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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
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**REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN
CANDIDATURES WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System met in its Thirty-First Ordinary Session on 30 June 2017, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, chaired by **H.E. Dr. Samura Matthew Wilson Kamara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone.**

2. After opening the session and observing the usual protocols, the Chairperson presented the Agenda of the session for adoption by member of the Committee.

3. The Chairperson gave the floor to Ambassador Minata Cessouma Samate, Commissioner for Political Affairs, who thanked and commended the Members of the Committee for their continued commitment to build African solidarity around the candidatures endorsed for posts within the international system. She referred to the election of the Director General of the World Health Organization as an instance of African success and an example to be emulated in the future, underscoring the role played by various parties, including the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, His Excellency, Moussa Faki Mahamat.

II. ATTENDANCE

4. The following Members of the Committee were in attendance: Angola, Burkina Faso, Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo and Libya.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Committee adopted the following Agenda:

- i) Implementation of Decisions **EX.CL/Dec.897(XXVII), EX.CL/Dec.917(XXVII), EX.CL/DEC.938(XXIX) and EX.CL/Dec.958(XXX);**
- ii) Consideration of African Candidatures for Posts within the International System;
- iii) Any Other Business.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS **EX.CL/Dec.917 (XXVIII) AND EX.CL/Dec.938 (XXIX)**

6. The Commission presented the Report on the Status of Implementation of Decisions **EX.CL/Dec.897 (XXVII), EX.CL/Dec.917(XXVII), EX.CL/DEC.938 (XXIX)**

and **EX.CL/Dec.958 (XXX)** on the candidatures endorsed by the Executive Council at previous sessions.

7. The Committee took note of the status of implementation of the above-mentioned Decisions on African candidatures endorsed at the 28th, 29th and 30th Sessions held in January and July 2016, and January 2017, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Kigali, Rwanda, respectively.. It expressed satisfaction on the success observed with the candidatures endorsed by the Executive Council at previous sessions. ,. The Committee recommended that the Executive Council take note of the candidates who had been elected and those who had not been elected (See Report).

8. The Representative of Egypt took the floor and recalled the endorsement by the July 2016 Session of the Assembly of the Candidature of **Dr. Moushira Khattab** of the Arab Republic of Egypt for post of Director General of UNESCO. The Committee requested that the same momentum that prevailed during the campaign for that election of the Director General of UNESCO should be extended to the African candidate for the post of Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO).

9. The Committee requested the Commission to take all the necessary steps to ensure multifaceted support for candidates endorsed by African Union mechanisms. The Committee also requested the Secretariat of the Committee to work towards the establishment of candidatures committees within the African groups that have none.

V. **CONSIDERATION OF AFRICAN CANDIDATURES FOR POSTS WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

10. The Commission presented the candidatures submitted for approval by the Executive Council during its 31st Ordinary Session.

11. After discussions, the Committee recommended that the Executive Council approve the following candidatures for election or re-election:

- i) **Member of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**, during elections scheduled for November 2017 in New York, the candidature of **Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong** of the Republic of Chad;
- ii) **Deputy Secretary General of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU)**, during elections scheduled from 29 October to 16 November 2018 in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, the candidature of **Mr. Brahim Sanou** of Burkina Faso

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- iii) **Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)**, during elections scheduled for November/December 2017 in The Hague, the Netherlands, the candidature of **Mr. Abdouraman Bary**;
- iv) **Member of the Human Rights Council for the 2018-2020 period**, during elections scheduled for November 2017, at the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the candidatures of:
- **The Democratic Republic of Congo**, for Central Africa;
 - **The Republic of Angola**, for Southern Africa;
 - **The Republic de Senegal**, for West Africa;
 - **The Federal Republic of Nigeria**, for West Africa.
- v) **Member of the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization** for the 2018-2021 period, during elections scheduled from 4 to 9 September 2017 in Chengdu, China, at the 22nd session of the General Assembly of the WTO, the candidatures of:
- **The Republic of Sudan**;
 - **The Republic of Cabo Verde**;
 - **The Republic of Seychelles**;
 - **The Republic of Congo**
- NB:** the candidature of the Republic of Congo was accepted after the Representative of the Member State explained that the candidature had been expressed and the Committee had noted that there were more posts to be filled than there were candidates.
- vi) **Member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency** for the 2017-2019 period, during elections scheduled for September 2017, at the General Conference of the IAEA, the candidatures of:
- **The Republic of Sudan**;
 - **The Republic of Niger**;
 - **The Arab Republic of Egypt.**
- NB.** *The Committee directed the Permanent Mission of the African Union in Geneva to inform Member States, together with the African Group in Geneva, of the selection of two (2) States to fill the vacant post.*
- vii) **Member of the Council of the International Maritime Organization, under Category C**, during elections scheduled from 27 November to 6 December 2017 in London at the 30th Session of the General Assembly of the International Maritime Organization, the candidatures of:

- ***The Republic of Liberia;***
 - ***The Kingdom of Morocco;***
 - ***The Republic of South Africa;***
 - ***The Arab Republic of Egypt***
 - ***The Republic of Kenya***
- viii) **Member of the Council of the International Telecommunications Union**, during elections scheduled from 29 October to 26 November 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirate, at the Plenipotentiary Conference, the candidature of ***the Federal Republic of Nigeria;***
- NB. The Committee decided to leave the twelve (12) other positions to be filled by Africa in the Council open.*
- ix) **Member of the Committee on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict**, during elections scheduled for November 2017 in Paris, at the Conference of State Parties of the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the candidature of ***the Arab Republic of Egypt;***
- x) **Member of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)**, during elections scheduled for the 39th UNESCO General Conference to be held in Paris in November 2017, the candidature of ***the Arab Republic of Egypt;***
- xi) **Member of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP)**, during elections scheduled to be held in Paris in November 2017, at the 39th Session of the UNESCO General Conference, the candidature of ***the Arab Republic of Egypt.***
- xii) **Member of the International Coordination Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB)** during elections scheduled for the 39th Session of the UNESCO General Conference in November 2017 in Paris, ***the candidature of the Arab Republic of Egypt.***

12. **Concerning the post of Director of the Telecommunications Development Bureau**, during elections scheduled from 29 October to 26 November 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, the Committee received two (2) candidatures for early consideration, those of, ***Dr Cosmas Zavazava of the Republic of Zimbabwe*** and ***Mr. William Ijeh of the Federal Republic of Nigeria***. The Committee acknowledged that it was a strategic post for which competition with the rest of the world would be difficult. Having noted that the two candidates had excellent profiles and that both had international reputations, the first having served in the ITU and the second being a former official of that organization, the Committee requested the

delegations of Zimbabwe and Nigeria to carry out consultations in order to come to an agreement on single candidate. The consultations resulted in the following:

- (i) *The two delegations could not agree on a single candidate;*
- (ii) *The two delegations agreed to refer the issue to the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System and accept its decision on the issue;*
- (iii) *Nigeria stated that there was still the possibility of continuing negotiations, while Zimbabwe felt that negotiations were no longer possible, and wished to defer to the decision of the Committee;*
- (iv) *The Chair of the Committee gave the floor to the Secretariat and the Office of the Legal Counsel to obtain clarifications on the provisions of the Rules of Procedure and the practice in such cases. From the clarifications, it emerged that such matters are reflected in Article 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee concerning Competence; the intellectual capacity and experience of candidates, their reputation and recognition at international level, and geographical representation;*
- (v) *Members of the Committee spoke at length on the issue of recognition, which both candidates, acknowledging that both candidates met the above-mentioned criteria and that the only element to differentiate between them was geographical representation;*
- (vi) ***Faced with the deadlock and being unable to decide on the issue, the Committee opted to submit the issue to the Executive Council for decision, failing which, the two delegations would continue negotiations and an extraordinary session of the Committee would be convened, in the margins of the session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2017, to endorse or decide on the issue.***

13. Concerning the posts listed below, the Committee, instead of endorsing the candidatures of African countries concerned for these position, taking into consideration the existing mechanisms within the organisations, particularly geographical distribution and the determination of groups to which the Member States belong, decided to take note of the candidatures and lend its support. The posts are the following:

- i) **Member of the Executive Council of UNESCO in the V(b) Electoral Group for the 2017-2021 period** during elections scheduled to be held in Paris in November 2017 at the 39th UNESCO General Conference, the candidatures of:
 - **The Kingdom of Morocco;**
 - **The Arab Republic of Egypt.**

- ii) **Member of the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization** in the Category of Arab Countries, for the 2018-2021 period, during elections scheduled for 4 to 9 September 2017 in Chengdu, China at the 22nd Session of the WTO General Assembly, the candidature of:

- **The Arab Republic of Egypt.**

VI. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14. Under Any Other Business, the Chairperson commended members of the Committee and stated that their work was not limited to merely endorsing candidatures, and that it was important to support the candidates until their election.

15. The Committee received **Dr Moushira Khattab**, the African candidate endorsed for the post of Director General of UNESCO. The candidate presented her vision and the strategic orientations that would mark her term of office at the helm of the organization. She then briefed the Committee on the conduct of the campaign and the unwavering commitment of the African Group in Paris, expressing the hope that this support would continue until the elections.

16. The Committee requested the Permanent Mission of the African Union in New York to provide Member States with information on the United Nations Audit Committee.

17. Having exhausted all the items on the Agenda, the Chairperson adjourned the session.

DRAFT
DECISION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES
WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM
Doc. EX.CL/1041(XXIV)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System;
2. **ENDORSES:**
 - (i) **for membership of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**, during elections scheduled for November 2017 in New York, the candidature of **Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong** of the Republic of Chad;
 - (ii) for the position of **Deputy Secretary General of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU)**, during elections scheduled from 29 October to 16 November 2018 in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, the candidature of **Mr. Brahim Sanou** of Burkina Faso;
 - (iii) for the position of **Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)**, during elections scheduled for November/December 2017 in The Hague, the Netherlands, the candidature of **Mr. Abdouraman Bary**, of Burkina Faso;
3. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of and decides to approve the following candidatures:
 - (i) **for membership of the Human Rights Council for the 2018-2020 period**, during elections scheduled for November 2017, at the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the candidatures of:
 - **The Democratic Republic of Congo**, for Central Africa
 - **The Republic of Angola**, for Southern Africa
 - **The Republic of Senegal**, for West Africa
 - **The Federal Republic of Nigeria**, for West Africa
 - (ii) **for membership of the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization** for the 2018-2021 period, during elections scheduled from 4 to 9 September 2017 in Chengdu, China, at the 22nd session of the General Assembly of the WTO, the candidatures of:
 - **The Republic of Sudan**
 - **The Republic of Cabo Verde**

- *The Republic of Seychelles*
- *The Republic of Congo.*

(iii) for membership of the **Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency** for the 2017-2019 period, during elections scheduled for September 2017, at the General Conference of the IAEA, the candidatures of:

- *The Republic of Sudan*
- *The Republic of Niger*
- *The Arab Republic of Egypt*

NB: *The Committee directed the Permanent Mission of the African Union in Geneva to inform Member States, together with the African Group in Geneva, of the selection of two (2) States to fill the vacant post.*

(iv) for membership of the **Council of the International Maritime Organization, under Category C**, during elections scheduled from 27 November to 6 December 2017 in London at the 30th Session of the General Assembly of the International Maritime Organization, the candidatures of:

- *The Republic of Liberia*
- *The Kingdom of Morocco*
- *The Republic of South Africa*
- *The Arab Republic of Egypt*
- *The Republic of Kenya*

(v) for membership of the **Council of the International Telecommunications Union**, during elections scheduled from 29 October to 26 November 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirate, at the Plenipotentiary Conference, the candidature of *the Federal Republic of Nigeria;*

NB: The Committee decided to leave the twelve (12) other positions to be filled by Africa in the Council open, and requested the Secretariat to inform Member States of the candidature.

(vi) for membership of the **Committee on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict**, during elections scheduled for November 2017 in Paris, at the Conference of State Parties of the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the candidature of *the Arab Republic of Egypt;*

(vii) for membership of the **Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)**, during elections scheduled for the 39th UNESCO General Conference to be held

in Paris in November 2017, the candidature of ***the Arab Republic of Egypt***;

(viii) **for membership of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP)**, during elections scheduled to be held in Paris in November 2017, at the 39th Session of the UNESCO General Conference, the candidature of ***the Arab Republic of Egypt***.

(ix) **Member of the International Coordination Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB)** during elections scheduled for the 39th Session of the UNESCO General Conference in November 2017 in Paris, ***the candidature of the Arab Republic of Egypt***.

4. **DECIDES** that concerning the posts listed below, taking into consideration the existing mechanisms within the organisations, particularly geographical distribution and the determination of groups to which the Member States belong to take note of the candidatures and lend its support. The posts are the following:

i) **Member of the Executive Council of UNESCO in the V(b) Electoral Group for the 2017-2021** period during elections scheduled to be held in Paris in November 2017 at the 39th UNESCO General Conference, the candidatures of:

- ***The Kingdom of Morocco***
- ***The Arab Republic of Egypt***

ii) **Member of the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization** in the Category of Arab Countries, for the 2018-2021 period, during elections scheduled for 4 to 9 September 2017 in Chengdu, China at the 22nd Session of the WTO General Assembly, the candidature of:

- ***The Arab Republic of Egypt***

5. **LASTLY DECIDES** that taking into consideration this election in October 2017 for the post of Director General of UNESCO as well as other strategic positions within the international system, to request:

i) Member States, the Chairperson of the African Union, African Groups in UNESCO and the deans of the African Groups in the different capitals, to collectively undertake to promote and support the candidature of **Dr. Moushira Khattab, sole candidate for Africa**, for the post of Director General of UNESCO;

ii) The African Union Commission to take all the necessary measures to ensure multifaceted support for the candidates endorsed by the African Union mechanism;

- iii) The Secretariat of the Ministerial Committee for African Candidatures within the International System to work together with African Groups towards the establishment of candidatures committees within the said Groups that have none;
- iv) The Permanent Mission of the African Union in New York to provide Member States with information on the United Nations Audit Committee.

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