

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA Tel.: Tel: +251-115- 517 700 Fax: +251-115- 517844 / 5182523
Website: www.au.int

SC20183/20227

ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
Twenty-Ninth Ordinary Session
3 - 4 July 2017
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

Assembly/AU//Dec.642-664(XXIX)Rev.1
Assembly/AU//Decl.1-4 (XXIX)
Assembly/AU//Res.1(XXIX)

Original: French

DECISIONS, DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTION

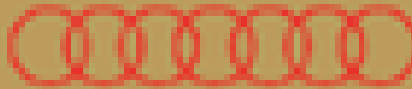


TABLE OF CONTENT

SR. NO.	DECISION NO.	TITLE	NO. OF PAGES
1	Assembly/AU/Dec.642(XXIX)	Decision on the Budget of the African Union for the 2018 Financial Year – Doc. Doc. PRC/Rpt(XXXIV)	5
2	Assembly/AU/Dec.643(XXIX)	Decision on the Report on the Inaugural African Economic Platform Held in Port Louis, Mauritius, 20-22 March 2017 – Doc. EX.CL/1023(XXXI)	2
3	Assembly/AU/Dec.644(XXIX)	Decision on the Report of Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa – Doc. Assembly/AU/4(XXIX)	8
4	Assembly/AU/Dec.645(XXIX)	Decision on the Inaugural Report of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the Implementation of the African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020 – Doc. Assembly/AU/5(XXIX)	3
5	Assembly/AU/Dec.646(XXIX)	Decision on the Report of the Chairperson of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya – Doc. Assembly/AU/7(XXIX)	1
6	Assembly/AU/Dec.647(XXIX)	Decisions on the Continental Free Trade Area – Doc. Assembly/AU/8(XXIX)	1
7	Assembly/AU/Dec.648(XXIX)	Decision on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council – Doc. Assembly/AU/9(XXIX)	2
8	Assembly/AU/Dec.649(XXIX)	Decision on Aids Watch Africa (AWA) Report	2
9	Assembly/AU/Dec.650(XXIX)	Decision on the Report of H.E Paul Kagame President of the Republic of Rwanda on the Implementation of the Decision on the Institutional Reform of the African Union [Assembly/AU/Dec/635(XXVIII)] – Doc. Assembly/AU/2(XXIX)	1
10	Assembly/AU/Dec.651(XXIX)	Decision on the Full Integration of NEPAD into the Commission of the African Union	1
11	Assembly/AU/Dec.652(XXIX)	Decision on Proposal to Declare the Period of 2018-2027 as the “African Decade for Technical, Professional, Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment” (<i>Item Proposed by Burkina Faso</i>) – Doc. EX.CL/1035(XXXI) Add.1	1
12	Assembly/AU/Dec.653(XXIX)	Decision on the Question of Western Sahara	1
13	Assembly/AU/Dec.654(XXIX)	Decision on the Appointment of two (2) Members of the African Union Commission - Doc. EX.CL/1037(XXXI)	1

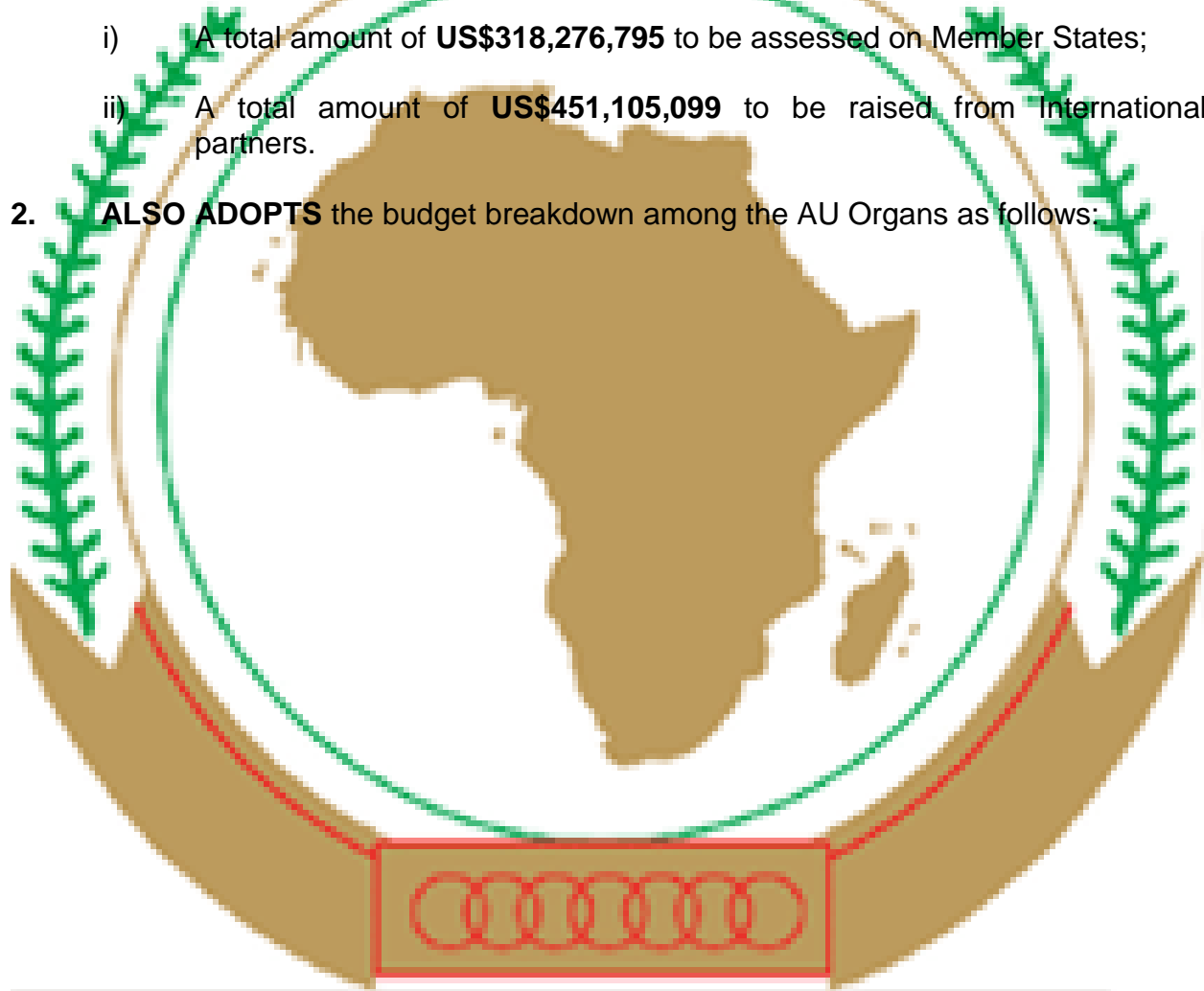
14	Assembly/AU/Dec.655(XXIX)	Decision on the Appointment of four (4) Members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption - Doc. EX.CL/1038(XXXI)	1
15	Assembly/AU/Dec.656(XXIX)	Decision on the Appointment of Four (4) Members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights - Doc. EX.CL/1039(XXXI)	1
16	Assembly/AU/Dec.657(XXIX)	Decision on the Dates and Venue of the 30 th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union	1
17	Assembly/AU/Dec.658(XXIX)	Decision on the Dates and Venue of the 31 Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (<i>Item Proposed by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania</i>)	1
18	Assembly/AU/Dec.659(XXIX)	Decision on Ending Child Marriage in Africa – Doc. Assembly/AU/10(XXIX)	1
19	Assembly/AU/Dec.660(XXIX)	Decision on the Implementation of the Theme of the Year - Doc. Assembly/AU/3(XXIX)	2
20	Assembly/AU/Dec.661(XXIX)	Decision on the Establishment of the African Youth Fund - Doc. Assembly/au/3(xxix)	1
21	Assembly/AU/Dec.662(XXIX)	Decision on the Reports of the Heads of State and Government Leaders	2
22	Assembly/AU/Dec.663(XXIX)	Decision on the Appointment of the New Members of the Panel of the Wise	2
23	Assembly/AU/Dec.664(XXIX)	Decision on the Appointment of the Incoming Chairperson of the African Union for 2018	1
DECLARATIONS			
24	Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XXIX)	Declaration on the 2017 AU Theme “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth” – Doc. Assembly/AU/3(XXIX)	2
25	Assembly/AU/Decl.2(XXIX)	Declaration on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East – Doc. EX.CL/1019(XXXI)	3
26	Assembly/AU/Decl.3(XXIX)	Declaration on Accelerating Implementation of International Health Regulations in Africa – Doc. EX.CL/1026(XXXI)	2
27	Assembly/AU/Decl.4(XXIX)	Algiers Declaration on Investment in Employment and Social Security for Harnessing the Demographic Dividend	4
RESOLUTION			
28	Assembly/AU/ Res.1 (XXIX)	Resolution on the Gulf Crisis	1



**DECISION ON THE BUDGET OF THE AFRICAN UNION
FOR THE 2018 FINANCIAL YEAR
Doc. PRC/Rpt(XXXIV)**

The Assembly,

1. **ADOPTS** a total budget of **US\$769, 381,894** for the African Union for the year 2018, broken down into **US\$458,763,038** Operating Budget and **US\$310,618,856** Programs budget to be financed as follows:
 - i) A total amount of **US\$318,276,795** to be assessed on Member States;
 - ii) A total amount of **US\$451,105,099** to be raised from International partners.
2. **ALSO ADOPTS** the budget breakdown among the AU Organs as follows:



Organs	Member States			Partners			Total Budget for 2018		
	Operating Budget	Programs	Total Assessment	Operating	Programs	Total	Operating	Programs	Total 2018
AUC	130,948,702	98,174,167	229,122,869		147,801,924	147,801,924	130,948,702	245,976,091	376,924,793
PAP	17,044,559		17,044,559		2,920,000	2,920,000	17,044,559	2,920,000	19,964,559
AfCHR (The Court)	10,581,742	-	10,581,742		1,238,417	1,238,417	10,581,742	1,238,417	11,820,159
ACHPR (The Commission)	5,612,542		5,612,542		707,138	707,138	5,612,542	707,138	6,319,680
ECOSSOC	1,214,363	1,314,303	2,528,666		-	-	1,214,363	1,314,303	2,528,666
NEPAD	10,299,329	368,486	10,667,815		40,000,000	40,000,000	10,299,329	40,368,486	50,667,815
AUCIL	442,576	-	442,576		325,458	325,458	442,576	325,458	768,034
Advisory Board on Peace & Security	2,082,152	761,576	2,843,728		-	-	2,082,152	761,576	2,843,728
	-	3,036,746	3,036,746		-	-	-	3,036,746	3,036,746
ACERWC	291,995	88,727	380,722		502,787	502,787	291,995	591,514	883,509
SPECIALIZED OFFICES OF THE AU									
AFREC	1,275,699	-	1,275,699		-	-	1,275,699	-	1,275,699
IPED	762,647	-	762,647		-	-	762,647	-	762,647
CIEFFA	716,656	-	716,656		-	-	716,656	-	716,656
PAU	2,821,977	-	2,821,977		-	-	2,821,977	-	2,821,977
AIR	749,028	-	749,028		-	-	749,028	-	749,028
ACDC	3,971,148	11,320,248	15,291,396		2,058,880	2,058,880	3,971,148	13,379,128	17,350,276
AOSTI	916,272		916,272		-	-	916,272	-	916,272
AFRIPOL	948,450	-	948,450		-	-	948,450	-	948,450
PEACE OPERATIONS									
AMISOM	12,532,704	-	12,532,704	238,121,383	-	238,121,383	250,654,087	-	250,654,087
MNJTF			-	7,161,400		7,161,400	7,161,400		7,161,400
LRA			-	1,461,205		1,461,205	1,461,205		1,461,205
HRMOM			-	8,806,508		8,806,508	8,806,508		8,806,508
TOTAL	203,212,542	115,064,253	318,276,795	255,550,496	195,554,603	451,105,099	458,763,038	310,618,856	769,381,894

3. **FURTHER ADOPTS** the 2018 budget breakdown by expense components as follows:

