

**AFRICAN UNION**

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**ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION**  
**Twenty Seventh Ordinary Session**  
**17 – 18 July 2016**  
**Kigali, RWANDA**

**Assembly/AU/3(XXVII)**  
**Original: English**

**REPORT ON THE ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF  
THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

## **REPORT ON THE ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The information contained in this Report is based on the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Union and the Statutes of the Commission as well as the Modalities for Election of the Members of the Commission of the African Union adopted by the Executive Council in its decision EX.CL/Dec.906(XXVIII) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2016.

2. It will be recalled that the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission was elected in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2012 for a four-year term. In this regard, the Commission informed Member States that the election of the Deputy Chairperson would be conducted during the Twenty Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled for Kigali, Rwanda in July 2016. The deadline for submission of candidatures was set as at on or before 31 March 2016. Upon expiry of the said deadline, the Commission informed Member States that it had received four (4) candidatures for the post of Deputy Chairperson of the Commission.

### **II. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION**

3. In terms of Article 2 of the Statutes of the Commission, the Commission shall consist of ten (10) members made up as follows:

- a Chairperson;
- one (1) Deputy Chairperson;
- eight (8) Commissioners.

### **III. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

4. The requisite qualifications and relevant experience for appointment as Deputy Chairperson are outlined in Article 15 of the Statutes, as read with Rules 38(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, which requires such persons to be:

“competent women and men with proven experience in the relevant field, commensurate leadership qualities and good track record in government, parliament, international organizations or other relevant sectors of society”.

### **IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

5. In terms of Article 9 of the Statutes, the Deputy Chairperson shall be accountable to the Chairperson. He/She shall have the following functions:

- a) assist the Chairperson in the exercise of his/her functions;

- b) exercise the functions delegated to him/her by the Chairperson;
- c) be in charge of the administration and finance of the Commission;
- d) act as Chairperson in case of death or permanent incapacity of the Chairperson, pending the appointment of a new Chairperson;
- e) act as Chairperson in the absence or in case of temporary incapacity of the Chairperson.

## V. TERM OF OFFICE

6. The term of office of the Deputy Chairperson is four (4) years. In terms of Article 10(1) of the Statutes, members of the Commission are eligible for re- election for another term of four (4) years.

## VI. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

7. The procedure for the election and appointment of the Deputy Chairperson is set out in Rule 38 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, which states inter alia that:

- "1. *The Assembly shall elect the Chairperson of the Commission and his or her Deputy by secret ballot and two thirds majority of Members eligible to vote.*
- 2. *The Chairperson of the Commission and his/her Deputy shall be competent women or men with proven experience, commensurate leadership qualities and a good track record in government, parliament, international organizations, or other relevant sectors of society.*
- 3. *Candidatures for the Office of the Chairperson of the Commission shall be circulated to Member States at least three (3) months before the election.*
- 4. *The Chairperson of the Commission and his/her Deputy shall not be from the same region."*

8. Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly also provides that:

- "1. *The voting shall commence with the election of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson; thereafter, the Assembly shall appoint Commissioners elected by the Executive Council.*
- 2. *In any election of the Chairperson of the Commission or his/her deputy, the balloting shall continue until one (1) of the candidates obtains the two-thirds majority required. Provided that, if the third ballot remains inconclusive, the next ballot shall be restricted to the two (2) candidates who obtain the highest number of votes in the third ballot.*

3. *If after three (3) further ballots neither of the two (2) candidates obtains the majority required, the candidates with fewer votes shall withdraw.*
4. *Where there are only two (2) candidates initially and neither candidate obtains the majority required after the third ballot, the candidate with fewer votes shall withdraw and the remaining candidate shall proceed to the next round.*
5. *If the remaining candidate fails to obtain the two-thirds majority required in that round, the Chairperson shall suspend the election.*
6. *Where there is only one (1) candidate initially and he or she fails to obtain the two-thirds majority required after the third ballot the Chairperson shall suspend the election.*
7. *The Deputy Chairperson of the Commission shall take over the Chairmanship of the Commission on an interim basis until new elections are held. If the impasse is in respect of the Deputy Chairperson, the most senior Commissioner by length of tenure, or by age where length of tenure is the same, shall be designated to act as the Deputy Chairperson until new elections are held..."*

## VII. CANDIDATURES FOR THE POST OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

9. As already noted, in conformity with the aforementioned provisions of the Constitutive Act, Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and Statutes of the Commission as well as the Modalities for Election of Members of the Commission in July 2016, the Commission informed Member States, that the election for the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union would be conducted during the Twenty Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union scheduled for Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016. The Commission invited nominations to that effect.

10. Vide its Note Verbale reference BC/OLC/217/603.16 dated 12 April 2016, the Commission informed Member States that the following four (4) candidatures were received for the election for the post of Deputy Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union:

NO	NAME	COUNTRY	GENDER	REGION
1	Yacin Elmi Bouh	Djibouti	Male	East
2	Ibrahim Ali Hussein	Somalia	Male	East
3	Thomas Kwesi Quartey	Ghana	Male	West
4	Victor Emmanuel Djomatchoua Toko	Cameroon	Male	Central

**Annex: Curriculum Vitae of candidates**

**Assembly/AU/3(XXVII)  
Annex**

**CURRICULUM VITAE OF CANDIDATES**

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