

AFRICAN UNION

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**ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION**  
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**Addis Ababa (ETHIOPIA)**

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**DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE  
MID-YEAR COORDINATION MEETING BETWEEN  
AFRICAN UNION AND THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES**

**DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE  
MID-YEAR COORDINATION MEETING BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION AND  
THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES**

The Assembly of the Union:

- Guided by the Constitutive Act of the African Union and recalling the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty) and the treaties of the Regional Economic Communities as well as any other relevant AU instruments;
- Recalling also the Protocol on the relations between AU and RECs;
- Taking due account of Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) on the outcome of the retreat of the Assembly of the African Union on the Institutional Reform of the African Union and Assembly/AU/Dec.687(XXX) on the progress report of the implementation of the Assembly Decision 635 on the Institutional Reform of the African Union of the Assembly of the Union, adopted respectively at its 28<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session (30–31 January 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) and 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session (28–29 January 2018, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia); and
- Taking due consideration of Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1-4(XI) of the 11<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on Institutional Reform held from 17–18 November 2018, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

HAS ADOPTED THESE RULES OF PROCEDURE for the Mid Year Coordination Meeting.

**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 Assembly;

**“Commission”** means the Secretariat of the African Union;

**“Committee on Coordination”** means the institutional organ set up by the Protocol on Relations between the African Union (AU) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs);

**“Executive Council”** means the Executive Council of Ministers of the African Union;

**“Member State”** means a Member State of the African Union;

**“RECs”** means the Regional Economic Communities;

**“RMs”** means Regional Mechanisms;

**“Treaty”** means the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;

**“Treaties”** means the treaties establishing the RECs;

**“Union”** means the African Union established by the Constitutive Act.

## **RULE 2 STATUS**

The Mid-Year Coordination Meeting shall be the principal forum for the African Union and RECs to align their work and coordinate the implementation of the continental integration agenda.

## **RULE 3 COMPOSITION**

The Mid-Year Coordination Meeting shall be composed of the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly and the Chairpersons of the RECs.

## **RULE 4 PARTICIPATION**

1. The following shall also participate in the sessions of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in their official capacity:
  - a) the Chairperson of the AU Commission;
  - b) the Chief Executives of the RECs; and
  - c) the Chief Executives of RMs.
2. The Chairperson of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting may when deemed necessary and following appropriate consultations, formally invite Member States, institutions or personalities based on the specific agenda items under discussion.

**RULE 5  
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS**

1. The Mid-Year Coordination Meeting shall:
  - a) assess and review the status of implementation of decisions and legal instruments pertaining to relations between African Union, RECs and RMS;
  - b) assess the status of continental integration and co-ordinate efforts to accelerate the integration process;
  - c) coordinate the implementation of a clear division of labour and effective collaboration between the AU, RECs, RMs, Member States and other continental institution, in line with the principle of subsidiarity, complementarity and comparative advantage;
  - d) identify areas of cooperation and establish mechanisms for regional, continental and global cooperation in each sector or subsector;
  - e) guide the Union and the RECs 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;
  - f) carry out any other function assigned to it by the Assembly; and
  - g) Report to and make recommendations to the Assembly.

**RULE 6  
VENUE**

1. The Mid-Year Coordination Meeting shall be held at the Headquarters of the Union unless a Member State offers to host it.
2. In the event a Member State offers to hold the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, that Member State shall be responsible for all extra expenses incurred by the Commission as a result of the session being held outside the Headquarters.
3. Member States offering to host the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting shall be required to meet the applicable criteria on hosting AU Meetings outside its Headquarters, and shall not be under any sanctions that disallow it from hosting AU Meetings.
4. The Assembly shall decide on the venue of the Mid Year Coordination Meeting in case of offer/s to host it outside the Headquarters.

5. Where a Member State that had offered to host the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting is unable to do so, the session shall be held at the Headquarters of the Union.

