to accomplishing the Agenda 2063 and realising the 2030 global agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He highlighted the strategic niche of the AU-STC8 in achieving the aspirations of Agenda 2063 and SDGs through the pursuit of the terms of its 3 main streams of work.

9. To underscore the importance of STC 8 he reminded the august gathering that 2018 was declared as the African Anti-Corruption year. This fight against corruption is mainstreamed into the three streams of work of the STC 8.

10. He acknowledged the contributions of partners who have continued to provide valuable support to the STC 8 since inception in 2014.

11. Dr. Khabele Matlosa, admonished delegates to utilise the opportunity of the Third Ordinary Session to accomplish the set goals for the Session while reaffirming the commitment of the AUC as Secretariat to continue to provide support to the work of the STC 8. (See complete speech in Appendix 2)

12. The representative of the Chair of the out-going Bureau of STC 8, Mr Abass Olossoumaré, in his brief welcome remarks, recalled the importance of the STC for the future of the continent. Thanking the delegates for the opportunity given to Benin to serve as Chair of the STC 8 for 2016-2018, which he said was a 'mark of trust'. He enjoined the delegates to use the period allotted to deliberate on all matters as has been set out in the agenda which he went on to present for adoption.

3 Proceedings

i. Situation of STC 8 at the time of Assuming Office of the Current Term

13. Mr. Issaka Garba Abdou, Head of the STC 8 Secretariat recounted that the out-going STC Bureau was inaugurated in December 2016 but due to delays from the previous bureau, the implementation of functions of the bureau was delayed.

14. The outgoing Bureau of STC 8 during its tenure was mandated to

- Implement recommendations from the previous bureau of the STC 8
- Develop strategic plan for 2019-2020
- Revise the Rules of Procedure
- Strengthen the Secretariat with human resources

15. On Human Resources and with regards to strengthening of the Secretariat; the Department of Political Affairs had submitted a proposed structure for the staff requirement. In January 2018, the proposed structure was submitted to the Executive Council who were to submit the same to the Sub-Committee responsible for Budget to finalise before sending the Report to the PRC.

16. Unfortunately;

- The Sub-Committee did not meet as scheduled in order to facilitate consideration of the proposal by the Assembly in July 2018. It was therefore noted that no progress has been made.
- In October 2018, the Bureau requested that the item be resubmitted with a target of it being considered by the Heads of State Summit in January 2019.

Challenges highlighted

- The Secretariat is limited by manpower with only one senior staff.
- The recommendation to transfer all staff of the former ministerial conference to support the Secretariat is yet to happen
- The Secretariat is supported by former staff of defunct Ministerial Conferences on Decentralization and Local Governance and Housing and Urban Development respectively, two from Yaoundé and two staff seconded by the Government of Kenya.
- On finances, the Bureau of STC 8 requested for allocation of substantial budget to facilitate the implementation of its activities and received only \$500,000 in 2018. For 2019, there has been some significant increase of budgeted allocation for STC 8 to the tune of \$1,119,000.

ii. STC 8 BUREAU REPORT OF 2017-2018

Activities and Achievements

17. The AU-STC 8 in striving to achieve its mandate organised and held two Bureau meetings:

- The first meeting was held at Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco between 26 and 29 March 2018, with a view to assessing the operationalization of STC 8, review progress and challenges and to deliberate on specific issues related to the operations of the three Sub-Committees.
- The second meeting was held in Cotonou, Republic of Benin, from 17 to 19 October 2018, to evaluate the progress made on the road map; assess the work of STC 8, and prepare for the 3rd Ordinary Session.