	Staff Cost	Operating Expenses	Capital Expenses	Sub-Total Operational	Programs	TOTAL
AUC	90,843,197	37,607,080	2,498,424	130,948,702	245,976,091	376,924,793
NEPAD	8,089,713	2,057,641	151,975	10,299,329	40,368,486	50,667,815
PAP	9,810,122	7,062,993	171,444	17,044,559	2,920,000	19,964,559
ACDC	2,708,414	1,172,733	90,000	3,971,148	13,379,128	17,350,276
AfCHR (The Court)	6,628,196	3,663,726	289,820	10,581,742	1,238,417	11,820,159
ACHPR (The Commission)	3,192,542	2,376,000	44,000	5,612,542	707,138	6,319,680
Advisory Board on Corruption	864,938	1,217,214	-	2,082,152	761,576	2,843,728
PAU	2,146,895	672,083	3,000	2,821,977	-	2,821,977
ECOSSOC	-	1,214,363	-	1,214,363	1,314,303	2,528,666
Peace & Security Council	-	-	-	-	3,036,746	3,036,746
AFREC	1,127,099	123,600	25,000	1,275,699	-	1,275,699
AFRIPOL	712,350	96,100	140,000	948,450	-	948,450
AOSTI	699,938	131,234	85,100	916,272	-	916,272
ACERWC	28,835	263,160	-	291,995	591,514	883,509
AUCIL	-	442,576	-	442,576	325,458	768,034
IPED	516,881	116,566	129,200	762,647	-	762,647
AIR	569,400	138,600	41,028	749,028	-	749,028
CIEFFA	480,484	122,972	113,200	716,656	-	716,656
Sub-Total excluding Peace Support Operations	128,419,006	58,478,641	3,782,191	190,679,838	310,518,856	501,198,694
AMISOM	14,483,387	236,170,700	-	250,654,087	-	250,654,087
MNJTF	-	7,161,400	-	7,161,400	-	7,161,400

	Staff Cost	Operating Expenses	Capital Expenses	Sub-Total Operational	Programs	TOTAL
LRA	-	1,461,205	-	1,461,205	-	1,461,205
HRMOM	-	8,806,508	-	8,806,508	-	8,806,508
Sub-Total Peace Support Operations	14,483,387	253,599,813	-	268,083,200	-	268,083,200
Grand Total	142,902,393	312,078,454	3,782,191	458,763,038	310,618,856	769,381,894

4. REQUESTS the Commission:

- i) to refer to the Peace and Security Council the funding gap of **US\$81,846,337** for AMISOM created due to a decision by the European Union to withdraw 20% of their annual funding;
- ii) to coordinate and oversee the budget process from all Organs before submission to the competent PRC Sub-Committee for scrutiny and endorsement;
- iii) to use a new format in preparing the AU budget which should be backed by a projection on future remittance of Member States and any other relevant information in accordance with the related Decisions adopted by the AU in order to facilitate the efficient consideration and adoption by Member States.

5. URGES the Commission to further improve and strengthen the budget process by introducing a budget that is focused on priorities along with establishing a mechanism to allow results based assessment and monitoring;

6. CALLS UPON the Commission to harmonize all allowances across all AU Organs and bring to the PRC for endorsement;

7. REQUESTS:

- i) the PRC at the fifth year of implementing Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.578(XXV), on the Scale of Assessment and Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union, to assess the level of the implementation of the latter and make the appropriate recommendations to the Executive Council with the objective to fund 100% of the Operational Budget, 75% of the Program Budget and 25% of the Peace Support Operations by 2020, with a view to aligning the implementation timeframe with the actual capacity of Member States to pay;

- ii) the PRC, in accordance with the AU Financial Rules, to propose modalities for the effective and efficient management of the Reserve Fund by the Commission;
- iii) the Commission to work out all legal, structural and financial implications affecting the relocation of ECOSOCC to Lusaka, Zambia and submit to the PRC for supplementary budget consideration;
- iv) the Commission to utilize the comparative advantage of Member States to finance the implementation of specific approved projects or programmes, through financial or in-kind contribution received from a Member State concerned that has been specifically earmarked by the AU for that purpose.



**DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE INAUGURAL AFRICAN ECONOMIC
PLATFORM HELD IN PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, 20 – 22 MARCH, 2017
Doc. EX.CL/1023(XXXI)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Inaugural African Economic Platform; held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 20 – 22 March, 2017 and **ADOPTS** the recommendations contained therein;
2. **COMMENDS** the Republic of Mauritius for the successful hosting of the Inaugural African Economic Platform;
3. **DECIDES** as follows:
 - i) The Commission and the African Union Foundation to ensure that all Member States are invited to the African Economic Platform, and that the level of representation be at the discretion of the Member States;
 - ii) Adequate time to be allocated to the discussion of all the themes of the Platform;
 - iii) An appropriate venue to be used for future African Economic Platforms;
 - iv) An independent financial audit be undertaken to determine the financial impact of the Inaugural African Economic Platform;
 - v) The Commission in collaboration with the African Union Foundation to reduce the cost of Private Sector participation in the African Economic Platform, with a view to attract more participants from the Private Sector;
 - vi) A Tripartite Summit (Member States, Private Sector and Academia) on Education and Skills Development, Science, Technology and Innovation to be convened before the second edition of the African Economic Platform, to be held in 2018;
 - vii) The Commission, in collaboration with the African Union Foundation to develop a Roadmap for the implementation of the recommendations on the Inaugural African Economic Platform, and to submit the same for consideration at the January 2018 Summit;
 - viii) The Commission, in collaboration with the African Union Foundation and Member States to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the Inaugural African Economic Platform, and to submit a report with appropriate recommendations to the January 2018 Summit;

- ix) The African Union Foundation in collaboration with the Commission to develop a follow up mechanism to record and facilitate agreements reached, projects enunciated and business deals concluded during the meetings of the Platform.
4. **APPROVES** the offer by the Republic of Mauritius to host the second African Economic Platform in March, 2018. In this regard, **REQUESTS** the African Union Commission and the African Union Foundation to work closely with the host country Mauritius to ensure a successful second African Economic Platform.



**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON ITS
ACTIVITIES AND THE STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA
Doc. Assembly/AU/4(XXIX)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa;
2. **COMMENDS** the PSC, the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs) for their commitment and efforts towards peace, security and stability in Africa; in this regard, **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the intensive efforts deployed by the Chairperson of the Commission in support of peace processes within the continent;
3. **CONGRATULATES** President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed on his election as President of the Federal Republic of Somalia; **WELCOMES** the continued progress made in Somalia while recognizing the challenges still facing the country; **REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to AU Member States and the wider international community to pursue and intensify their political, financial and logistical support for Somalia and the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to enable the full stabilization of the country, in particular for the security reform that will enable the operationalization of the National Security Architecture; **RECALLS** the PSC communiqué of 6 September 2016, calling on the UN Security Council to consider, following its resolution 2244 (2015), lifting the arms embargo imposed on Somalia, as a critical aspect of building Somali security institutions; **EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN** at the threat that Al-Shabaab continues to pose to peace, security and stability in Somalia, and, **ONCE AGAIN STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the terrorist attacks by Al-Shabaab on innocent civilians, AMISOM and Somali forces; **FURTHER EXPRESSES CONCERN** at the resurgence of piracy activities off the coast of Somalia; **CALLS ON** the AU and international partners to coordinate their support through the implementation mechanism of the Security Pact, as agreed at the London Conference held on 11 May 2017, with a view to optimizing the impact of joint efforts in support of the Somali National Security Forces; to this effect, **WELCOMES** the establishment of the AU-Somalia Joint Task Force as the best channel to harmonize support by partners; **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN** at the dire humanitarian situation prevailing in Somalia and **APPEALS** to the international community for increased support in addressing the assistance needed by the affected Somali people;
4. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN** at the continued deterioration of the situation in South Sudan and **ONCE AGAIN, CALLS UPON** South Sudanese parties to demonstrate leadership and uphold their responsibility towards ending the long suffering of their own people; **WELCOMES** the launching of the National Dialogue initiative by President Salva Kiir Mayardit and **URGES** the South

Sudanese stakeholders to ensure its inclusivity, independence and impartiality; **COMMENDS** the AU High Representative for South Sudan, former President Alpha Oumar Konaré, for his efforts to assist the South Sudanese stakeholders to address their challenges through constructive engagement, as agreed by the AU, the UN and IGAD at the meeting of 29 January 2017, and **UNDERScores** the need for continued formal engagement by the three institutions; **ENDORSES** the decisions of the 31st IGAD Extraordinary Summit held on 12 June 2017, in particular the urgent convening of the High Level Revitalisation Forum of the Peace Agreement; in this regard, **COMMENDS** the efforts of President Yoweri Museveni and the Government of Uganda to address the challenges in South Sudan; **CALLS UPON** the government forces and armed groups to lay down their arms and engage in a constructive political process to address the root causes of the challenges facing South Sudan; **EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN** over the humanitarian situation in South Sudan and **URGES** the international community to provide the necessary assistance to the needy people in South Sudan and the neighbouring countries; in this regard, **CALLS ON** the Transitional Government of National Unity, the SPLM-IO and all armed groups to observe strictly International Humanitarian Law with regard to humanitarian agencies and workers, with a view to creating or facilitating access and delivery of the humanitarian assistance to the population in need;

5. **WELCOMES** the significant improvements noted in the political and security situation in Darfur, as well as the outcome of the National Dialogue and the formation of a new Government of National Unity, and **URGES** the Sudanese authorities to continue their outreach efforts; **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the AU-UN Joint Strategic Review Report on the withdrawal and reconfiguration of the UNAMID forces and **STRESSES** that the process should be carried out in a gradual and smooth manner, to ensure that the civilian population is not exposed to danger; **UNDERLINES** the need for the international community to extend the necessary support to the Government of Sudan in its efforts towards post-conflict reconstruction in Darfur, in particular in the areas to be vacated by UNAMID; in particular, **TAKES NOTE** of the steps already taken by the United States to ease the sanctions regime imposed to Sudan, and **LOOKS FORWARD** for their complete lifting by the 12 July 2017 review; furthermore, **COMMENDS** the AU High-Level Implementation Panel for its relentless efforts to assist the Sudanese to reach peaceful solutions to their various challenges, and **ENCOURAGES** it to continue to foster an inclusive process to help the next stages of the peace process; **STRONGLY URGES** all armed movements to engage, in the negotiations process without further delay,;
6. **COMMENDS** the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan for reaching agreements on the operationalization of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM); in this regard, **CALLS** for the urgent convening, without pre-conditions, of the postponed meeting of the Joint Security Committee (JSC), in order to address the outstanding issues between the two countries and **URGES** Sudan and South Sudan to hold more regular meetings of

the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, to address outstanding matters between the two countries, especially as these relate to the establishment of the JBVMM;

7. **CALLS FOR** the urgent implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement on the Administration and Security of Abyei Area, especially the establishment of the Council, Administration and Police Service; **PAYS TRIBUTE** to the United Nations Interim Security Force (UNISFA) for Abyei for its contribution to the maintenance of peace and security in the Abyei area;
8. **TAKES NOTE** of the withdrawal of the Troops of the State of Qatar from the border between Djibouti and Eritrea; and **CALLS ON** Djibouti and Eritrea to exercise restraint in their border dispute; **ENCOURAGES** the Chairperson of the Commission, with the necessary support of the two countries, to pursue his efforts towards a peaceful solution to the dispute and the normalization of relations and good neighbourhood between Djibouti and Eritrea;
9. **EXPRESSES ONCE MORE ITS CONCERN** at the continuing political impasse and the security situation in Libya; **URGES** the Libyan parties to overcome their current political differences, with a view to readjusting consensually the Libya Political Agreement, in order to enable its early implementation in a way that will create conditions conducive to an all-inclusive dialogue for sustainable peace and reconciliation in Libya; **COMMENDS** the AU High-Level Committee for Libya, chaired by H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso of Congo, which held its third meeting on 2 July 2017, in the margins of the current Ordinary session, and **WELCOMES** the visit to Libya by an AU Ministerial delegation, including the Commissioner for Peace and Security; **ALSO COMMENDS** the efforts by neighbouring countries, as well as by the AU High Representative for Libya, former President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania, and the United Nations, for their continuing engagement in the search for a lasting solution to the Libyan crisis;
10. **APPEALS to** all Congolese actors to work for the preservation of the still fragile gains in the path of peace and stability in the DRC, in particular the effective and consensual implementation of the 31 December 2016 Agreement, with a view to organising elections, in December 2017 in this regard, **WELCOMES** the initiatives taken thus far by the Chairperson of the Commission, including the dispatching, from 29 to 30 May, in Kinshasa, of a mission led by Commissioner for Peace and Security and comprising the representatives of the United Nations, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), guarantor institutions of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region, signed on 24 February 2013, in Addis Ababa; **COMMENDS** the DRC for its decision to ensure the financing of the electoral process through Government budget and to avail to the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) the necessary resources for the conduct of the electoral process and the organisation of elections; **CALLS FOR** the urgent

appointment of the Chairman and Members of the National Follow up Council of the Agreement (CNSA), in order to establish the electoral calendar of the elections; **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN** at the prevailing security and humanitarian situation in the Kasai province; **STRESSES THE NEED** to take all necessary steps to reenergize the cooperation and stabilisation process in the DRC and the region, in conformity with the Framework Agreement; **CALLS UPON** the United Nations, the troop-contributing countries to United Nations stabilisation Mission in Congo (MONUSCO), the Guarantors of the Framework Agreement and the Member countries of the ICGLR and SADC to provide all the necessary support to this end;

