

DECISION ON THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFRICA
Doc: EX.CL/709(XX)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Humanitarian Situation in Africa;
2. **DEEPLY CONCERNED** that the problems of forced displacement have persisted in a number of Member States resulting in untold human suffering and therefore placing extra-burden on the host countries, thus causing serious socio-economic and environmental problems to these countries;
3. **NOTES WITH GRAVE CONCERN** the severe drought and famine conditions in the Horn of Africa, coupled with the conflict in Somalia, the continued drought being recorded in some parts of the region as the driest year on record since 1951 and which has affected over 14 million people;
4. **WELCOMES** the initiative taken by the African Union in convening a successful African Union (AU) Pledging Conference on Drought and Famine in the Horn of Africa on 25 August 2011 and appreciated the pledges and contributions made;
5. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the Member States that have been hosting and extending assistance to forced displacement population in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation as well as to Member States which endeavored to promote voluntary repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation of forced displaced people and **APPEALS** to other Member States concerned to promote conditions conducive for the return and sustainable reintegration of forced displaced people in their countries of origin or habitual places;
6. **APPEALS** to Member States hosting forcibly displaced persons to uphold the principle of non-refoulement and **URGES** that a legal framework be put in place, where it does not exist, to ensure speedy determination of their status in accordance with the provisions of the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and the 1951 United Nations (UN) Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees;
7. **ALSO EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to all Member States, Organized Private Sector in Africa, ordinary African citizens and the international community at large which pledged either in-kind or cash contributions towards the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa during the AU Pledging Conference to redeem their pledges and **APPEALS** for additional contributions as the number of victims of drought and famine in the Horn of Africa increased dramatically after the Conference;
8. **INVITES** Member States to address alternative sources of funding to enable the AU resolve humanitarian crises affecting Africa;
9. **CALLS ON** Member States to contribute to the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa (SEAF);

10. **CALLS ON** Member States together with the Commission, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and relevant partners to respond to emergencies, mitigate and manage disaster risks by accelerating implementation and effective coordination capability of the relevant existing Continental frameworks and commitments, in particular the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP);
11. **ALSO CALLS ON** Member States together with the Commission and in collaboration with RECs, relevant partners and organizations to create a comprehensive framework of action that focuses on saving lives while integrating linkages that build resilience among communities in drought-prone areas, expand scope for early recovery and rehabilitation as well as medium to long-term agriculture investments and enhancement of food security and long-term sustainable drought management plans as indicated in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Framework for African Food Security (FAFS);
12. **REQUESTS** the Commission together with the concerned humanitarian agencies to closely follow up on the pledges and contributions towards the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa and disburse the funds as deemed necessary at the earliest opportunity to the affected population in the region;
13. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC), through its Sub-Committee on Refugees, in collaboration with the Commission, and relevant partners to continue monitoring the problem of forced displacement and **FURTHER REQUESTS** them to work in close collaboration with the RECs, the international community, Civil Society and the Diaspora to implement the Plan of Action which emanated from the 2009 outcomes of the AU Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons;
14. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up on the implementation of this Decision and to report to the Executive Council on regular basis.

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