Other Activities Organised during the Reporting Period of the Bureau (2017-2018)

A. Activities by the Public Service and Administration Sub-Committee:

- i. Celebration of the African Public Service Day (APSD) at the continental and National levels from 21 to 23 June 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda and 2018 in all AU Member States respectively
- ii. Meeting of Ministers of Public Service held on June 21, 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda had in attendance Kenya, Ethiopia, Guinea, Rwanda, Zambia, Namibia, Uganda
- iii. Adjudication Workshop for the AAPSIA awards held on 25-26 October 2018 in Pretoria, South Africa, Development of a guidelines on the implementation of the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration
- iv. Establishment of the 1st Conference of States Parties to the Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration from 12 to 13 November 2018, in Nairobi, Kenya

B. Activities by the Decentralisation and Local Governance Sub-Committee

- i. Celebration of the African Day of Decentralization and Local Governance in 2017 and 2018
- ii. Advocacy for the ratification of the African Charter of Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development held in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi from 20 to 22 November 2017. At this meeting, the road map was adopted alongside the mechanism for the monitoring and implementation of the recommendation of the programme.
- iii. Participation at the Summit of Local Authorities of African Union and the European Union on 27 November 2017 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
- vi. Process of the operationalization of the High Council of Local Authorities was initiated
- v. Provision of financial support from the Department of Political Affairs to the AU Representative office in Mali for the organisation of a seminar on

decentralization and regionalization in Africa under the theme: Implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Bamako, Mali from 10 to 12 April 2018, in Bamako.

C. Activities by Housing and Urban Development Sub-Committee

- i. Drafting of a regional framework of a New Urban Agenda in Africa (NUA)
- ii. Held an experts meeting in Nov/Dec 2018 in Cape Town, Republic of South Africa to consider the draft harmonized regional framework.
- iii. Organised a parallel event on the sidelines of the World Urban Forum in Malaysia in February 2018 to consider the content of the draft Harmonized Regional Framework.
- iv. Technical meeting and consultations held in Nairobi in 2018 to determine the way forward on the drafting of a model law/charter on values and principles of sustainable urbanization and human settlements.
- v. A regional experts and ministers meeting was held in Entebbe in November 2018 to validate the draft harmonized regional framework.

vi. Challenges

- Paucity of human and financial resources
- Delay in integration process of staff from the former ministerial conferences

18. Following the presentation of the Bureau's Activity Report, Member States made the following observations:

- - While recognizing the efforts of the outgoing Bureau to reinvigorate the activities of the STC 8, it was noted that many of these activities and initiatives were carried out outside the mandate given to it by Member States. In this regard, it is essential to ensure that the Office acts in strict compliance with its mandate and that States are fully involved in its activities and kept abreast of developments in the implementation of projects, programs and event related to STC 8

vii. Report of the Break-out Sessions from the three Sub-Committees

a. BREAKOUT SESSIONS OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION SUB-COMMITTEE

19. The Sub-Committee on Public Service and Administration met in the Medium Conference room of the AUC with 18 Member States in attendance. The Chair of the Session was Kenya, while the Rapporteur was Namibia. The deliberations started with a review and adoption of the agenda of the committee meeting.

Documents used for this meeting were:

- Public Service and Administration Work Plan for 2019-2020;
- Amendment to the Rules of Procedure;
- Guide for Elections of the Third and Subsequent Bureaus of STC 8.

20. The Rapporteur presented the recommendations following hours of deliberations.

Recommendations

1. Member States are encouraged to interact with Kenya as the host of the 2019 Continental APSD.
2. AUC to adopt a mechanism to disseminate to Members States all documents important to the implementation of programmes.
3. Activities on the work plan should be specific on how the business will be done in order to be clear about the financial obligations at national and AUC level.
4. The popularization of STC programmes should be harmonized and carried out at most of the conferences to be held during the next term of office.
5. Harmonize All African Public Service Innovation awards, United Nations Public Service Awards and the African Association for Public Administration (AAPAM) Innovation Management Awards through having a standardized uniform call for application document.
6. Recommended that representative of AAPAM and UNPSDA should be part of AAPSIA process.
7. There is also need to enhance information dissemination on the winning awards to enhance replication. National government agencies should foster national innovation competition to enhance awareness.