11. **REAFFIRMS** its commitment to the peaceful resolution of the crisis in Burundi through the rapid launching of an inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue, under the aegis of the East African Community (EAC), with the support of the AU, under the leadership of the EAC Mediator, President Yoweri K. Museveni of Uganda and his Facilitator, former President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania and **REQUESTS** all Burundians to participate actively and unconditionally in this process; **CALLS UPON** the Burundian authorities to take all necessary steps to build the widest consensus possible on the ongoing process of revising the Constitution, with the participation of all Burundians and on the basis of the Arusha Agreement of 2000; in this regard, **REAFFIRMS** the readiness of the AU High Level Delegation of Heads of State to assist in efforts aimed at finding a lasting solution to the crisis in Burundi; **CALLS FOR** the rapid signing of the Memorandum of Understanding relating to the activities of the Human Rights Observers and the Military Experts of the AU;
12. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN** at the deteriorating security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) and **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the attacks against civilians and the troops of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Mission for Stabilization in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), as well as the destabilising activities of the armed groups, and **DEMANDS** that they commit themselves resolutely to the DDR programmes and the pacification process in the country **REAFFIRMS** its full support to the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in CAR and **CALLS ON** all Central African stakeholders, the UN and other partners to support this process.; **WELCOMES** the signing in Rome, on 19 June 2017, under the facilitation of the Sant' Egidio community, of the agreement between armed groups, including a country wide ceasefire; **URGES** Member States and partners to pursue and increase their assistance to the CAR and to contribute to stabilisation, post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts in the country;
13. **CALLS ON** all political actors in Guinea Bissau to respect and implement the Conakry Agreement of October 2016 without any further delay, and **URGES** all actors to refrain from actions or statements that could escalate tension and incite violence; **COMMENDS** the Economic Community of West African States

(ECOWAS) for its continued efforts towards sustained peace and stability in Guinea Bissau;

14. **ENCOURAGES** all Liberian stakeholders to continue to work together to consolidate peace in their country, in particular through creating conditions conducive to the holding of peaceful, free and transparent elections, with the support of the region, through ECOWAS, and the international community as a whole;
15. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the mutiny in Cote D'Ivoire and **REAFFIRMS** the imperative for the defence and security forces to remain strictly subordinated to the civilian authorities; **REITERATES** its support to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for its efforts aimed at consolidating reconciliation, which will enable the strengthening of peace and stability in the country, with a view to maintaining high economic growth for the benefit of the Ivorian people;
16. **COMMENDS** the new authorities in the Gambia and ECOWAS for their joint efforts to promote lasting peace, stability and socio-economic recovery in the country and **ENCOURAGES** them to continue on this path; **REAFFIRMS** the AU's full support to the post-crisis stabilization, reconstruction and development process in the Gambia and **INVITES** those Member States, with means to second experts in SSR, justice and development, in line with the decision of the 694th meeting of the PSC; **COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the Commission for the dispatching of a High-Level Needs Assessment Mission in the Gambia;
17. **URGES** once again all the Malian parties to redouble their efforts to overcome the challenges facing the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, which is the only framework that can make it possible to achieve lasting peace and reconciliation in Mali in this regard, **WELCOMES** the progress made during the period, especially the establishment of the Interim Authorities and the convening of the National Accord Conference; **REAFFIRMS** its firm condemnation of the despicable terrorist attacks against the civilian populations, the Malian and international forces of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Mission for Stabilization in Mali (MINSUMA) and the Operation Barkhane; **WELCOMES** the timely initiative of the G5 Sahel, namely Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad, which led to the establishment of the G5 Sahel Joint Force; **FURTHER WELCOMES** the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of Resolution 2359 (2017) on the deployment of the G5 Joint Force and **EXPRESSES** its appreciation to the European Union (EU) for the financial support to the initiative of the G5 Sahel; **REQUESTS** the Commission to organise, as soon as possible, a meeting of the member countries of the Nouakchott Process to discuss their support to the G5 Sahel initiative, within the framework of the AU Strategy for the Sahel Region;
18. **STRESSES** that terrorism continues to be one of the greatest threats to peace, security, stability and development in the AU Member States and in the Regions

and **NOTES** that terrorist groups affiliated to Al- Qaeda and to the so-called Islamic State (IS), continued to be active in Somalia, in Libya, in the Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel region; **REAFFIRMS** its conviction that success in the fight against terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism and transnational organised crime, is only possible with cooperation, solidarity and collective action; in this regard, **STRESSES** the need for Member States to implement the relevant African and international counter-terrorism instruments and to draw on existing cooperation frameworks, particularly the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the Committee on Intelligence and Security Services in Africa (CISSA) and the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL); **STRESSES** the importance of the Nouakchott and Djibouti Processes, which should be reinforced in order to fully play their role in efforts aimed at enhancing cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism;

19. **CONGRATULATES** the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) of the Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), namely Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad, plus the Republic of Benin, for the significant progress made in the fight against the terrorist group of Boko Haram and **ENCOURAGES** them to pursue their efforts, with the support of the AU and the international community; **EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN** about the humanitarian situation in the North East of Nigeria, resulting from the security situation and **CALLS ON** the international community to provide the necessary assistance, commensurate to the needs of the affected people in the area; furthermore, **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** that, thanks to the efforts of the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA-RCI), particularly its military component, the Regional Task Force (RTF), the LRA is no longer a direct military threat to the States of the region in this respect, **COMMENDS** the countries of the region for their invaluable contribution to this effort and **STRESSES** the need to do everything possible to ensure that the withdrawal of the Ugandan and US forces compromise the gains made; **CALLS ON** the Member countries of the RCI-LRA to continue their action against the LRA, with the support of the AU Member States, UN and Partners;
20. **RECOGNIZES** the progress made in the operationalization and implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), in synergy with the African Governance Architecture (AGA); **ENCOURAGES** the RECs/RMs and the AU Commission, with the support of the United Nations, the EU and other partners, and the participation of civil society, to pursue the efforts towards ensuring the full functioning of all APSA components, under the guidance of Peace and Security Council; **TAKES NOTE** of the steps taken with regard to the African Standby Force, in particular the review of its doctrine and the upcoming verification of pledges made by the regions; **LOOKS FORWARD** to the early inauguration of the Continental Logistic Base in Douala, Cameroon; **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the activities conducted in the context of the African Capacity

for the Immediate Response to Crisis (ACIRC), in particular with regard to the status of readiness in line with the Luanda Declaration of December 2016;

21. **CALLS ON** the RECs/ RMs and Member States to prioritize implementation of the Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy (PCRD) and to re-commit themselves to the African Solidarity Initiative, placing it as a priority in the spirit of African solidarity; **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to AU partners and **CALLS ON** them to pursue and intensify their support to AU's PCRD activities;
22. **REAFFIRMS** the imperative need for Africa, within the framework of APSA, to encourage and strengthen its action in crisis and conflict prevention in this regard, **URGES** the Peace and Security Council, the Panel of the Wise and the Commission, in relation with Member States and RECs/RMs, in close cooperation with the UN and other relevant actors, to redouble efforts for conflict prevention, in particular with regard to conflict and violence related to elections in the continent, in line with the relevant provisions of the Protocol relating to the establishment of Peace and Security Council and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
23. **TAKES NOTE** with satisfaction the steps taken towards the implementation of its decisions on the AU Peace Fund; **ENDORSES** the communiqué of the 689th meeting of the PSC, in particular the governance structures and eligibility criteria of the Peace Fund, taking into consideration representation of AU Member States in the governing structures of the Peace Fund, based on regional representation, and the modalities to implement it, in addition to the operating costs of the Fund; **FURTHER ENDORSES** the scope of operations to be submitted, on a case by case basis, for authorization by the UN Security Council and subsequent financing through UN assessed contributions; **THANKS** those Member States that have already paid their annual contribution to the Peace Fund and **URGES** those who have not yet done so as to expedite the payment of their contributions as soon as possible; **PAYS TRIBUTE** to the High Representative for the Peace Fund and the Financing of the Union, Dr. Donald Kaberuka, for his relentless efforts towards the implementation of the AU Peace Fund;
24. **WELCOMES** the signing, on 19 April 2017, of the AU-UN Framework on Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, and **ENCOURAGES** the Chairperson of the Commission, including through his High Representative for the Peace Fund and the Financing of the Union, Dr. Donald Kaberuka, to continue engaging the UN towards greater support to AU's peace efforts, in line with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter in this regard, **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to take forward the political engagement to secure, in the course of 2017, a substantive UN Security Council Resolution on the use of assessed contributions to support AU mandated or authorized missions in 2017;
25. **WELCOMES** the commitment of the A3 Group, namely Egypt, Ethiopia and Senegal to continue to promote and defend African common interests and

positions on peace and security issues within the UN Security Council, in line with the conclusions of the High Level Seminars on Peace and Security held in Oran, Algeria; **COMMENDS** Egypt and Ethiopia for providing updates to the PSC on the activities of the A3 since January 2017; **CONGRATULATES** Cote D'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea for their election as African Members of the UN Security Council for the period 2018/2019 and **LOOKS FORWARD** to their contributions towards fostering AU's common interest and concerns in the UN Security Council, in line with the AU Assembly decision of January 2016;

26. **ENDORSES** the Conclusions of the Retreat of the Peace and Security Council on the Implementation of the Conclusions of Successive PSC Retreats and the Related Adoptive Decisions from 2007 to 2016, held from 3 to 5 May 2017, in Kigali, Rwanda.



