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**REPORT OF THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN
UNION SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
SERVICE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, URBAN DEVELOPMENT
AND DECENTRALIZATION, BRAZZAVILLE,
REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 24-26 NOVEMBER 2014**

**REPORT OF THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE, LOCAL
GOVERNMENT, URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALIZATION,
BRAZZAVILLE, REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 24-26 NOVEMBER 2014**

I. BACKGROUND

1. In line with the configuration of the AU-STC, the following three African Union ministerial conferences, the Conference of Ministers for Public/Civil Service (AU-CAMPS), the African Union Ministerial Conference on Decentralization and Local Development (AMCOD), and the African Ministerial Conference of Housing and Urban Development, (AMCHUD) were merged and named the AU-STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization; out of these three STCs, only two were supervised and managed by the African Union Commission. The third ministerial conference- AMCHUD, was managed by the AMCHUD Conference and Bureau with technical support from the United Nations-Habitat.

2. In November 2013, when the third extraordinary conference of Ministers of the African Union on Decentralization and Local Development (AMCOD) took place in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, the operationalization of the AU-STC was part of the agenda and it was extensively discussed and clarifications were provided by some members of the African Union (AU) Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on the rationale behind the transformation of the ministerial conferences into STCs.

3. In addition, the Department of the Political Affairs of the African Union also organised another meeting on the operationalization of the AU-STC on 6-7 December, 2013, in Lome, Republic of Togo. The event brought together technical experts from the AU-CAMPS and AMCOD. The AMCHUD was not represented at this meeting because it was not operating under the AU governance architecture but its interest were put into consideration during the deliberation. The outcomes of the meeting also have significant implications on the operationalization of the AU-STC.

4. Furthermore, on 18-20 August 2014, the Secretariat of the AU-STC facilitated another three-day stakeholders technical consultative planning meeting on operationalization of the AU-STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This time around, the meeting brought together for the first time the three African Ministerial Conferences, namely the Conference of African Ministers of Public/Civil Service (AU-CAMPS), the Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralization and Local Development (AMCOD), and the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD). In all, twelve (12) AU- Member States of the African Union (Republic of Benin, Republic of Congo, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Ghana, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Namibia, Republic of Nigeria, Republic of South Africa, Republic of Sudan, Republic of Chad, Republic of Uganda, and Republic of Zambia), attended the meeting. Participants included ministers and technical experts from the three erstwhile Ministerial conferences. The Meeting was also attended by the following African based institutions and international development Agencies- the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), the UN Habitat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

II. THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AU-STC ON PUBLIC SERVICE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALIZATION

5. The First Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization (AU STC No. 8) was held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo from 24th to 26th November 2014. The main aims of the meeting were to:

- a) To operationalize the AU STC; and
- b) To harmonize the agreed programme and activities of the AU STC Sub-Committees for the next two years (2015-2016).

6. The Meeting was attended by Thirty (30) African Union Member States, namely: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Tchad, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania, and Democratic Republic of Congo.

7. Also present were development partners from the United Nations System namely the UNDP (Regional Centre for Africa) and UN-Habitat. The meeting was also attended by members of the African Diplomatic Corps in Republic of Congo. Invited guests and observers included academia and development partners from across the continent.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC

8. The objectives of the First Ordinary Session of the STC include to:

- a) Constitute a Substantive Bureau for the STC;
- b) Agree on programme and activities of the STC;
- c) Discuss, and harmonize the 3 sub-committee work plans of the AU-STC into two-year work plan (2015-2016);
- d) Discuss and agree on human and financial resources to be mobilized for the realization of the planned activities;
- e) Provide a platform for discussion among the staff of the three STC Sub-Committees, namely the Conference of African Ministers for Civil/Public service (CAMPS), African Ministerial Conference for Decentralization and Local Development (AMCOD) and the African Ministerial Conference on Human Settlements and Urban Development (AMCHUD) on the harmonization of their programs as the STC program and activities;
- f) Agree and provide for common programmes and activities in the STC work plan;

- g) Exchange ideas on best practices among the three sub-committees and how these practices should be retained under the STC;
- h) Presentation of the outcomes of the 18-20 August 2014 meeting to the STC first Plenary Session for consideration and adoption.

IV. SUMMARY OF KEY OUTCOMES OF THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC

9. The following were the key outcomes of the meeting:

- i) The structure and the operation of the AU STC agreed.
- ii) The programmes and activities of the AU STC for the next two years agreed.
- iii) The Rules of Procedure of the AU- STC finalised and recommended to the African Union Policy Organs for consideration and adoption.
- iv) The Substantive Bureau for the AU-STC constituted for the next two years, November 2014-November 2016.

V. TWO YEARS (2015-2016) SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMME OF THE AU-STC

FLAGSHIPS	CROSS –CUTTING ISSUES/CONVERGENCE	COST IMPLICATIONS
PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION		
1. African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service & Administration	- ICT	1. Financing of STC activities
2. Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development	- Resources mobilization	
3. All-Africa Public Sector Innovation Awards	- Knowledge management	
DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE		
1. Support the AU Governance architecture :	- Capacity Development	2. Development agencies could be called upon to still fund
- African Charter on Decentralization;	- Performance Management & Measurement	
- Celebration of African Day of Decentralization		
Supporting local representatives' Associations:	- M&E,	
- High Council of Local Authorities		
-Mainstreaming of decentralization and local government in regional integration in Africa	- Focal points/teams at National Level	
URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HUMAN SETTLEMENTS	- Service Champions on continental level	3. AU is called upon to increase
Develop an African Charter on Urban Development and Human Settlements	- African Days	

Advocacy and Outreach to prioritize housing and Urban Development as a driver of economic transformation of Africa (Agenda 2063)		budget
Facilitate collective input in international discourses on human settlements and urban development (esp. Habitat III and Post 2015 Development. Agenda)		

VI. KEY EXPECTATIONS FROM THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

- i) Incorporate the staff of the Secretariats of the three former conferences (CAMPS, AMCOD and AMCHUD) into the structure of the African Union Commission and called upon the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) to facilitate the necessary administrative processes to give effect to this recommendation upon its approval by the Executive Council;
- ii) Make adequate budgetary provision for the work of the STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization;
- iii) Report on the operationalization of the STC to the African Union Policy Making Organs in accordance with the African Union decision.

VII. AGREED FUNCTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF THE AU STC

- i) Facilitate effective implementation of the STC programmes and activities;
- ii) Supervise the Secretariat of the AU-STC;
- iii) Represent the STC at the African Union Policy making level where and when necessary;
- iv) Follow up on the decisions taken during the technical planning meeting on 18-20 August 2014 for additional Cluster (Urban Development and Human Settlements Cluster to be added to the five (5) African Governance Architecture (AGA) Clusters;
- v) Facilitate interaction between the AU STC and the other AU STC on common areas of interest.

VIII. BUDGET AND FINANCE OF THE STC

- i) Recommend that the African Union should make adequate provisions in its 2016 budget to finance the AU-STC activities as 2015 Budget had finalized;
- ii) The Bureau and the Secretariat of the STC to convene donors/ partners' meeting to solicit their support to the STC programmes and activities;
- iii) Call on Member States to mobilizing requisite resources for the effective implementation of the STC programmes and activities.

IX. KEY OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS BY THE ORDINARY SESSION

10. The First Ordinary session of the STC made the following key observations and comments with regard to the operationalization of the STC:

- i) It was observed that the Rules and Procedures for the STC did not make adequate provision for issues of human settlements and housing. It was advised that section 5 of the Rules of Procedures for the STC should be amended to provide for issues related to human settlements and any other matter that had been omitted;
- ii) The meeting resolved that for the time being – the respective Secretariats of the erstwhile Ministerial Conferences should continue to serve as the operational arms of the technical sub-committees of the STC. Further, that a transition period would be allowed for the winding up of the Secretariat as well as satisfaction of other legal obligations with funders and interested parties;
- iii) The meeting recognized that although AMCHUD was operating with the support of the United Nations (UN-HABITAT), following the Operationalization of the STCs, the following programmes would be continued under the African Union. The meeting agreed that the Bureau of the STC is comprised of member states based on the applicable principles of the African Union and sectoral representatives would be catered for under sub committees;
- iv) The meeting observed that in order to ensure consistency, there is need to develop a charter on values and principles of urban development, housing and human settlements;
- v) The meeting agreed that the concept of Service Champion developed under the CAMPS was a good practice that will need to be extended to activities under the STC and its sub-committees;
- vi) With regard to resource mobilization, it was agreed that the AU would provide support for the STC and Member States will continue to extend support to the programmes and activities under the STC Sub-Committees.

X. ADOPTED DECISION OF THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION

11. After extensive deliberation, the first Ordinary Session concluded with the following as its Declaration:

We, Members of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization meeting during its First Ordinary Session in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo this 26th Day of November 2014;

Cognizant of the significance of the AU-STC for the creation of capable, democratic and development-oriented States towards achievement of the common African position on Post-2015 Development Agenda and Africa Agenda 2063;

Conscious of the African Union Constitutive Act which established the STCs as organs of the Union;

Recalling the following African Union Assembly decisions (Assembly/AU/Dec. 227(XII), Assembly/AU/Dec.365(XVII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.526(XXIII) of 2009, 2011 and 2014) respectively, on the reconfiguration and operationalization of the African Union Specialized Technical Committees;

Recognizing the prevailing challenges in the three sectors under the AU-STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization;

Reaffirming the various decisions made in the past during the three different sectoral ministerial conferences;

1. **Express** our profound gratitude and appreciation to the People and Government of the Republic of Congo for hosting this first Ordinary Session of the African Union STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization;
2. **Commend** the Secretariat of the STC, Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission (AUC), and the Secretariats of the erstwhile three ministerial conferences for facilitating a smooth process of transition into the AU-STC on Public Service, Local Governments, Urban Development and Decentralization;
3. **Endorse** the outcome Report of the STC Technical Experts that was presented.
4. **Elect** the members of the first Bureau of the STC as follows:

Positions	STC Sub-Committees	Regions	Countries
Chairperson	Public Service and Administration	Central Africa	Republic of Congo
1st Vice	Decentralization and Local Governance	Western Africa	Republic of Benin
2nd Vice	Urban Development and Human Settlements	Southern Africa	Republic of South Africa
3rd Vice	Decentralization and Local Governance	Northern Africa	Republic of Algeria
Rapporteur	Urban Development and Human Settlements	Eastern Africa	Republic of Kenya

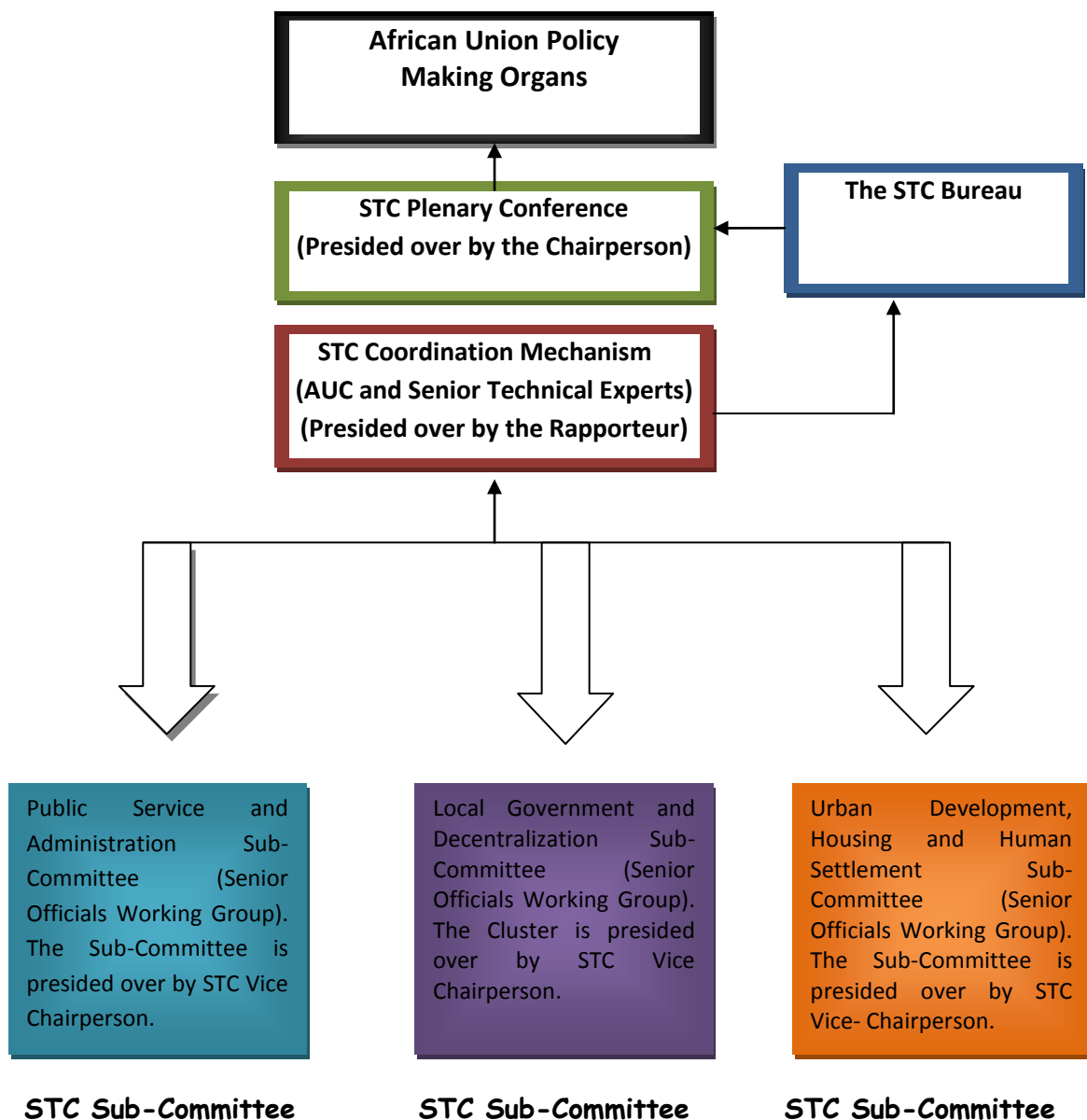
5. **Decide** that the Chairperson of the AU-STC on Urban Development and Human Settlements will be the adviser to the Chairperson of the STC and will accompany the Chairperson to STC official meetings; this decision was reached to cater for the Chairperson of the STC on Urban Development and Human Settlements in the Bureau as one region of the continent cannot occupy two positions in the STC Bureau.

6. **Recommend** to incorporate the staff of the Secretariats of the three former conferences (CAMPS, AMCOD and AMCHUD) into the structure of the African Union Commission and call upon the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) to facilitate the necessary administrative processes to give effect to this recommendation upon its approval by the Executive Council;
7. **Further Decide** to constitute three STC Sub-Committees on:
 - a) Public Service and Administration;
 - b) Local Government and Decentralization; and
 - c) Urban Development and Human Settlements.
8. **Request** Member States to constitute a high level national focal team for the STC in each of the African Union Member States;
9. **With** the support of the STC Secretariat, **request** the Bureau of the STC to prepare the necessary Guidelines for operationalization of these national focal teams;
10. **Commit** to mobilizing requisite resources for the effective implementation of the programmes of the AU-STC;
11. **Call** on the African Union to henceforth make adequate budgetary provision for the work of the STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization;
12. **Adopt** the STC work plan for the period 2015-2016 and request the AUC and the three Sub-Committees to effectively facilitate the implementation and realization of the work programmes;
13. **Commend** all partners including those from the United Nations System that have been rendering support to the sectors under this STC and encourage the STC Sub-committees and AUC/DPA to strengthen and sustain these partnerships;
14. **Recognize** all reputable capacity building institutions across the continent to help the AU STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization with capacity building;
15. **Encourage** all member states to second staff to the African Union **Commission** to strengthen the human resource capacity of the STC Secretariat;
16. **Adopt** the draft Rules of Procedure of the STC on Public Service, Local **Government**, Urban Development and Decentralization and recommend it for consideration by the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs;
17. **Decide** to apply the said draft Rules of Procedure as its provisional Rules of Procedure pending its approval by the Executive Council;

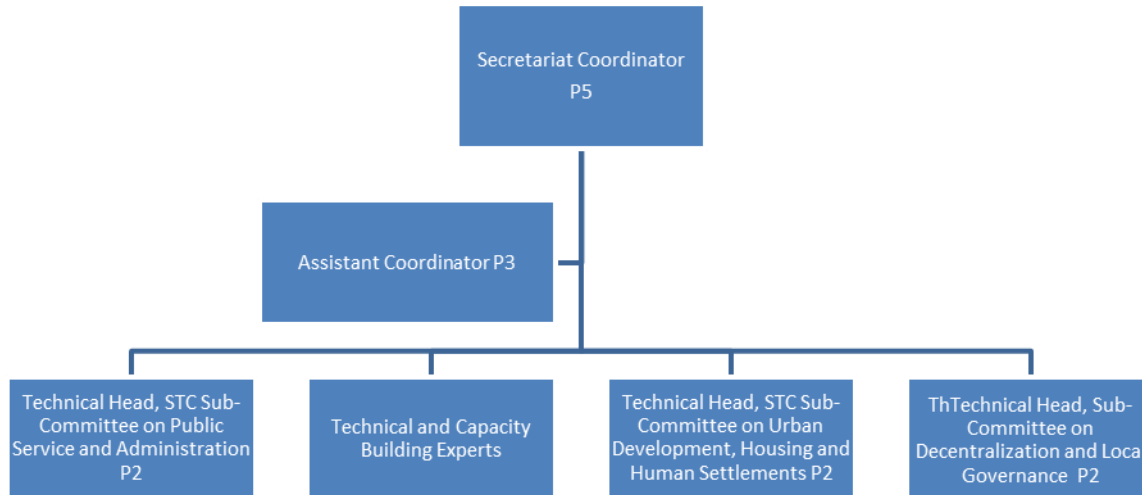
18. **Request** the Chairperson of the AU STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization to bring this Declaration to the attention of the African Union Policy Making Organs for consideration;

19. **Decide** to hold the Second STC Ordinary Session in 2016.

XI. STRUCTURE OF THE AU-STC ON PUBLIC SERVICE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALISATION



XII. PROPOSED SECRETARIAT ORGANOGRAM FOR THE AU-STC ON PUBLIC SERVICE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALIZATION



XIII. CHALLENGES AND IMPLICATIONS OF OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AU-STC ON AU

12. The role of the Department of Political Affairs have expanded from being the Secretariat of one of the three erstwhile Ministerial conferences (AU-CAMPS) to that of the AU-STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization.

13. The representatives of the AU-Member States present at the First Ordinary Session of the STC have concluded that the African Union should shoulder the financial responsibility of the STCs as Member States cannot pay their annual dues to the AU and contribute again in support of the programmes and activities of the AU-STC.

14. The staff of the AU-STC Sub-Committees on Decentralization and Local Governance and that of the Urban Development, Housing and Human Settlements have not been integrated into the African Union governance architecture and their salaries are currently either covered by seconding member states or drawn from the past contribution from AU-Member States.

15. The Department of Political Affairs currently has the following limited staff working at the Secretariat of the STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization ((1) Political Officer, (1) Governance Assistant and, (1) Admin Secretary).

XIV. CONCLUSION

16. As the STC has been operationalized, the African Union and its Member States should make available the requisite human and financial resources for effective operation of the AU-STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization.

2015

Report of the first ordinary session of the African union specialized technical committee on public service, local government, urban development and decentralization, Brazzaville, republic of Congo, 24-26 November 2014

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