b. Presentation by the Decentralization and Local Government Sub-Committee

21. The deliberations started with the adoption of the agenda as follows:
 1. Consideration of proposals for flagship programmes for the effective updating of 2019-2020 roadmap.
 2. Proposals for recommendation for the decision of the third session
 3. A.O.B
22. Following the presentation of the DLG's Sub-Committee work plan, the expert delegates came up with the following recommendations:
 - (1) Strengthen the advocacy for ratification of the Charter to Member States with a view to its entry into force before the end of the year 2019, taking into account the specific challenges of each State;

- (2) Appoint an African decentralization champion to expedite the process of ratification of the Charter by Member States;
- (3) The Commission to request Member States to make available to the Secretariat of STC 8 the list of national focal points DLG by country before the end of the first quarter of 2019;
- (4) Integrate the sharing of experiences into the program of the Sessions of STC No. 8 and meetings of the DLG Sub-Committee;
- (5) Organize a strategic planning meeting during the month of February 2019 to refine the work plan of STC 8 and its implementation strategy in accordance with the work programmes adopted by the third Ordinary Session of STC 8;
- (6) To equip the Decentralization and Local Governance Sub-Committee (DLG) with sufficient resources for the implementation of its activities;
- (7) Expedite the revision of the Rules of Procedure with a view to integrating, inter alia, the establishment of a coordinating body of each Sub-Committee, taking into account the experience of other AU- STCs;
- (8) To integrate the structuring of the Secretariat of the AU-STC No. 8 in the process of reform being implemented within the AU, taking into account the specificities of each of the sub-committees;
- (9) Establish partnership agreements with International Institutions or Organizations in the same field of competence as the DGL Sub-Committee, ensuring that the choice is made on the potential technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) whose intervention is in conformity with the AU Constitutive Act, Agenda 2063 and other AU relevant decisions and fundamental documents;
- (10) Accelerate the operationalization process of the High Council of Local Authorities (HCLA) through the implementation of Executive Council Decision 993 and report to its Session in June 2019; then develop the statute and mandate of HCLA and submit to the AU Policy organs during the first semester of 2019.
- (11) Encourage Member States to further strengthen the financial autonomy of their local authorities.
- (12) Request that a Sub-Committee meeting be convened to assess the implementation of the programs prior to the Ordinary Session of STC 8;
- (13) Quantify the strategic plan to the relevant structures with a view to its integration into the Commission's budgeting process.
- (14) Request the Department of Political Affairs to submit to the Member States the necessary budget for the implementation of DLG Sub-Committee's work plan with a view to allowing them to make budget estimates for STC 8.

23. In addition, participants exchanged information and views on the composition of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee on Decentralization and Local

Governance and on the partnership with the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa).

24. On the composition of DLG Sub-Committee Bureau, participants agreed to wait for the election of AU STC 8 Bureau members before proceeding with the composition of this structure during the plenary if it is possible and if not consultations can be made by DPA among Member States.

25. With regard to the partnership with UCLG Africa, it is necessary for the Sub-Committee on Decentralization and Local Governance to have strategic partners. It was reported that a partnership with UCLG-Africa is being studied by the Department of Political Affairs in collaboration with other relevant departments of the AU Commission. In this respect, strict respect for the principles, goals and objectives of the Constitutive Act, decisions, rules and regulations of the AU has been requested.

c. Report of Housing and Urban Development Sub-Committee

26. The meeting started with adoption of the Agenda as follows:

1. Consideration of the Sub-Committee Work plan for 2019-2020
2. Briefing on the Harmonized Regional Framework for Implementing the New Urban Agenda
3. Consultation on possible Observance of African Habitat Day
4. Proposals for inclusion in STC 8 Decision
5. Proposals on representatives of the Sub-Committee in the STC Bureau
6. Sub-Committee Coordinating Committee (Bureau)
7. A.O.B