**DECISION ON THE INAUGURAL REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY
COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
AFRICAN UNION MASTER ROADMAP OF PRACTICAL STEPS
FOR SILENCING THE GUNS IN AFRICA BY THE YEAR 2020
Doc. Assembly/AU/5(XXIX)**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** its Organization of African Unity/ African Union (OAU/AU) 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration adopted on 25 May 2013, in which it pledged not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020, as well as Assembly decision Assembly/AU/Dec.630 (XXVIII) by which the 28th ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 – 31 January 2017 adopted the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020;
2. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** over the scourge of illegal weapons/arms, their illicit proliferation and use in various parts of Africa, where they cause countless deaths, untold suffering, population displacement, disruption of livelihoods, destruction of infrastructure and disruption of economic activities, which all combine to undermine efforts to realize the maiden goal of creating a conflict-free, integrated and prosperous Africa, as envisioned in Agenda 2063. **FURTHER EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** over the scourge of illicit financial flows and trade in illicit goods;
3. **COMMENDS**
 - i) the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for the work it has done as reflected in its Inaugural Report on the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020, and **ENCOURAGES** it to continue mobilizing support from all concerned stakeholders within the continent and beyond for sustained implementation of the AU Master Roadmap;
 - ii) all Member States, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (RECs/RMs), as well as civil society organizations, in collaboration with the AU Commission for their efforts in implementing the AU Master Roadmap.
4. **APPEALS** to all AU Member States and RECs/RMs to redouble efforts in further strengthening their governance institutions, as part of the continental mobilization to ensure strong response to illicit weapons, their proliferation and use in the continent, as well as to illicit financial flows, production of dangerous drugs, as well as trade in illicit goods and illegal exploitation of natural resources;

5. **CALLS ON** all AU Member States and RECs/RMs to further strengthen their oversight and accountability mechanisms, including reinforcing legislative, operational and regulatory frameworks between countries and regions within the continent. **FURTHER CALLS ON** AU Member States and RECs/RMs to enhance cooperation towards effective regulations and controls to prevent the diversion or re-export of weapons/arms;
6. **STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE** of promoting and supporting the involvement of youths and women in addressing the problem of proliferation and use of illegal weapons, as well as movement of illegal weapons and other illicit goods. In this respect, **UNDERScores** the need to establish regional research institutions where they do not exist, considering that sound analytical and empirical research on weapons/arms proliferation will better equip the leadership with adequate information to facilitate decision making;
7. **EMPHASIZES THE NEED** to address root causes of conflicts, as well as undertaking effective security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and re-integration programmes in countries emerging from conflict, in order to avoid relapse and fresh exposure to inflow of illegal weapons and violence, as well as to trafficking of other illicit goods;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission, as also requested by the PSC in its Press Statement [PSC/PR/BR.(CDXXX)] of its 430th meeting held on 24 April 2014, to submit and present to the PSC, the outcomes of the continent-wide mapping exercise which was launched in early 2017, with a view to generating concrete data on patterns and trends in illegal weapons and ammunition inflows and cross-border flows, diversion and circulation, as well as gaps in control measures in Member States, in order to strengthen AU remedial efforts;
9. **DECLARES** the month of September, of each year till 2020, as “Africa Amnesty Month” for the surrender and collection of illegally owned weapons/arms, in line with the African and international best practices. In this context, **PRONOUNCES** as follows:
- i) persons who surrender their illegally owned weapons/arms shall not be subjected to disclosure humiliation, arrest or prosecution;
 - ii) persons who fail to surrender their illegally owned weapons/arms beyond the Africa Amnesty month, shall automatically be considered to be in violation of national laws and the Amnesty and shall therefore be prosecuted according to the national laws of the Member States;
 - iii) all Member States, RECs/RMs as well as civil society organizations shall give wide publicity, through all media networks, to the Africa Amnesty Month within their territories and regions; and

- iv) requests Member States to adhere to and promote the Africa Amnesty Month, September each year, and mobilize their citizens to actively participate in the efforts to silence the guns.
10. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that as part of the efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and practices throughout the continent, political will and commitment is a fundamental necessity for success in silencing the guns. In this regard, **URGES** Member States, for those that have not yet done so, to submit their state reports on their implementation of the provisions of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG); Furthermore, **COMMENDS** the Togolese Republic, as the only country to have submitted its state report on the implementation of the ACDEG;
11. **URGES** Member States to enhance civil-military collaboration through community-based intelligence gathering, notably through Nouakchott and Djibouti process, to support national security agencies' efforts in curbing cross border movement of illegal weapons and also movement of such weapons from one conflict to another or to zones that are peaceful, in the continent as a whole;
12. **REQUESTS** the AU Member States to communicate to the AU Commission on their efforts in implementing the AU Master Roadmap, once a year, after the Africa Amnesty Month and before the AU January Summit, in order to facilitate continuous assessment of its implementation, as well as sharing information and experience;
13. **URGES** AU Member States to demonstrate more commitment and to continue mobilizing for the signing and ratification of the OAU/AU treaties/instruments, as well as their implementation, in particular the signing and ratification of instruments that are essential for the full and effective implementation of the AU Master Roadmap. In this context and considering the outcomes of the study conducted in 2008, as well as the reasons provided by Member States on the non-signature, non-ratification and non-implementation of the treaties/agreements, **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to convene a meeting of experts of AU Member States to review the OAU/AU treaty making process and make recommendations that will be submitted for consideration by the relevant AU policy organs in the course of 2017. In this regard, a report of the outcome of this process should be submitted to the ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union in January 2018;
14. **ENCOURAGES** AU Member States to speed up signing and ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty adopted the UN General Assembly on 2 April 2013, which has the potential to play an important role in silencing the guns in Africa;
15. **CALLS ON** AU partners to adhere and fully support the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
AFRICAN UNION HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE ON LIBYA
Doc. Assembly/AU/7(XXIX)**

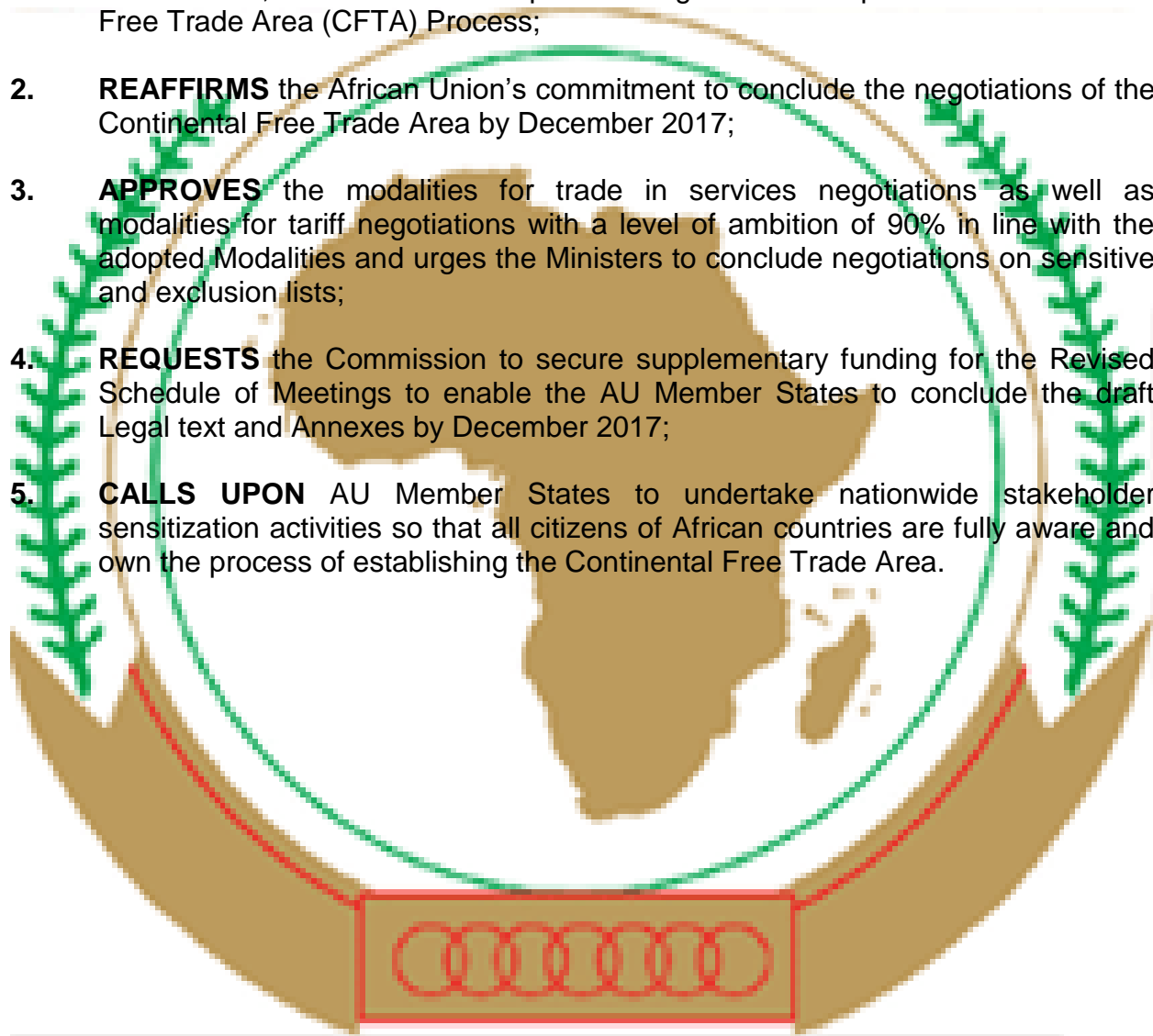
The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the African Union High Level Committee presented by the Chair of the Committee;
2. **INVITES** the African Union Commission to do its utmost to improve the coordination and harmonization of the initiatives of the different African actors involved in efforts to resolve the Libyan crises within the framework of the implementation of the Libyan Political Accord;
3. **DECIDES** that the Representative of the African Union High Level Committee on Libya, together with the High Representative of the African Union, should jointly participate in the activities of the Quartet;
4. **COMMENDS** all the Libyan stakeholders for the momentum generated through the establishment of dialogue committees; and **URGES** them to uphold the supreme interest of Libya by embracing the process of dialogue to end the crisis;
5. **AGREES** to convene a national reconciliation meeting in Addis Ababa, at a date to be determined;
6. **REITERATES** the rejection of any external interference in the affairs of Libya;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission in consultation with the Member States to formulate a Common Position on the issue of migration and its linkage with criminal and terrorist networks;
8. **COMMENDS** H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo and Chairperson of the High Level Committee on Libya, as well as all members of the Committee, for all the efforts made with a view to finding a solution to the crisis;
9. **ALSO COMMENDS** H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, High Representative of the African Union for Libya, for his efforts towards bringing about lasting peace in Libya.

DECISION ON THE CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA
Doc. Assembly/AU/8(XXIX)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** with appreciation of the Report on the status of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) negotiations submitted by His Excellency Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger and Champion of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Process;
2. **REAFFIRMS** the African Union's commitment to conclude the negotiations of the Continental Free Trade Area by December 2017;
3. **APPROVES** the modalities for trade in services negotiations as well as modalities for tariff negotiations with a level of ambition of 90% in line with the adopted Modalities and urges the Ministers to conclude negotiations on sensitive and exclusion lists;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to secure supplementary funding for the Revised Schedule of Meetings to enable the AU Member States to conclude the draft Legal text and Annexes by December 2017;
5. **CALLS UPON** AU Member States to undertake nationwide stakeholder sensitization activities so that all citizens of African countries are fully aware and own the process of establishing the Continental Free Trade Area.



DECISION ON THE REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
Doc. Assembly/AU/9(XXIX)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the 19th Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council ;
2. **REITERATES** the need to reform the United Nations to conform to the present geopolitical realities, in particular, the need to address Africa's non representation in the Permanent Category of the UN Security Council and its under-representation in the Non-permanent category;
3. **ACKNOWLEDGES WITH APPRECIATION** the progress made by the C10 in advocating and canvassing support for the Common African Position as outlined in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 2005 Sirte Declaration on the United Nations Security Council Reform;
4. **WELCOMES** in that regard, the growing acceptance of the legitimacy of the Common African Position, which underscores that Africa deserves a place in the Permanent Category of the United Nations Security Council;
5. **REAFFIRMS** its strong commitment to the Common African Position espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration as the only viable option for Africa's full representation at the UN Security Council;
6. **REITERATES** that full representation of Africa in the United Nations Security Council means:
 - i) Not less than two (02) permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership including the right of veto;
 - ii) Five (05) non-permanent seats;
 - iii) that the African Union reserves the right to select its representatives for election to the UN Security Council to act in its name and on its behalf;
 - iv) that all African Union Member States should remain firmly committed to preserving Africa's unity and solidarity on all aspects of the reform process of the UNSC, including participation within and outside the intergovernmental negotiations, AND to continue to speak cohesively with one voice in unity of purpose on all aspects of the reform process;
 - v) that the African Union Member States in New York with dual membership should withdraw such membership from all other Interest Groups, in order to

further consolidate the Common African Position as contained in the Ezulwini consensus and the Sirte Declaration;

7. REQUESTS

- i) the Committee of Ten to heighten its engagement with all Interest Groups, and stakeholders, including the Five Permanent members of the Security Council with a view to achieving tangible progress on the UN Security Council reform process;
- ii) the Committee of Ten to develop a comprehensive strategy to consolidate gains made so far, as well as further engagement with a view to achieve tangible progress;
- iii) AU Member States to include the issue of the UN Security Council reform among their foreign policy priorities in their engagements with non-African partners, in particular, the need to correct without further delay, the historical injustice that the African continent continues to endure;
- iv) all AU Member States, to include in their respective National statements at the opening of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2017, the call for a comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council with emphasis on the urgent need to address the demands of the Common African Position,

8. DECIDES

- i) that the Common African Position on the reform of the UN Security Council shall be a strategic item on the Assembly's Agenda and Work Plan, and in this regard, **REQUESTS** the Commission to facilitate the work of the C-10 for the fulfilment of the Committee's mandate;
- ii) that the Committee of Ten remains seized of its mandate until Africa achieves its objectives on the UNSC Reform.