### **RULE 7 QUORUM**

The quorum for the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, shall be simple majority of the Bureau of the Assembly and simple majority of the Chairs of the RECs Taking into account the composition as outlined in Rule 3.

### **RULE 8 ORDINARY SESSIONS**

The Mid-Year Coordination Meeting shall be held once a year in June/July.

### **RULE 9 AGENDA OF THE COORDINATION MEETING**

1. The Mid-Year Coordination Meeting shall adopt its Agenda at the opening of each meeting.
2. The provisional Agenda of the meeting shall be drawn up by the Committee on Coordination.
3. This provisional agenda shall comprise, inter-alia, of:
  - a) Items which the Assembly decided, to place on the draft agenda of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting;
  - b) Items proposed by the RECs and;
  - c) Items proposed by the AU Member states, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, RMS, as well as organs, institutions, offices and specialized agencies of the Union through the assembly regarding coordination between the AU and the REC's.
4. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission shall submit the draft provisional agenda of the Mid Year Coordination Meeting for the consideration by AU Member States through the appropriate Policy Organs of the Union;
5. The agenda items will be considered provided that the proposal is submitted sixty (60) days before the opening of the meeting and the supporting documents and draft recommendations have been communicated to the Chairperson of the Commission and the Chief Executives of the RECs at least thirty (30) days before the opening of the meeting.

**RULE 10  
OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES**

1. During the opening ceremony of sessions, the following personalities shall be entitled to address the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting:
  - a) Head of State or Government of the Host Country;
  - b) Chairperson of the Union;
  - c) Chairperson of the Commission, and
  - d) The Chairperson of a RECs would speak on behalf the other RECs, on annual rotational basis.
2. During the closing ceremony of the meetings, the Head of State or Government of the Host Country and Chair of the Union are entitled to address the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting.

**RULE 11  
OPEN AND CLOSED SESSIONS**

1. The opening and closing sessions of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting shall be open.
2. All the other sessions shall be closed.
3. The meeting may, however, decide whether any of its sessions shall be open.

**RULE 12  
WORKING LANGUAGES**

1. The working languages of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting shall be the working languages of the African Union.
2. Any statement may be made in any other language provided that the speaker makes available simultaneous interpretation to one of the working languages without any financial implications to the budget of the meeting.

**RULE 13**  
**CHAIRPERSON OF THE COORDINATION MEETING**

- 1- The Chairperson of the Union shall be the Chairperson of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting.
- 2- In the absence of the Chairperson, one of the Vice-Chairpersons shall act as the Chairperson.

**RULE 14**  
**DUTIES OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

1. The Chairperson shall:
  - a) convene the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting;
  - b) open and close the session of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting;
  - b(bis) guide the proceedings of the meeting including the adoption of the conclusions and recommendation of its the meeting;
  - c) submit the recommendations of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting to the Assembly.
2. The Chairperson shall ensure order and decorum of the proceedings of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting.

**RULE 15**  
**CONDUCT OF DELIBERATIONS**

1. Relevant Rules pertaining to the conduct of deliberations within the Assembly shall be applicable *mutatis mutandis* in the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting.
2. The meeting shall take its decisions by consensus, failing which by 2/3 majority on substantive matters, including adoption of its conclusions and recommendations, and by simple majority for procedural matters, taking into account the composition of the meeting as outlined in Rule 3.

**RULE 16**  
**OUTCOMES OF MEETINGS**

1. The outcome of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting shall be in form of conclusions and recommendations addressed to the Assembly.

**RULE 17  
SECRETARIAL SERVICE**

1. The commission shall provide the secretariat service for the meeting;

**RULE 18  
AMENDMENTS**

1. The meeting may recommend to the Assembly any amendments to these Rules.
2. Amendments enter into Force upon adoption by the Assembly.

**RULE 19  
ENTRY INTO FORCE**

These Rules shall enter into force upon the adoption by the Assembly.





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# Draft Rules of Procedure of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between African Union and the Regional Economic Communities

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