27. On the Work Plan for 2019-2020, the meeting adopted the work plan with amendments

28. On the Regional Framework, the meeting adopted the framework and recommended it for adoption by the STC 8

29. On the Observance of Africa Habitat Day, the Meeting endorsed the proposal and recommended the observance of the day in Africa

30. **The Meeting proposed the following Recommendations for inclusion in the STC 8 Decision**

- a) Harmonized Regional Framework on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda
 - Endorse the Framework

- Call on Member States to effectively participate in its implementation, monitoring, review and reporting
- b) Commemoration of African Habitat Day was endorsed
- c) Fast tracking of the development of the Model Law as an entry point for an African Union Charter on Values and Principles of Sustainable Urban and Human Settlements Development
- d) Resource Mobilization for effective operations of the STC 8 and its Sub-Committees
- e) Review of the STC 8 Rules of Procedure to strengthen the operations of the Sub-Committees
- f) Approve the HUD Work Plan 2019-2020
- g) Agree to in accordance with Rule 5 (2) of the STC 8 Rules of Procedure, constitute a Human Settlements and Urban Development Sub-Committee Ministerial Steering Team composed as follows
- h) Representatives of HUD SC in the Third Bureau of STC 8 – Mandated the Chair of the Human Settlements and Urban Development Sub-Committee to consult with the HUD representatives from Central Africa on the Chair of the Sub-Committee. On the Chairmanship of the STC 8 Bureau, the Southern African group were advised to consult and report to the plenary
- i) Institutional matters
 - a. Human Resource – implement the Brazzaville Decision on integration of the staff of coordination units of Sub-Committees in the AUC structure
 - b. Partnerships with (UCLGA and any other technical partners outside the organs of the AU and the UN Institutions etc.) – Ensure that Partnerships conducted by the Sub-Committee with Organizations, beside AU and UN organs, should be conducted with the involvement of Member States and in conformity of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the statutory documents and the relevant AU Assembly Decisions as well as Agenda 2063, particularly on activities including the drafting of documents and the organization of any other activities by the Sub-Committee. In this regard the Bureau of this Sub-Committee should conduct its business in line with provisions of Rule of Procedures of STC 8 which state that the Bureau acts on behalf of Member States insuring their total involvement

A.O.B

31. On the presentation made by Senegal on FAMHUD, the Meeting agreed that the steering team considers the proposal by Senegal for synergy between STC 8 and FAMHUD and that the report and roadmap of the FAMHUD Dakar meeting should be disseminated for information

32. The statement, replies and assurances provided by the Representative of the Department of Political Affairs regarding the procedure followed by the African

Union Commission and the safeguards observed before the conclusion of partnerships with potential partners in the areas of competence of the STC 8 were not available.

viii. Election Procedure

33. After due consultation among Member States and Sub-regions, the following nominations were made following the guide for Elections of the 3rd and subsequent Bureau of STC 8 presented by the Legal Counsel of the Commission.

34. The nominations were as follows:

POSITION	COUNTRY	REGION	SECTOR
Chairperson	Lesotho	Southern Africa	Housing and Urban Development
1 st Vice Chair	Morocco	North Africa	Decentralization and Local Governance
2 nd Vice Chair	Tanzania	East Africa	Public Service and Administration
3 rd Vice Chair	Burundi	Central Africa	Housing and Urban Development
Rapporteur	Niger	West Africa	Public Service and Administration

35. Nonetheless, members present noted that most of the nominated Ministers were not present.

4. CLOSING

36. In closing the Experts Meeting, Mr. Calixte Aristide Mbari, thanked all participants for their hard work and understanding during the duration of the meetings. He apologized for the logistics problems encountered which delayed some of the proceedings. He promised that effort will be increased to minimize such in the future.