DECISION ON AIDS WATCH AFRICA (AWA) REPORT**The Assembly,**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the meeting of the AIDS Watch Africa Heads of States and Government and the recommendations therein;
2. **WELCOMES** the on-going efforts of Member States to strengthen health systems in line with the Africa Health Strategy (2016-2030) and the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030;
3. **URGES** Member States to further pursue initiatives to build strong Human Resources for Health (HRH) including harnessing the role of Community Health Workers (CHWs); **ENDORSES** the 2 million CHWs initiative and requests UNAIDS, WHO and other partners to support and facilitate its implementation;
4. **APPLAUDS** the significant progress made in the reduction of mortality and new rates of HIV infection, **RECOGNISES** importance to address the unmet needs of young people and adolescents so as to harness the demographic dividend; but **CONCERNED** that the West and Central Africa region is lagging behind and the urgent need to address hepatitis B co-infection; **ENDORSES** the Emergency Catch up Plan to accelerate the HIV response and **REQUESTS** UNAIDS, WHO and other partners to support and facilitate its implementation;
5. **COMMENDS** Member States who have pledged support to the 5th Global Fund Replenishment and **ENCOURAGES** others to contribute to the fund;
6. **GRAVELY CONCERNED** that TB, a concomitant infection of HIV continues to lag behind in terms of investments and response; **CALLS UPON** Member States to increase coverage and access to services for detection and treatment of TB, Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) particularly for people living with HIV, children and mine workers;
7. **CALLS UPON** Member States and development partners to support the AU Campaign to Eliminate New HIV Infections in Children and Keep Mothers Alive as part of the Start Free, Stay Free, AIDS Free collaborative Framework;
8. **COMMENDS** efforts towards the implementation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) and its Business Plan including plans to establish a Fund for African Pharmaceutical Development (FAP-D) and the progress being made towards the establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA);
9. **COMMITTS** to sustain the gains made in the fight against Malaria and monitor antimalarial drug resistance and insecticide resistance; **COMMITTS ALSO** to

invest in the development and regulation of the gene-drive technology as well as other new innovations including next generation insecticides for Indoor Residual Spraying and Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets, Rapid Diagnostic Tests and Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy for the elimination of malaria and **REQUESTS** the Commission, WHO and NEPAD Agency to support these initiatives;

10. **ENDORSES** the AWA Strategic Framework (2016-2030) and **REQUESTS** the Commission working with partners and Member States to expeditiously facilitate its implementation;

11. **REAFFIRMS** our commitments to the Abuja 15% target on domestic financing for health and **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to produce the Africa Scorecard on Domestic Financing for Health annually to monitor progress;

12. **REQUESTS**

- i) the Chairperson of the Assembly, H.E. President Alpha Condé, to engage relevant partners, particularly the G20 in support of strengthening Human Resources for Health in Africa including the 2 million Community Health Initiative and **URGES** the Commission, in collaboration with UNAIDS, WHO and other partners to support the countries efforts to implement the initiative and report yearly on progress;
- ii) the Chairperson of AWA to report on the progress made to the June/July 2018 Ordinary Session of the Assembly.



**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF H.E PAUL KAGAME PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION
ON THE INSTITUTIONAL REFORM OF THE AFRICAN UNION
[ASSEMBLY/AU/DEC/635(XXVIII)]
Doc. Assembly/AU/2(XXIX)**

The Assembly,

1. **WELCOMES** H.E Paul Kagame's Progress Report on the Implementation of the Decision on the Institutional Reform of the African Union;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made so far in taking forward the Institutional Reform Decision and **URGES** implementation in line with the timelines and benchmarks in the Progress Report;
3. **COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for the steps taken to establish the Reform Implementation Unit in his Bureau and **CALLS FOR** the swift operationalization of the Unit;
4. **REITERATES** that the implementation process will incorporate proposals and suggestions made and accepted by Member States;
5. **COMMENDS** the work of President Paul Kagame, President Alpha Condé and President Idris Déby in supervising the implementation of the Institutional Reform process.



**DECISION ON THE FULL INTEGRATION OF AU NEPAD
INTO THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** its Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) and its Annex adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2017 reaffirming that NEPAD should be fully integrated into the African Union Commission as the African Union's development agency, aligned with the agreed priorities and underpinned by an enhanced results-monitoring framework;
2. **DECIDES** to disband the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) from the January 2018 Summit and **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the HSGOC for the political leadership and strategic orientation that it gave to NEPAD programmes in recent years;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in consultation with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), to take all the necessary measures to ensure the full integration of NEPAD into the Commission and report thereon to the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2018.



**DECISION ON PROPOSAL TO DECLARE THE PERIOD OF 2018-2027
AS THE “AFRICAN DECADE FOR TECHNICAL, PROFESSIONAL,
ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT”**

(Item proposed by Burkina Faso)

Doc. EX.CL/1035(XXXI)Add.1

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal made by Burkina Faso regarding the "Proclamation of the period 2018-2027, African Decade for Technical, Professional, Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment";
2. **DECLARES** the 2018-2027 period, African Decade for Technical, Professional and Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with Burkina Faso and partners of the AU to develop a detailed plan of action for the Decade and set up a Continental Dialogue Platform on Skills Development in Africa. The plan of action should be submitted to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in January 2018 through the competent organs.



DECISION ON THE ISSUE OF WESTERN SAHARA

The Assembly,

1. **WELCOMES** the return of the Kingdom of Morocco to the African family, a return which it hopes will enhance the capacities of the Organisation to address the different challenges and various crises affecting the Continent, including the promotion of elements of a solution acceptable to the parties in line with the relevant decisions of the AU and the resolutions of the United Nations on Western Sahara;
2. **ALSO WELCOMES** the significant decrease in tension in the territory and the withdrawal of forces from the areas of confrontation, particularly the Guerguerat, as well as the commencement of the return of MINURSO staff;
3. **COMMENDS** the appointment by the Secretary General of the United Nations of a new Special Envoy accepted by the parties to the conflict, in the person of His Excellency Mr. Horst Kohler, former President of Germany;
4. **URGES** the Chairpersons of the African Union and the AU Commission, on the basis of the Framework Agreement signed between the AU and the UN on 19 May 2017 in New York, to ensure appropriate support for the initiative which the UN Secretary General plans to undertake in order to reach an agreement on a consensual and definitive solution to the conflict;
5. **REQUESTS** the Chairpersons of the African Union and the AU Commission, in consultation with the AU Peace and Security Council, to take appropriate measures (including the possible revitalization of the Committee of Heads of State decided in 1978) to support the efforts of the United Nations and encourage the parties, both of whom are now members of the African Union, to cooperate in good faith towards ensuring the success of the new process;
6. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to report to the Assembly in January 2018 on the measures and initiatives he might take on the issue, alone or with the Chairperson of the African Union, in partnership with the United Nations;
7. **REMAINS** seized of the issue.

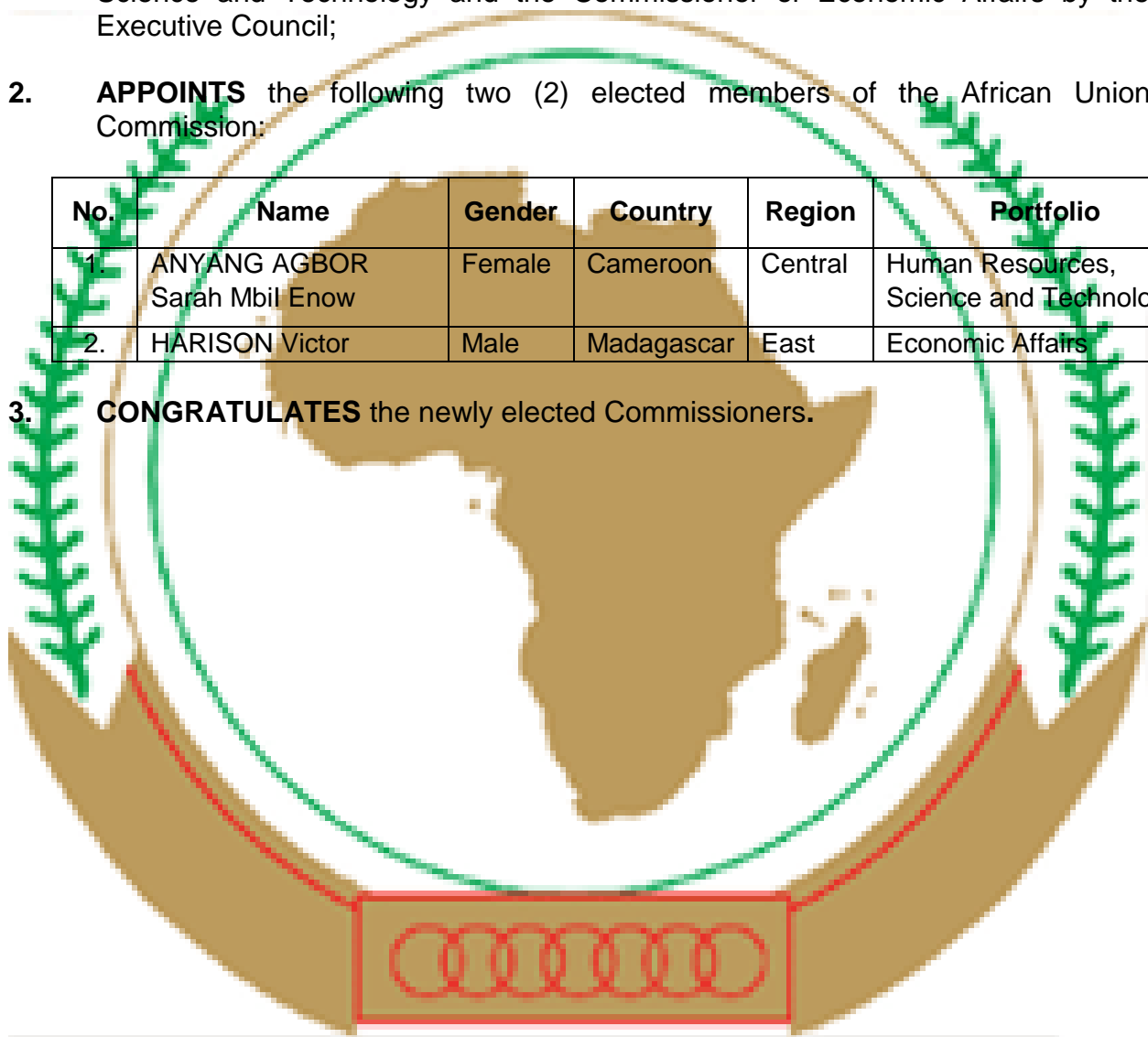
**DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO (2) MEMBERS OF
THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION
Doc. EX.CL/1037(XXXI)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election of the Commissioner of Human Resources, Science and Technology and the Commissioner of Economic Affairs by the Executive Council;
2. **APPOINTS** the following two (2) elected members of the African Union Commission:

No.	Name	Gender	Country	Region	Portfolio
1.	ANYANG AGBOR Sarah Mbil Enow	Female	Cameroon	Central	Human Resources, Science and Technology
2.	HARISON Victor	Male	Madagascar	East	Economic Affairs

3. **CONGRATULATES** the newly elected Commissioners.



**DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF FOUR (4) MEMBERS OF
THE AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY BOARD ON CORRUPTION
Doc. EX.CL/1038(XXXI)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election of four (4) Members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC) by the Executive Council;
2. **APPOINTS** the following Three (3) Members of the AUABC for a two (2) year term:

NO.	NAMES	GENDER	COUNTRY	REGION
1.	AÏT CHAALAL Hocine	Male	Algeria	North Africa
2.	MOUGEMBA née KIBONGUI-SAMINOU Anne-Marie Rose	Female	Congo	Central Africa
3.	SEJA Sabina	Female	Tanzania	East Africa

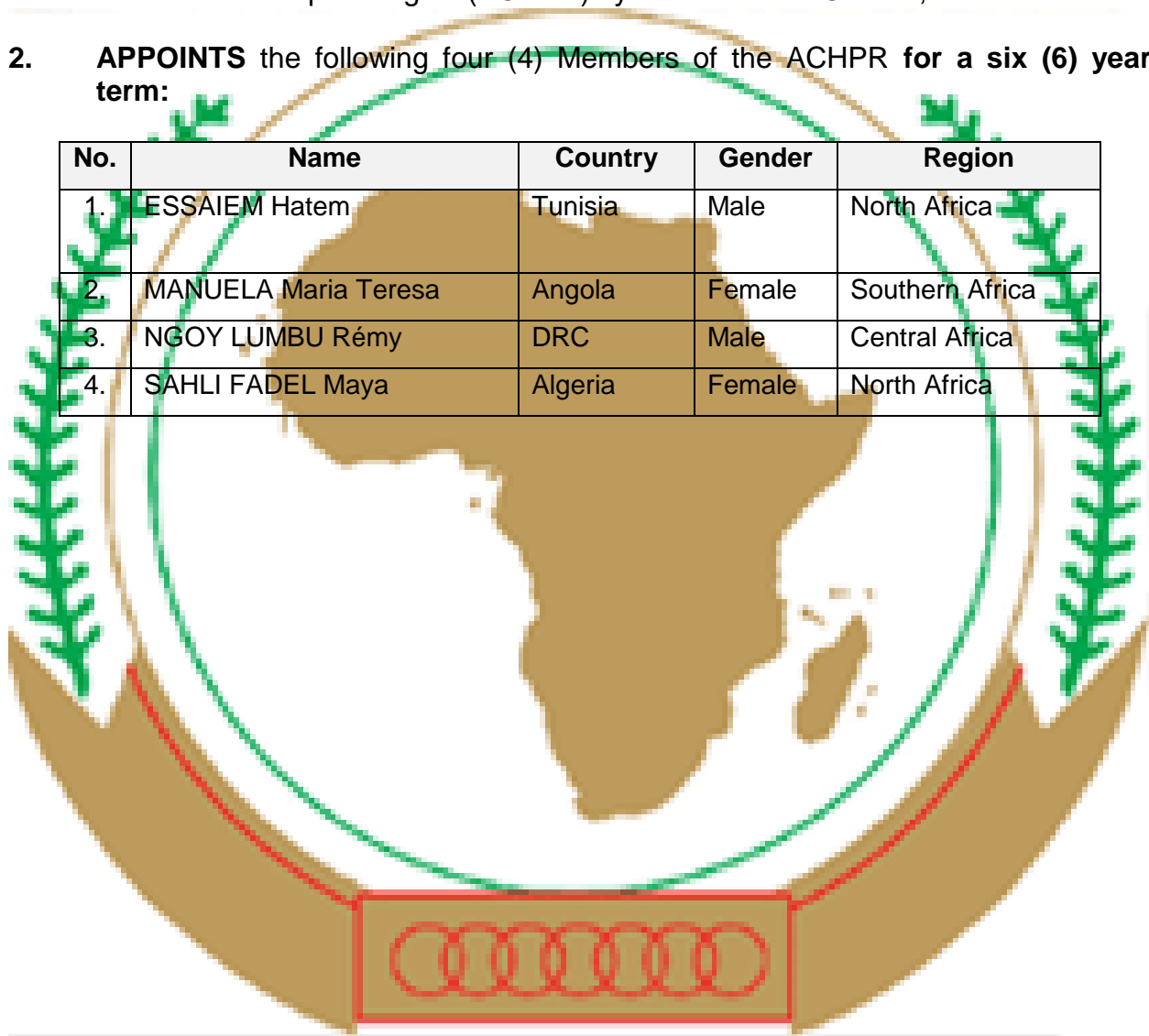
3. **DECIDES** that the remaining one (1) Member will be elected at the Thirty Second Ordinary Session of the Executive Council only from among the Female Candidates from the Northern Region in accordance with the Modalities on Implementation of Criteria for equitable Geographical and Gender Representation in the African Union adopted by the Executive Council in January 2016 in Decision EX.CL/Dec.907 (XXVIII).

**DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF FOUR (4) MEMBERS OF
THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
Doc. EX.CL/1039(XXXI)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election of four (4) Members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) by the Executive Council;
2. **APPOINTS** the following four (4) Members of the ACHPR for a six (6) year term:

No.	Name	Country	Gender	Region
1.	ESSAIEM Hatem	Tunisia	Male	North Africa
2.	MANUELA Maria Teresa	Angola	Female	Southern Africa
3.	NGOY LUMBU Rémy	DRC	Male	Central Africa
4.	SAHLI FADEL Maya	Algeria	Female	North Africa



**DECISION ON THE DATES AND VENUE OF THE 30th ORDINARY
SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

The Assembly,

1. **DECIDES** that the dates of the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme “**Winning The Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa’s Transformation**” shall be the following:
 - i) Thirty-Fifth (35th) Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives’ Committee (PRC): 22 - 23 January 2018;
 - ii) Thirty-Second (32nd) Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 25 - 26 January 2018;
 - iii) Thirtieth (30th) Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 28 - 29 January 2018.
2. **REQUESTS** the Commission to put in place all the necessary measures in order to organize the Thirtieth (30th) Ordinary Session of the Assembly as well as the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC according to the afore-mentioned dates.



**DECISION ON THE DATES AND VENUE OF THE 31ST ORDINARY
SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION**
(Proposed by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania)

The Assembly,

1. **DECIDES** that the dates of the Thirty-First Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Nouakchott, Mauritania shall be the following:
 - i) Thirty-Sixth (36th) Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC): 25 - 26 June 2018;
 - ii) Thirty-Third (33rd) Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 28 - 29 June 2018;
 - iii) Thirty-First (31st) Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 1 - 2 July 2018.
2. **REQUESTS** the Commission to put in place all the necessary measures in order to organize the Thirty-First (31st) Ordinary Session of the Assembly as well as the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC according to the afore-mentioned dates.



DECISION ON ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE IN AFRICA
Doc. Assembly/AU/10(XXIX)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** with appreciation the Progress Report and Recommendations on the Common African Position on Ending Child Marriage in Africa presented by His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia and Continental Champion on Ending Child Marriage in Africa;
2. **COMMENDS** all the Member States of the African Union that have launched the African Union Campaign on Ending Child Marriage in their countries and urge those that have not launched the Campaign, to do so;
3. **URGES** all Member States, to fully implement legal instruments that empower the girl child, to integrate activities and programmes on the girl child in national development frameworks and to allocate adequate budgetary provisions;
4. **URGES** Member States to commit to keeping the girl child in school up to tertiary level, regardless of their status, mindful of the potential contribution of girls to economic development;
5. **FURTHER URGES** Member States who have not done so, to specify the minimum age of marriage in line with the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women and to enact appropriate national legislative measures to guarantee that every marriage shall be recorded in writing and registered in accordance with national laws, in order to be legally recognised;
6. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the abduction and forcible marriages of young girls particularly in conflict situations and commit to prosecute the perpetrators of these vices;
7. **REQUESTS** His Excellency the Champion on Ending Child Marriage in Africa, to keep the matter under active consideration and present a Progress Report at the 31st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July, 2018.

**DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THEME OF THE YEAR
Doc. Assembly/AU/3(XXIX)**

The Assembly,

1. **WELCOMES** the theme of the year 2017: "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth";
2. **COMMENDS** H.E. Mr. Idris Deby Itno, Leader of the theme of the year 2017, for his commitment to African youth;
3. **WELCOMES** the successful organization of a Pan-African Youth Forum in N'Djamena, Chad from 29 June to 1 July 2017;
4. **COMMENDS** the African youth for their active participation in the Forum;
5. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Forum and **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure their implementation;
6. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Progress Report of the Leader of the theme of the year 2017;
7. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of the theme of the year 2017;
8. **URGES** Member States which have not yet done so to ratify the African Youth Charter;
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission and the Pan-African Youth Union (PYU) to accelerate the implementation of their joint MoU which binds them;
10. **COMMENDS** Member States for the successful launch of the theme of the year 2017 in their respective countries and **REQUESTS** those which have not yet launched the theme to do so;
11. **TAKES NOTE** of the implementation by the Commission of the pilot projects on technical and vocational training and non-formal education within the framework of the implementation of continental strategies;
12. **WELCOMES** the proclamation of the period 2018-2027 as "African Decade for Technical, Vocational and Entrepreneurial Training, and Youth Employment " and the creation of the African Youth Fund;
13. **CALLS UPON** Member States to make available adequate resources for the leadership and the empowerment of African youth and the implementation of national plans for youth development;

14. **INVITES** the Leader of the theme of the year 2017 to follow-up on the conclusions of the Pan-African Youth Forum in N'Djamena;
15. **DECIDES** to institutionalize the Pan-African Youth Forum.



DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN YOUTH FUND
Doc. Assembly/AU/3(XXIX)

The Assembly,

Within the framework of the implementation of the theme of the year 2017 and pursuant to Decision EX.CL/Dec.921(XXIX) of July 2016,

1. **ENDORSES** the establishment of the African Youth Fund;
2. **REQUESTS** the Commission to present, at the January 2018 session of the Assembly, all the instruments for the management of the Fund, in accordance with the feasibility study of the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Youth (July 2008);
3. **AUTHORIZES**, pending the presentation of the said instrument, the allocation to the African Youth Fund of an amount at least equal to 1% of the Programme Budget of the African Union Commission;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to enlist the support of all partners of the African Union for the African Youth Fund.



DECISION ON THE REPORTS OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS

The Assembly,

1. **COMMENDS** H.E. Prof. Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea and Chairperson of the Union, for appointing Heads of State and Government Leaders to champion and advocate continental strategic issues;
2. **ALSO COMMENDS** the Leaders, for their relentless efforts and invaluable contributions in advancing continental priorities within the framework of Agenda 2063, namely:
 - i) H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, Leader and Chairperson of the High Level Committee on Libya;
 - ii) H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South African, Leader on African Union-United Nations Cooperation;
 - iii) H.E. Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, Leader on the Continent's Political Integration;
 - iv) H.E. Mr. Edgar Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, Leader on Combating Early Marriage of Young Girls;
 - v) H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, Leader on Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Issues;
 - vi) H.E. Mr. Idriss Déby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, Leader of the Theme of the Year 2017;
 - vii) H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Leader on the Implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP);
 - viii) H.E. Mr. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of the Togolese Republic, Leader on Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Africa;
 - ix) H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Leader on the Thorny Issue of Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa;
 - x) His Majesty Mohamed VI, King of Morocco, Leader on the Migration Issue;

- xi) H.E. Mr. Alassane Dramane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Leader on the Follow-Up of the Implementation of African Union Agenda 2063;
- xii) H.E. Mr. Nana Akufo Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, Leader on Gender and Development Issues in Africa;
- xiii) H.E. Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Leader and Chairperson of the Committee of Ten (C10) on the United Nations Security Council Reform;
- xiv) H.E. Mr. Paul Kagamé, President of the Republic of Rwanda, Leader on the Institutional Reform of the African Union;
- xv) H.E. Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Gabonese Republic and Chairperson of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC).

