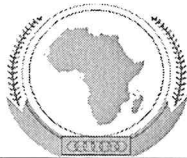


AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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**Fifth Conference of African Ministers
in Charge of Integration (COMAI V)**

September 5-9, 2011

Hotel Intercontinental

Nairobi, Kenya

COMAI/Decl. (V)

DECLARATION

We, African Ministers in Charge of Integration, meeting in the Fifth Ordinary Session of the Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, from 8 to 9 September 2011,

Recalling the commitments of the Heads of State and Government to the development and integration of our continent, as stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union (2000), the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) of 1991, the Sirte Declaration of 9 September 1999 and the Accra Declaration of July 2007,

Considering Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.112 (VII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.113 (VII) of the Seventh ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union on the moratorium on the recognition of RECs and the institutionalisation of our Conference respectively,

Taking into account the decision of the joint EAC-COMESA and SADC Heads of State Summit of June 2011 launching the negotiations for the Tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA) and the resolve to expeditiously establish a Free Trade Area integrating the three Communities,

Recalling the recommendations of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Conference (COMAI IV) of May 2009,

Following an in-depth exchange of views on the Status of Integration on our continent, the Status of Implementation of the COMAI IV recommendations as well as the Consideration of the Minimum Integration Programme (MIP) Action Plan and the Study on the Quantification of Scenarios on the Rationalisation of the RECs,

Recognising the importance of empowering the Regional and Continental organizations,

Having taken note of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Meeting of Experts,

Having deliberated on the theme “**Integration and Sovereignty**”, and

Expressing satisfaction at the frank and cordial nature of our deliberations,

Integration and Sovereignty

- 1) **Call upon** the Member States to accelerate the integration process by empowering Regional and Continental institutions in specific fields in which there has been consensus and initiate, in this regard, actions to:
 - i) Encourage free movement of persons, goods, services and capital;
 - ii) Accelerate the ratification and effective implementation of the legal instruments adopted within the framework of the integration process; and
 - iii) Encourage intra-African partnerships.
- 2) **Also call upon** The Member States, the AUC and the RECs to develop multinational programmes and projects in areas such as water, energy, environment and health as well as focus on fighting cross-border pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, Ebola, rift valley fever and yellow fever.

Status of Integration

- 1) **Urge** Member States to domesticate legal instruments and take into account regional and continental integration programmes and projects in their planning process;
- 2) **Encourage** Member States to include in their legislation and commitment in favour of the integration process.
- 3) **Request** the AUC to:
 - Devote one of the annual AU Summits to development and integration;
 - Submit a report on the state of Integration during the Assembly of the Union; and
 - Invite the RECs to make presentations on the implementation of their activities at all COMAI meetings.

Implementation of Recommendations from the Ordinary Sessions of the Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Integration (COMAI)

Call upon Member States to designate focal points to work regularly with the Commission on the implementation of decisions on integration.

Plan of Action for the implementation of the Minimum Integration Programme (MIP)

Request the AUC to accelerate the submission of the of the revised Minimum Integration Programme Action Plan to the Assembly of the Union for adoption and establish a Follow-up and Evaluation Mechanism for the Plan;

Study on the Quantification of Scenarios on Rationalisation of the RECs

- 1) **Invite** the appropriate organs of the AU to take note of the Study on the Quantification of Scenarios on Rationalisation of the RECs; and
- 2) **Request** other RECs to draw inspiration from the Tripartite Arrangement between EAC, COMESA and SADC and take advantage of the progress made in the area of monetary integration by CEMAC and UEMOA

Assistance to Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Request the AU Commission, in collaboration with UNCTAD and UNECA to develop a sustainable and effective growth and development strategy to graduate African countries from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) status.

Vote of Thanks

Express our sincere gratitude to His Excellency Mrs. Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya, his Government and the People of Kenya for having accepted to host our Conference, for the warm hospitality extended to all the delegations as well as the facilities put at the disposal of the Conference, which contributed significantly to its success.

Done in Nairobi, Kenya, on 9 September 2011

2011-10-14

Report and the Declaration of the Fifth Conference of African Ministers in charge of Integration (COMAI V) held in Nairobi, Kenya from 5 to 9 September 2011

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