

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA, P.O. Box 3243 Telephone: 011-551 7700 Fax: 011-551 7844
Website: www.au.int

FIRST MID-YEAR COORDINATION MEETING

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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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MID-YEAR COORDINATION MEETING BETWEEN AFRICAN UNION AND THE
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GENERAL PROVISION

The Mid-Year Coordination Meeting:

- Having regard to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty) and the treaties of the Regional Economic Communities;
- Taking due account of Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.687(XXX) of the Assembly of the Union, adopted respectively at its 28th Ordinary Session (30–31 January 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) and 30th Ordinary Session (28–29 January 2018, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia); and
- Taking due consideration also Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1-4(XI) of the 11th Extraordinary Session held from 17–18 November 2018, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

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”, unless specified otherwise, 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;

“PRC” means the Permanent Representatives’ Committee of the African Union;

“PSC” means the Peace and Security Council 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 Bureau of the Assembly and Chairpersons of the RECs.

RULE 4 ATTENDANCE

1. The following shall attend the sessions of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in their official capacity:
 - a) the Commission;
 - b) the Chief Executives of the RECs; and
 - c) the Chief Executives of RMs.
2. The Assembly shall determine which RMs will participate in the meeting.
3. The Mid-Year Coordination Meeting may also invite head of organs of the Union and any other personality to attend its meeting.

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;
 - b) assess the status of continental integration and co-ordinate efforts to accelerate the integration process;
 - c) coordinate the implementation of an 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;
 - 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.
2. The meeting shall consider any functions assigned by 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 a session of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in its country.
2. In the event a Member State invites to hold the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in its country, 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 not be under sanctions and shall be required to meet pre-determined criteria to be adopted by the Assembly, including adequate logistical facilities and a conducive political atmosphere.
4. Where two (2) or more Member States offer to host the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, the Assembly shall decide on the venue by simple majority.

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, unless a new offer is received and accepted by Member States.

RULE 7 QUORUM

The quorum for the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting shall be simple majority of the composition of the meeting as listed 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 and shall comprise the following:
 - a) Items which the Assembly decided, at a previous session, to place on the agenda of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting;
 - b) Items proposed by a Member State;
 - c) Items proposed by the Commission;
 - d) Items proposed by the RECs and RMs; and
 - e) Items proposed by the other Organs of the Union regarding coordination between AU and RECs through the Assembly.
3. The agenda items will be considered provided that the proposal is submitted sixty (60) days before the opening of the meeting and the supporting document(s) and draft recommendation(s) has(ve) 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) one Chairperson representing the 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 by simple majority whether any of its sessions shall be open.

**RULE 12
WORKING LANGUAGES**

1. The working languages of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting shall be Arabic, English, French, and Portuguese.
2. Any Head of State or Government may make a statement in any African language provided that he/she makes available simultaneous interpretation into at least one of the working languages, other than an African language, without financial implications to the Union.

**RULE 13
CHAIRPERSON OF THE COORDINATION MEETING**

The current Chairperson of the Union shall be the Chairperson of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting. He/she shall be assisted by the other members of the Bureau of the Assembly, namely four (4) Vice-Chairpersons.

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;
 - c) submit for approval the records of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting;
 - d) 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.
3. In the absence of the Chairperson or in case of a vacancy, the first Vice-Chairperson shall act as the Chairperson.

RULE 15 CONDUCT OF DELIBERATIONS

1. 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 make recommendations by consensus, failing which, by simple majority, of the composition of the meeting as listed in Rule 3.

RULE 16 OUTCOMES OF MEETINGS

1. The outcomes of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting shall be recommendations.
2. These recommendations are addressed to the Assembly for consideration and adoption.
3. These recommendations shall guide and provide policy orientation pertaining to the implementation of an effective division of labour or any other topic the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting deems necessary.

**RULE 17
SECRETARIAL SERVICE**

[TO BE DETERMINED BY MEMBER STATES]

**RULE 18
AMENDMENTS**

The meeting may propose to the Assembly any amendments to these Rules.

**RULE 19
ENTRY INTO FORCE**

These Rules shall:

- a. be implemented provisionally upon their approval by the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting; and
- b. enter into force upon adoption by the Assembly.

2019-07-08

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

African Union

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