3. CONGRATULATES the Leaders who presented progress reports:

- i) H.E. Mr. Paul Kagamé, President of the Republic of Rwanda, Leader on the Institutional Reform of the African Union;
- ii) H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, Leader on Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Issues;
- iii) H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Leader on the Thorny Issue of Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa;
- iv) H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, Leader and Chairperson of the High Level Committee on Libya;
- v) H.E. Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Leader and Chairperson of the Committee of Ten (C10) on the United Nations Security Council Reform;
- vi) H.E. Mr. Edgar Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, Leader on Combating Early Marriage of Young Girls;

4. REQUESTS the Commission to continue working closely with Leaders to provide the necessary assistance to effectively discharge their mandate;

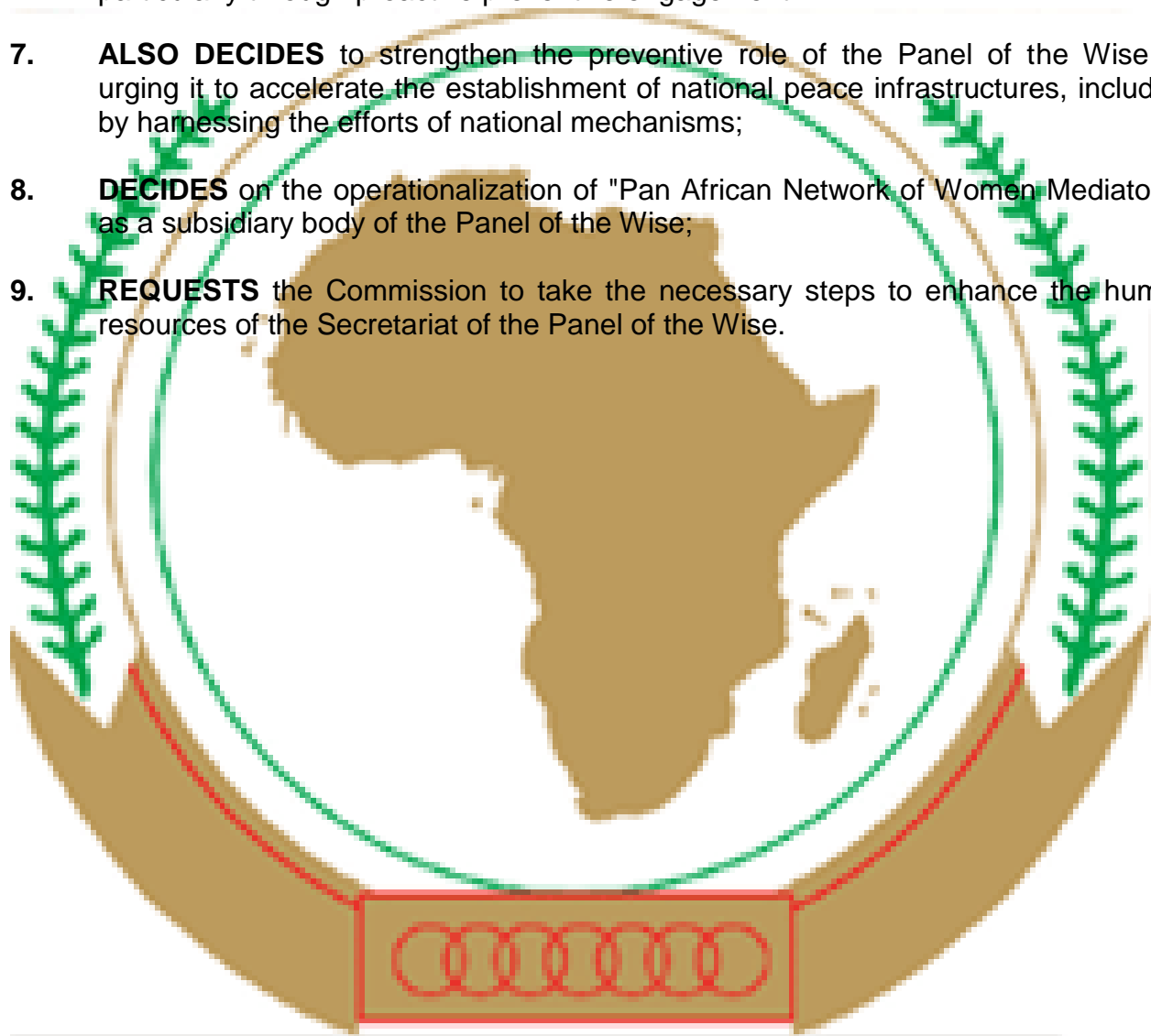
5. ENCOURAGES the Leaders to continue the commendable work in advocating the implementation of decisions related to their respective portfolios and **TASKS** the Commission to report to the Assembly.

**DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW MEMBERS
OF THE PANEL OF THE WISE**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** the provisions of Article 11 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), which deals with the Panel of the Wise, as well as Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.543(XXIII) adopted at its 23rd Ordinary Session held in Malabo in June 2014;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the end of the term of the current members of the Panel of the Wise (Lakhdar Brahimi of Algeria, Dr. Speciosa Wandira of Uganda, Mrs. Luisa Diogo of Mozambique, Mrs. Albina Assis of Angola and Mr. Edem Kodjo of Togo) and **PAYS TRIBUTE** to them for the dedication with which they discharged their mandate;
3. **REITERATES** the critical role of the Panel of the Wise in the overall efforts of the AU towards conflict prevention, in line with the relevant provisions of the PSC Protocol;
4. **ENDORSES**, in conformity with Article 11 (2) of the PSC Protocol, the recommendations made by the Chairperson of the Commission regarding the appointment of the new members of the Panel of the Wise. Accordingly, the Assembly **DECIDES** to appoint the following personalities as members of the Panel of the Wise for a period of three years:
 - i) for the Eastern Africa region, Dr. Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe, from Uganda, is currently a member of the Panel of the Wise of the African Union since June 2014. Dr. Wandira was a Deputy President of the Republic of Uganda;
 - ii) for the Northern Africa region, Mr. Amr Moussa, from Egypt, who was the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2001 to 2011;
 - iii) for the Western Africa region, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, from Liberia, is the 24th and current President of Liberia. Her current term of office will expire in January 2018. Dr. Sirleaf was the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner with Leymah Gbowee of Liberia and Tawakkol Karman of Yemen;
 - iv) for the Central Africa region, Mrs. Honorine Nzet Bitéghé, from Gabon, is the former Minister for Social Affairs and has been a long-time human rights activists, especially women's rights;
 - v) for the Southern Africa region, Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, from Namibia, is the former President of the Republic of Namibia from 2005 to 2015.

5. **FURTHER DECIDES** that the outgoing members of the Panel of the Wise shall become members of the Group of Friends of the Panel, in line with its decision Assembly/AU/Dec.310(XV) and the related report of the Chairperson of the Commission;
6. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to ensure that the required support is availed to the Panel of the Wise to enable it fully discharge its mandate, particularly through proactive preventive engagement.
7. **ALSO DECIDES** to strengthen the preventive role of the Panel of the Wise by urging it to accelerate the establishment of national peace infrastructures, including by harnessing the efforts of national mechanisms;
8. **DECIDES** on the operationalization of "Pan African Network of Women Mediators", as a subsidiary body of the Panel of the Wise;
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary steps to enhance the human resources of the Secretariat of the Panel of the Wise.



**DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INCOMING
CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION FOR 2018**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) that in order to ensure continuity and effective implementation of Assembly decisions, a troika arrangement between the outgoing, the current, and the incoming African Union Chairpersons shall be established, and that in this regard, the incoming Chairperson shall be selected one year in advance;
2. **ALSO RECALLS** the principle of rotation for Chairpersonship of the African Union, and taking into account that 2018 will be the turn of the East African Region;
3. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcome of the consultations by the East African Region as reported by the Republic of Djibouti, Dean of the latter;
4. **DECIDES** that the Incoming Chair of the African Union for 2018 will be the Republic of Rwanda.



**DECLARATION ON THE 2017 AU THEME “HARNESSING THE
DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN YOUTH”
Doc. Assembly/AU/3(XXIX)**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our 29th Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, following our debate on the 2017 theme of the year on “*Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth*”:

Recalling AU Assembly decision, Assembly/AU/Dec.601(XXVI), that declared 2017 as the year of “*Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth*” and called for the development of a concrete roadmap with milestones and deliverables that would guide Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) towards harnessing the demographic dividend;

Further Recalling:

- Assembly/AU/Dec 121 (VII) of July 2006 in Banjul on the adoption of the African Youth Charter;
- EX.CL/Dec 468(XIV) of January 2009 in Addis Ababa on the 2^e session of African Minister in Charge of Youth (COMY II);
- EX.CL/Dec 921(XXIX) of July 2016 in Kigali on the adoption of the road map of the theme of the year 2017.

Acknowledging that our ability to achieve the “Africa We Want” as envisioned in Agenda 2063 will depend on the investments we make in the youth of Africa who form the majority of the continent’s population;

Further Acknowledging that the strategic pillars of the “AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth” on education and skills development; employment and entrepreneurship, health and wellbeing; and youth, rights and governance, all lie at the core of national, sub-regional and continental development frameworks and action towards achieving these must be expedited;

Recognizing that the success of Africa’s efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend must go beyond 2017, and that the systematic work involving all key stakeholders, towards achieving Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial to this end;

Welcoming the progress made so far across many African countries in implementing key aspects of the AU Roadmap on Demographic Dividend whilst noting the need for further action and implementation on all fronts;

Bearing in Mind the centrality of demographic dynamics in Africa's development agenda as well as the important role of ensuring voluntary access to family planning and to sexual and reproductive health in speeding up the demographic transition in many of our countries and the urgency to ensure adequate funding in these areas;

We hereby:

1. **CALL ON** the AUC to strengthen the Demographic Dividend coordination mechanisms; including the secretariat and country technical mechanisms frameworks. And further establish an accountability framework for tracking progress within the AUC and Member States;
2. **FURTHER CALL UPON** all Member States to redouble efforts towards the full implementation of the AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend in 2017 and beyond, including country launches with clear commitments, creation of demographic dividend profiles and the development of country-specific roadmaps that feed into national development plans, bearing in mind the need for an institutional mechanism for coordinating the activities under the roadmap;
3. **COMMIT TO** annually report on progress of implementation of the AU Demographic Dividend Roadmap and requests the AU Commission with the support of partners to facilitate the preparation of annual reports;
4. **CALL ON** the AUC to champion the framing and branding of the Demographic Dividend to reflect the African reality, to build ownership of the concept by Africans from the highest levels of Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Parliamentarians, Policy Makers and Youth.
5. **WELCOME**
 - i) The creation of the African Youth Fund;
 - ii) The proclamation of the period 2018-2027 "African Decade for Technical Training, Professional and Entrepreneurial and the Employment of Young People.
6. **CALL ON** the Chairperson of the Union, the Chairperson of the Commission and the Leader of the Theme to mobilize international support for Africa's efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend by calling for a special session of the United Nations General Assembly and the creation of a global partnership on the demographic dividend;
7. **EXPRESS APPRECIATION** to the Chairperson of the Union, H.E. Prof. Alpha CONDE, President of the Republic of Guinea and the Leader for the 2017 AU theme, H.E. Mr. Idris DEBY ITNO, President of the Republic of Chad for their leadership and commitment towards the commemoration of the theme and to key partners and stakeholders who responded to the call of AU Heads of State and Government in providing support to the continent's efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend.

