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**REPORT ON THE FIRST PHASE OF THE 8TH PAN AFRICAN
CONGRESS, ACCRA, GHANA, 5-7 MARCH 2015**

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A. Introduction

1. The 19th Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in July 2012 encouraged the African Union Commission (herein after the Commission), in collaboration with the Ethiopian Government, to work together with all the Member States and the Regional Economic Communities as well as the African Union (AU) Organs to organize various activities, including media events, debates and competitions in schools and universities, public opinion surveys, sessions and local and national legislatures and other activities to celebrate the year of Pan-Africanism and Renaissance so as to enhance awareness of the new generation of Africans about the ideals of Pan-Africanism.

2. On the basis of this Decision, the Commission developed an elaborate Project Plan for the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the OAU/AU. The Plan that was discussed extensively and adopted by the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Executive Council in April 2013 contained the year-long activities that were to be implemented between 25 May 2013 and 25 May 2014. These activities included among others the 8th Pan African Congress (PAC), which was aimed at renewing the commitment of Africa's leaders to Pan-Africanism and Agenda 2063.

B. Chronology of events towards the 8th Pan African Congress

3. In order to implement the activities of the adopted Project Plan, particularly the convening of the 8th PAC, the Government of the Republic of Ghana offered to host the Congress. However, due to the technicalities involved in convening a Congress, it was agreed that it is held from 4 to 9 November, 2014 in Accra, Ghana. As is the practice, the Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of the Republic of Ghana on the Material and Technical Organization of the 8th PAC. However, due to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in some Western African countries, inadequate preparations, coupled with limited financial resources, the Congress was postponed to 4 – 7 March, 2015 to still be held in Accra, Ghana.

4. In order to assess the progress of preparations for the Congress, the General Council of the Pan African Movement and International Preparatory Committee held a meeting with the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) on 28 February, 2015 in Accra, Ghana. Following presentation and discussions of progress reports from both the Pan African Movement (PAM) and LOC Secretariats, several attendant organizational and operational challenges were identified. There were amongst others, inadequate coordination and communication, financial and administrative constraints, as well as inadequate participation of PAM regional structures across the globe in the planning processes of the 8th PAC.

5. In light of the above challenges, the historical precedent set by the various PACs, particularly the 2nd PAC that was held in phases in different locations – Paris, Brussels and London – was considered. As a result, the meeting unanimously agreed to

restructure the planned 8th PAC into two phases, the first being the event that was held in Ghana and the second to be held in May 2016.

6. As a result, the first Phase of the 8th PAC took place in Accra, Ghana from 4 to 7 March, 2015. The phase was attended by selected participants from within Africa and the Diaspora and focused on issues and struggles of the global Pan African family. These included the foundational roots and contemporary dynamics of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance; Pan-African Alternatives to neo-liberalism and sustainable development; enhancing the role of the women, workers, youth and students movement within the Global Pan-African Movement; historical and contemporary injustices against people of African origin; role of culture, creative arts and Pan-African media in promoting Pan-Africanism; as well as how to enhance democracy, governance, peace and security as key pillars and enablers for the advancement of Pan-Africanism and African renaissance.

7. As a way forward, it was agreed that the second Phase, that is planned to take place in May 2016 will focus on addressing the operational and structural challenges of the PAM. It will specifically validate the resolutions of the first Phase; resolve all matters relating to the structure of the PAM; and facilitate the election of new office-bearers. It was further agreed that the Phase should focus on renewing the commitment of Africa's leaders to Pan-Africanism and Agenda 2063 as an enabling factor to realization of the African unity.

8. It was further agreed that the venue for the final Phase of the 8th PAC is to be determined by the Governing Council of PAM and the International Preparatory Committee and communicated to all stakeholders in due course. In addition, the following activities were proposed in the lead up to the final Phase of the 8th PAC:

- a) Convening of 12 PAM regional consultations – North America, Brazil, Cuba, Latin America, Caribbean, United Kingdom, Europe, Southern Africa, North Africa, East Africa, West Africa, and Central Africa – and conference for the four special interest groups – Youth, Women, Workers and Intellectuals, intended to mobilize for and popularize the final Phase of the 8th PAC as well as provide a forum to create traction for the ideals of Pan-Africanism and Agenda 2063;
- b) Fundraising initiatives that will facilitate mobilization of seed money for the convening of the regional consultations and conferences;

C. Emerging Issues

9. In the lead up to May 2016, there is need for a robust resource mobilization strategy to ensure that funds are secured to facilitate the convening of the 12 PAM regional consultations and the four special interest groups' conferences for women, youth, workers and intellectuals. These consultations and conferences will provide a forum from which 20 delegates each will be nominated to constitute the final Phase of the 8th PAC.

10. There is need to harness lessons learnt, challenges and prospects in the Pan African Movement, including follow-up of the implementation of the resolutions made by the previous PACs, especially the 7th PAC that was held in 1994 in Kampala, Uganda.

11. In order to facilitate adequate planning and preparation for the final stage of the 8th PAC, there is need to ensure effective coordination, communication and collaboration between the Commission, host Government, LOC and the PAM Secretariat, Governing Council and International Preparatory Committee.

12. The PAM needs to be revamped to make it more active and engaging, particularly with African both within the continent and those in the Diaspora. It should not be an event-based movement, rather a movement that supports African causes for African people.

13. African States and Governments form an integral part of the PAM and should be considered as critical partners in the movement.

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