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**EXPERTS MEETING ON THE DRAFT CONTINENTAL
LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION**

**BAMAKO, MALI
3- 4 NOVEMBER 2009**

CONCLUSIONS

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE EXPERTS MEETING ON DRAFT CONTINENTAL
LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION**

BAMAKO, MALI, 3-4 NOVEMBER 2009

1. As part of the implementation of the Declaration on the African Union Border Programme (AUBP) and its Implementation Modalities as adopted by the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 7 June 2007, and subsequently endorsed by the AU Executive Council at its 11th ordinary session held in Accra, Ghana, from 27 to 29 June 2007, a governmental experts meeting on draft Continental Legal Framework on cross-border cooperation was organized by the AU Commission in Bamako (AL SALAM Hotel), Mali, from 3 to 4 November 2009.
2. The Workshop was opened by General Kafougouna Kone, Minister of Territorial administration and **Local Communities/Collectivities** of the Republic of Mali. A statement was also delivered by Ambassador Aguibou Diarra, Head of the AUBP unit of the Peace and Security Department of the AU Commission.
3. The Workshop was attended by the following Member States of the Southern African Region: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Malawi, Mauritius, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, SADR, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
4. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were also in attendance: COMESA, ECOWAS and SADC.
5. In his speech, the head of the AUBP unit PFUA initially placed the meeting in the framework of the implementation of the African Union Border Program. He then recalled the main purpose of this meeting to allow experts to review the draft African convention on cross-border cooperation, legal framework initiated by the African Union to strengthen cross-border cooperation between states. He also welcomed the technical and financial partners that **accompany** the implementation of PFUA.
6. In his opening address, His Excellency the Minister of Territorial Administration and Local **Government/communities/Collectivities**, after having welcomed the experts commended the choice of the Republic of Mali to host this meeting. He then dwelt on the importance of cross-border cooperation in accelerating the regional integration process and in the prevention and management of border disputes. He thus reaffirmed the commitment of the Malian Government to work within sub regional and regional organizations and in concert with other states for the adoption and implementation of the Convention.
7. After the opening ceremony, the experts proceeded to adopt the program and have established a presidium consisting of:

- President: Mali,
- 1st Vice President: Algeria
- 2nd Vice President: Chad
- 3rd Vice President: Zimbabwe.

Rapporteur General:

- The Kenya

Editorial Board/Drafting team:

- Rwanda,
- Senegal,
- Egypt,
- Angola.

8. The meeting **give the opportunity to/allowed** the government experts to examine thoroughly the text presented by the Commission of the African Union.

9. The **deliberations/proceedings** of the meeting focused essentially on the preamble, definitions, objectives, areas of cross-border cooperation, mechanisms for implementation of cross-border cooperation, the African Union funds for the AUBP and the entry into force of the Convention.

10. At the end of the deliberations, the experts amended and adopted unanimously the draft African Convention on cross-border cooperation and amendments, the text is herewith attached.

11. The AU Commission and the experts were keen to express their deep gratitude to the Government and people of Mali for their hospitality and their commitment confirmed in the regional integration efforts.

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Conclusions, Experts Meeting on the Draft Continental Legal Framework on Cross-Border Cooperation Bamako, Mali 3- 4 November 2009

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