**DECLARATION ON THE SITUATION IN
PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
Doc. EX.CL/1019(XXI)**

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting in the Twenty Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3 to 4 July 2017:

Having Taken Note of the Report on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East and **Recalling** all previous resolutions and decisions of the OAU/AU on the situation in Palestine for the maintenance of a lasting peace and security in the Middle East;

Reaffirming our total support for the Palestinian people in their just struggle against Israeli occupation, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas for the restoration of their legitimate right to establish an independent Palestinian State peacefully co-existing with the State of Israel;

Also Reaffirming our desire to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international laws and all relevant resolutions;

Calling For the establishment of the Palestinian State within the June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital in implementation of the principle of the two-state solution and UN resolution 194 on the return of Palestinian refugees;

Reiterating our call for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides with a view to reaching a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East and **Expressing** our support for all initiatives aimed at finding a lasting solution within a fixed timeframe;

Stressing our strong position in support of the Palestinian question and the African Union's continued search for a comprehensive and just peace for the Palestinian people;

Appealing to all Member States to deploy efforts for the realization of this endeavour in their international relations and in accordance with previous relevant decisions and **Taking into Account** the solid foundation on which the African Union is established, notably people's freedom to determine their destiny, **Considering** Israel an occupying state and therefore cooperation by the countries of the continent with this State should not be at the expense of African support for the Palestinian question;

Reaffirming that settlements built in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights are illegal, **Condemning** the Israeli policy designed to change the landscape and demographic status of Palestine and imposing the status quo, particularly in the vicinity of East Jerusalem as well as the judaization campaign aimed at changing the Islamic and the Christian character of the holy city and, **Also Condemning** the policy of

land grabbing, demolition of houses and forced displacement of civilians coupled with the collective punishment measures;

Condemning Israeli practices against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, **Also Rejecting** the so-called administrative custody and repressive measures and torture imposed on detainees, particularly children and women in Israeli prisons, which deprives them of their minimum right guaranteed by the international human rights laws and norms, including the Geneva Convention on the rights of women and children. **And Calling upon** the Israeli government to release Palestinians detainees in the Israeli prisons unconditionally;

Denouncing Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territories and the escalation and tension caused by the Israeli government and Israeli settlers as well as the policy of summary execution implemented in occupied Palestinian territories against unarmed civilians in violation of the 4th Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians during war,

Calling upon the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities in providing protection for the unarmed Palestinian people from the machinery of occupation in implementation of international laws, conventions and agreements:

HEREBY DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. **REQUEST** AU Member States and countries of the world to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the relevant UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative;
2. **APPEAL** to all States to refrain from any measures that will undermine the final two-state solution, particularly transfer of Embassies and Diplomatic Missions accredited to Israel to Al Quds which is an occupied Palestinian territory;
3. **CALL UPON** the international community to apply pressure on Israel to stop all settlement activities, release all Palestinian prisoners in all Israeli prisons and support the efforts of Palestinians to join international agencies and adhere to international conventions and protocols;
4. **REJECT AND CONDEMN** settlements built by the Israeli occupation force and **CALL UPON** the international community to bring pressure to bear on Israel for it to put an immediate end to its settlement expansion policy in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2334 of 24/12/2016, Considering that settlements are a real obstacle to the maintenance of peace and resolution of the Arab-Israel conflict based on the principle of the two-state solution, **CALL UPON** all Member States to strictly adhere to the provisions of paragraph 5 of the Security Council Resolution 2334 and refrain from rendering any assistance to Israel that can be used for its settlement activities;

5. **REJECT** the land and sea blockade imposed by Israel on Gaza Strip, causing the deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation there and **REQUEST** that all restrictions imposed on Gaza Strip be lifted immediately;
6. **REITERATE** the need for the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibility in maintaining international peace and security and taking all necessary steps for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in all aspects and reaching a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on the principle of the two-state solution within the 1967 borders and the implementation of the provisions of the relevant international law and previous resolutions of the Council;
7. **REQUEST** AU Member States to boycott goods and commodities produced in, and exported from the colonial settlements built in occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem;
8. **COMMEND AND SUPPORT OUTCOMES** of the international peace conference with the participation of the United Nations held in France on 15/1/2017 with the aim of launching serious negotiations for the settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the two-state solution, which guarantees the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent sovereign state in the territories occupied in 1967 in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions;
9. **REITERATE**, in light of Israel's persistent lack of prompt and positive response to the regional and international initiatives for the resumption peace negotiations to end its occupation and settlement policy as well as establish a just and lasting peace, our strong adherence to the Common African Position in support of the peace process and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State in line with the Decisions and Declarations of the successive of African Summits;
10. **SUPPORT** the Palestinian for their vision on the final resolution of the conflict based on the principle of the two-state solution whilst rejecting any fragmented and half-baked solution of a temporary state and recognition of Israel as a Jewish state;
11. **WELCOME** UNESCO's resolution of 26 October 2016 on the preservation of the current status of the Old City of Jerusalem and **CALL UPON** all stakeholders to adhere to the full implementation of this resolution;
12. **REITERATE** that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories to the 1967 borders, including the Syrian Golan heights and territories still under occupation in Southern Lebanon.

**DECLARATION ON ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION OF
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS IN AFRICA
Doc. EX.CL/1026(XXXI)**

WE, the Heads of State and Government meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the 29th Ordinary Session of African Union Assembly from 3 to 4 July 2017;

Deeply Concerned about the increasing public health events and recurrent epidemics on our continent and their enormous socio-economic impact, as well as the inadequate implementation of the International Health regulations (IHR);

Noting the progress made so far in improving the health security of Africa in general and in particular controlling the Ebola outbreak in West Africa as well as ongoing efforts in tackling Yellow Fever, Zika, Chikungunya, Cholera among others;

Mindful of the efforts being made by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in disease surveillance, detection and response including emergency preparedness, as well as its important role in further strengthening the International Health Regulations (IHR) on our continent;

Mindful Also of the important role played by the Commission, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other stakeholders in the improvement of Health security in Africa;

Recognizing that a fundamental part of the governments' basic duty is to protect its citizens against health insecurity, risks and emergencies and **Considering** the importance of meeting IHR core capacities in disease outbreak prevention, preparedness and response;

1. COMMIT to:

- i) Accelerate the implementation of IHR at national, provincial and local levels with a clear road map and monitoring mechanisms;
- ii) Put in place multi-sectorial mechanisms to accelerate the implementation of IHR;
- iii) Mobilize the necessary resources to implement the road maps for acceleration of implementation of IHR.

2. REQUEST the Commission, the Africa CDC in collaboration with WHO and other stakeholders to:

- i) Provide the necessary technical support to Member States for accelerating the implementation of IHR;

- ii) Monitor and report the implementation of IHR within the context of the framework for collaboration between WHO and the Commission on the establishment and operationalization of Africa CDC to improve health security in Africa;
- iii) Submit biennial report of the implementation of IHR at the Assembly at the January Ordinary Session.



ALGIERS DECLARATION ON INVESTMENT IN EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY FOR HARNESSING THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Twenty Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3 to 4 July 2017;

Expressing our deepest gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Algeria, for hosting this event on the basis of his faith in African cooperation, his commitment and that of the Algerian Government since independence in favour of the continent's prosperity, and his conviction that "Algeria's stability is Africa's stability and its prosperity is that of Africa";

Recalling the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.601(XXVI) taken in January 2016 where in the Assembly devoted the theme of the year 2017 to "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investments in Youth";

Aware that the demographic dividend is not automatic and that the benefit can arise when a country has a relatively large proportion of working-age population, and effectively invests in their health, empowerment, education, social protection and employment through public action and private sector involvement;

Noting that about 46 percent of the 1.3 billion increase in Africa's labour force over the period 2015-2063 will be young people aged 15 to 34, averaging 12.1 million a year;

Alarmed that the youth account for more than 60% of all unemployed people in Africa; and **Mindful** of the need to address this high youth unemployment rates and the mismatch between the demands of labour market and educational qualifications in Africa;

Convinced that the investments made today in the youth, who represent Africa's greatest asset, will determine the development trajectory of Africa over the next 50 years and position the continent towards realizing the "Africa We Want," a strong, united and influential global player and partner as envisioned in Agenda 2063;

Noting with appreciation the adoption the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa by the Heads of State and Government in January 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

Also Noting of the biennial report on the progress of the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa and the achievements made at the national level in ending child marriage within the framework of the campaign;

Further noting the ongoing efforts of the AUC, ECA, AfDB and ILO in the preparation and design of the Employment and Social Cohesion Fund;

Concerned that more than five (5) years after the closure of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI), the former staff of the Institute have not been paid their entitlements;

Mindful of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, in particular its provisions on human security;

1. COMMIT ourselves to:

- 
- i) Sign and ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa to expeditiously reap the demographic dividend of the contributions of this important population group;
 - ii) Support the development of a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons;
 - iii) Take appropriate measures for the formulation of national and regional domestication documents on the 5 Year Priority Programme for the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development, set up or enhance an inter-sectoral follow-up structure and designate national focal persons by 30 September 2017; and submit first national biennial follow-up report to the AUC in 2018;
 - iv) Integrate the Roadmap on the Demographic Dividend into national policy frameworks on employment and entrepreneurship, and report on its implementation using specific follow-up, M&E mechanism;
 - v) Step up national measures on women empowerment in African labour market under the human rights perspective, within the framework of the Ouaga+10 policy frameworks, AU relevant Charters on Women and Children, the UN Agenda 2030 and in line with the conclusions of the 61st session of the UN Committee on the Status of Women, NY, March 2017, with the support of the AUC, NEPAD, ILO, AfDB, UNWOMEN, ECA and other partners;
 - vi) Continue to collaborate with the African Union on the campaign to end child marriage and to engage with various stakeholders at community, national, regional and international levels in the fight against this harmful practice and others negatively affecting children;
 - vii) Encourage and support RECs and Member States towards promoting free movement of people within regions, and support Member States to engage effectively in bilateral and multilateral negotiations with labour receiving countries with the aim of protecting the rights of African citizens working outside their country of origin; and commend the progress made in the

implementation of the AU-ILO-IOM-ECA Joint Programme on Labour Migration, calling for operationalization of the Labour Migration Advisory Committee.

2. REQUEST the African Union Commission to:

- i) Conduct a study with a view to gather experiences from member States and produce a compendium of good practices on Public Private Partnership (PPP); and support Member States in developing PPP projects, including with concrete initiatives by the Jobs for Africa Foundation in skills matching, agriculture transformation, ICT, entrepreneurship, social dialogue, etc.;
- ii) Engage with partners such as ECA, GIZ and ILO on the promotion of skills demand and supply forecasts, including developing a model for use by member states, and support capacity building in countries;
- iii) Work with ILO, FAO, ECA, UNDP and other partners to facilitate the extension of social protection and social security to workers in the informal economy and rural sector, while supporting transitioning from the informal economy to the formal economy through combined implementation of AU and ILO relevant policies and instruments;
- iv) Engage with the Secretariat of the CODEPA to extend social security/protection to artisans and workers in the handicraft industry where needed, through implementation of the AU SPIREWORK and incorporate the handicraft industry in its social and economic development policies with a dedicated structure;
- v) Develop the technical cooperation between Member States, within the framework of the Intra African Technical Cooperation Platform, and extend the South-South cooperation to other regions;
- vi) Elaborate an African Common Position on the “Future of Work” in Africa in collaboration with the ILO; and guide the coordination and harmonization of an African Common Position within the global process of the initiative on future of Work;
- vii) Complete the process of establishing the Employment and Social Cohesion Fund with AfDB, ILO and ECA and submit a framework to the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs and Development Planning for consideration;
- viii) Review the implementation of the AUC/AfDB/ILO/ECA Joint Initiative on Youth Employment to be in line with the AU Roadmap on the Demographic Dividend and incorporate the new AfDB Strategy on Youth Employment in Africa.

3. **CALL ON** the remaining seventeen (17) ARI Member States to pay 15% of audited arrears in their contributions to ARI, in 2017 to facilitate the payment of the entitlements of former ARI staff;
4. **ENDORSE** the draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for onward transmission to the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs and adoption by the Assembly of the Union;
5. **WELCOME** the offer of the Republic of Guinea to host the 3rd Session of the STC-SDLE in April 2019.



RESOLUTION ON THE GULF CRISIS

The Assembly,

1. **EXPRESSES** its concern over the crisis between the Gulf countries and calls on all parties to promote dialogue and seek mutually acceptable solutions;
2. **ALSO EXPRESSES** its support for the efforts of the State of Kuwait reflected by the mediation of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Emir of the State of Kuwait, aimed at resolving the crisis;
3. **CALLS ON** the parties to refrain from any actions and/or words which might revive tension or create obstacles to these efforts and initiatives for peace and reconciliation;
4. **EXPRESSES** its ardent hope to see the neighbouring Gulf region remain an area of peace, stability, prosperity and development, for the greater benefit of its peoples and for peace in that part of the world;
5. **REITERATES** its strong condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms, in Africa, the Middle East and in the world, and reaffirms its commitment to extend its full cooperation to all the countries concerned with a view to their elimination;
6. **ALSO REITERATES** its appeal to all countries and international organizations to step up their efforts aimed at cutting off sources of funding for terrorism and work together to combat violent extremism and radicalization.

AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

Organs

Peace and Security Collection

2017-07-04

Decisions, Declarations and Resolution

African Union

DCMP

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/9035>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository