

AFRICAN UNION

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ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Assembly/AU/OSP/Dec.1(06-20)II

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**DECISION ADOPTED ONLINE
THROUGH A SILENT PROCEDURE**

**ON THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE 13TH and 14TH EXTRAORDINARY BACK-TO-
BACK SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY ON AFCFTA AND SILENCING THE GUNS**

**DECISION ON THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE 13TH and 14TH BACK-TO-BACK
EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY
ON AfCFTA AND SILENCING THE GUNS**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.751 (XXXIII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.755 (XXXIII) adopted at the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in February 2020, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, wherein the Assembly of the Union decided to hold on 30 May 2020 in South Africa, the 13th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), back-to-back with the 14th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on Silencing the Guns;
2. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.751 (XXXIII) wherein the Assembly decided to approve the recommendations of the AfCFTA Council of Ministers to have an Extraordinary Summit on 30 May 2020 to approve all instruments required for the start of trading under the AfCFTA on 1 July 2020;
3. **RECOGNIZES** that the novel corona virus (COVID-19) is a pandemic and public health emergency of international concern, **AND NOTES WITH CONCERN** the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to the normal functioning of the Union and the conduct of its activities including the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.751 (XXXIII) wherein the Assembly **DIRECTS** the Commission to convene the necessary meetings as per the 10th AMOT outcomes aimed at concluding the work on rules of origin, schedules of tariff concessions, and schedules of specific commitment on the five priority services sectors in order to meet the target of start of trading on 1 July 2020 as agreed by the Assembly at its 12th Extraordinary Session held in Niger, Niamey on 7 July 2019;
4. **WELCOMES** the recommendation made by the Bureau of the Assembly, in due consideration of the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, to postpone to 5 December 2020 and 1st January 2021 respectively the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly initially scheduled to be held in South Africa on 30 May 2020 and the start of trading under the AfCFTA which was initially scheduled to start on 1st July 2020;
5. **UNDERLINES** that these new dates are contingent to the situation of COVID-19 pandemic on the continent;

6. **TAKES NOTE** of the unanimous concurrence of Member States on the recommendation for postponement of the 13th and 14th Extraordinary Sessions of the Assembly initially scheduled to be held in South Africa on 30 May 2020;
7. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the comments received from Member States on the above recommendation;
8. **DECIDES** to hold the 13th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), back-to-back with the 14th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly on Silencing the Guns in South Africa on 5 December 2020;
9. **ALSO DECIDES** that the start of trading under the AfCFTA be postponed to 1st January 2021;
10. **DIRECTS** the Commission to make all the necessary arrangements for the successful holding of the 13th and 14th Extraordinary back-to-back Sessions of the Assembly according to the afore-mentioned date.

2020-06-17

Decision Adopted Online Through a Silent Procedure on the Postponement of the 13th and 14th Extraordinary Back-To-Back Sessions of the Assembly on AFCFTA and Silencing the Guns

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