On his part, Mr. Abasse Olossoumare, Chairperson of the Experts Meeting, expressed his profound gratitude for the trust and confidence reposed in him. He thanked the experts who worked so hard to develop a draft statement to be submitted to the ministers as a guide for the new and third Bureau of the STC during his next term. Mr. Olossoumare wished all the participants coming from abroad a good return to their country. Mr. Olossoumare wished all participants coming from abroad a safe journey back home.

Day 3 - Ministerial Meeting December 5, 2018

1. Opening

i. Opening Remarks

37. The Opening Session began with a brief introduction of dignitaries by Mr. Calixte Mbari Aristide, the Head of Division, Department of Political Affairs. He welcomed H.E. Mrs. Minata Cessouma Samate, Commissioner of Political Affairs of the AU Commission and the outgoing Chairperson of the AU-STC 8, Hon. Barnabe Z. Dassigli, Minister of Decentralization and Local Governance of the Republic of Benin.

38. The Commissioner, Department of Political Affairs, African Union Commission Mrs. Samate, in her opening statement welcomed all Ministers and delegates who made time out of their busy schedules to be a part of the Meeting which began from 3 to 4 December 2018 with the Experts Meeting. She emphasized the importance of these STC 8 meetings as 'it marks the end of the outgoing Bureau' which she noted was 'executed with professionalism'.

39. She went on to enumerate the task before the Ministers and delegates during the deliberations as follows:

- An opportunity to assess the balance sheet
- Ensure the work plan takes on board the first 10 years elements of the Agenda 2063
- To elect a new Bureau for the years 2019-2020
- To look at the strategy for mobilizing resources for the STC 8
- Presentation of the AAPSIA awards

40. She commended the delegates and mentioned to the gathering that the new Bureau will be beginning the implementation of its activities at the same time when the New Urban Agenda (NUA) Programme will be starting. Noting that Africa is the champion in preparing a regional framework for the NUA which was validated at Entebbe.

41. Speaking further, she thanked the Secretariat for the support it provides to the STC 8 amidst its challenges of limited funds and human resources.

42. She apologized for the late production of working documents and promised that subsequent meetings will not experience such glitches.

43. The Chair of the STC 8 Bureau (2016-2018) welcomed all Ministers and delegates present for their readiness to honour the invitation to participate in the activities of STC 8.

44. Recounting the successes of the STCs he noted that most African countries have made commendable strides in administration, politics, economy, social cultural levels. These trackable progress can be seen in the adoption of decentralization since the 2000's; holding of regular national elections which has

promoted citizen led democratic norms; transfer of competencies which is aimed at facilitating the achievement of the SDGs; and the assertion of identity across regional and cross-boarder cultures.

45. Speaking on the difficulties experienced by the STC8 he spoke on the need to sufficiently empower the Secretariat with human resources that will strengthen the Secretariat in its responsibility.

46. As a way forward, he enumerated the task of producing and distributing the following documents:

- Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration;
- Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization and Local Governance;
- Charter on the Values and Principles of Housing and Urban Development ;

47. While calling on Member States to make the effort of adopting and ratifying these documents.

48. Thanking the Department of Political Affairs for their support to the STC8, he encouraged the department to ensure synergy and interaction in designing a strategic programme; prioritize activities that will be submitted to the Commission; strengthen the synergy between the various bodies of the AUC; ensure monitoring and preparing the actions for the implementation of the strategic plan of action.

49. He enjoined the Ministers and delegates present to ensure that they are guided by the strategic vision of the AUC accompanied with a roadmap to achieving the goals of the Vision 2030, Agenda 2063, SDGs and the NUA while achieving the set goals of the three day meetings.

2. Adoption of Draft Agenda

50. The Agenda was adopted and the newly elected members of the Bureau for 2019-2020 were invited to lead the rest of the deliberations.

3. Election of the Bureau

After two days of consultation and deliberation with guidance and clarification from the Office of the Legal Counsel, the Ministers appointed members to fill the vacancies in the STC 8 Bureau 2019-2020.

51. The nominations were accepted and approved by the Ministers and delegates present as follows:

POSITION	COUNTRY	REGION	SECTOR
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Chairperson	Lesotho	Southern Africa	Housing and Urban Development
1 st Vice Chair	Morocco	North Africa	Decentralization and Local Governance
2 nd Vice Chair	Tanzania	East Africa	Public Service and Administration
3 rd Vice Chair	Burundi	Central Africa	Housing and Urban Development
Rapporteur	Niger	West Africa	Public Service and Administration

Nonetheless, members present noted that most of the nominated ministers were not present.

52. Delegates proposed that sending a Note Verbale alone for such an important meeting does not convey the importance of the meeting. It was recommended that following such Note Verbale, an invitation letter targeting the principal actors should be sent and adequate follow up made to ensure full participation. As noted by delegates from Namibia, Senegal, Sudan all agreed that, if this is not done, it might discourage other delegates from participating considering that it cost the Member States a lot to send their representatives to subsequent meetings.

53. The Commissioner in her response reassured delegates present that all the observations will be addressed, confirming that it is only one staff member from the department who is working to support the activities of the STC 8.

4. Consideration of the Report of Experts Meeting

54. As the Report of the Experts Meeting was not available, the Algerian delegation proposed, at the time of the deliberations, to leave it to the new Bureau to ensure its elaboration and to submit it to Member States.

5. Consideration of the Draft Addis Ababa Declaration

55. The draft Addis Ababa Declaration, recommended by the Experts Meeting, was screened and read. The delegation of South Africa, supported by Sudan, Senegal and Gabon, proposed the adoption of the Declaration without further amendment.

56. The document was hence adopted as an official document from the Ministers Meeting. (See attached Addis Ababa Declaration)

6. CLOSING

57. The Commissioner of the DPA thanked all delegates present and congratulated the incoming Bureau charging them to 'do their best to strengthen the Secretariat within the bounds of available resources'.

58. Delegates from South Africa, Algeria, Mali, congratulated the incoming Bureau pledging their support to the new Bureau.

59. As a way forward, delegates made the following recommendations:

- That the DPA should include activities of the STC in its work plan and budget and communicate same to Member States: to enable national governments through her embassies fund experts who have capacity to contribute meaningfully during deliberations;
- That dates of the STC8 Ordinary Sessions be reviewed to avoid it clashing with end of year activities, planning and budgeting processes of Member States.
- That advance preparations be made, documents collated and translated into all working languages prior to meetings;
- The incoming Bureau members made their maiden remarks of acceptance of office.

60. Following these recommendations, the incoming Chair of the Bureau of the STC 8, announced the end of the meeting following a call by Namibia. The Chair thanked all delegates and representatives for the elections of the new Bureau and promised to ensure that all recommendations, declarations made during the three-day meeting will be implemented.

AU-STC NO. 8. 2018 ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION

We, Members of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization meeting during this Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia this 5th Day of December 2018;

Reaffirming the decisions of the First and Second Ordinary Session of the STC 8;

Commend the AUC for availing some resources for the operations of the STC 8;

Note the need for allocation of adequate resources for the STC 8 to effectively execute its mandate

Recognizing the need to strengthen the Secretariat of the STC 8

Commend the sub-committees for effectively implementing their respective programmes under the STC 8

Cognizant of the recent decision of the Heads of State and Government on Reforms in the African Union at 11th Extraordinary Session of the African Union Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 18 November 2018

1. **Express** our profound gratitude and appreciation to the People and Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for hosting this Third Ordinary Session of the African Union STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization;
2. **Commend** the Secretariat of the STC 8, Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission (AUC), for facilitating the smooth operations of the STC 8;
3. **Commend** the out-going Bureau for effectively steering the work of the STC 8 for the period 2017-2018
4. **Elect** the members of the third Bureau of the STC 8 as follows:

Positions	STC Sub-Committees	Regions	Countries
Chairperson	Urban Development and Human Settlements	Southern Africa	Lesotho
1st Vice	Decentralization and Local Governance	Northern Africa	Morocco
2nd Vice	Public Service and Administration	Eastern Africa	Tanzania
3rd Vice	Urban Development and Human Settlements	Central Africa	Burundi
Rapporteur	Public Service and Administration	Western Africa	Niger

5. **Decide** that the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Vice Chairs of the AU-STC 8 Bureau will be the Chairs of the Decentralization, Public Service and Urban Development Sub-Committees respectively.
6. **Urge** the DPA/AUC to in view of the reforms in the African Union, propose an appropriate structure of the Secretariat of the STC 8 (taking into account the specificities of each of the sub-committees) to AU Reform Team for consideration and incorporation in the proposal for overall structure of AUC that will be tabled for approval by the policy organs in June 2019.
7. **Further Decide** to start the process of reviewing the Rules of Procedure of the STC 8 to provide for more efficient operations of the STC 8 and its sub-committees;
8. **Request** the AUC in collaboration with key institutional partners including the ECA and UN-Habitat to incorporate requirements of STC 8 in the overall resource mobilization strategy of the AUC.
9. **Urge** Member States to constitute a high level national focal team for the STC 8 in line with the STC 8 Brazzaville Declaration;
10. **Also request** the Bureau of the STC 8 to prepare guidelines for operationalization of the national focal teams and submit to Member States;
11. **Request** the AUC to fast-track the development of an African Union Charter on Values and Principles of Sustainable Urban and Human Settlements Development to be tabled for consideration by Member States;
12. **Also Request** the AUC to expedite the operationalization process of the High Council of Local Authorities (HCLA) through the implementation of Executive Council Decision 993 of January 2018 and report to the Executive Council Session of June 2019 **and request** the AUC to initiate the process of elaborating the statutes and mandate of HCLA with a view to consideration and adoption by the AU policy organs
13. **Call for** the allocation of adequate budgetary provision for the work of the STC 8;
14. **Also Call** for strengthening of the advocacy for ratification of the Charter on values and principles of decentralization taking into consideration challenges in this regard and appointment of an African decentralization champion to expedite the process of ratification of the Charter
15. **Take note** of the STC 8 work plan for the period 2019-2020 and request the AUC in collaboration with key institutional partners to effectively facilitate its implementation and to report regularly to the Bureau and Member States;
16. **Endorse** the Harmonized Regional Implementation Framework for the New Urban Agenda in Africa ;

17. **Call on** Member States to effectively participate in the implementation of the Harmonized Regional Implementation Framework for the New Urban Agenda in Africa as well as its monitoring and reporting mechanism;
18. **Decide** to commemorate an African Habitat Day and request the DPA-of the African Union Commission in consultation with Member States and the UN-Habitat to facilitate implementation of this decision;
19. **Commend** the STC 8 for developing guidelines for the implementation of the African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration and call on Member States who have ratified to implement and report on progress and those who have not ratified to do so
20. **Commend** the establishment of the Conference of State Parties for the Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration
21. **Encourage** Member States to participate in the All-Africa Public Sector Innovation Awards (AAPSIA) in 2020 and call on the AUC to ensure communication on AAPSIA is sent to all Member States in a timely manner and in all working languages
22. **Call on** Member States to participate in the Africa Public Service Day (APSD) in June 2019 and June 2020
23. **Decide** that the sub-committees meet at least once every two years
24. **Request** the Chairperson of the AU STC 8 to bring this Declaration to the attention of the African Union Policy Making Organs for consideration.
25. **Decide** to hold the fourth Ordinary Session of STC 8 in 2020.

2019-02-07

Report of the 3rd ordinary session of the STC on public service, local governments, urban development and decentralization, 5-7 December 2018, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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