

AFRICAN UNION
الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Tenth Ordinary Session
25 – 26 January 2007
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

EX.CL/Dec.315 – 347 (X)



**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE STATUS OF THE
OAU/AU TREATIES - DOC. EX.CL/296 (X)**

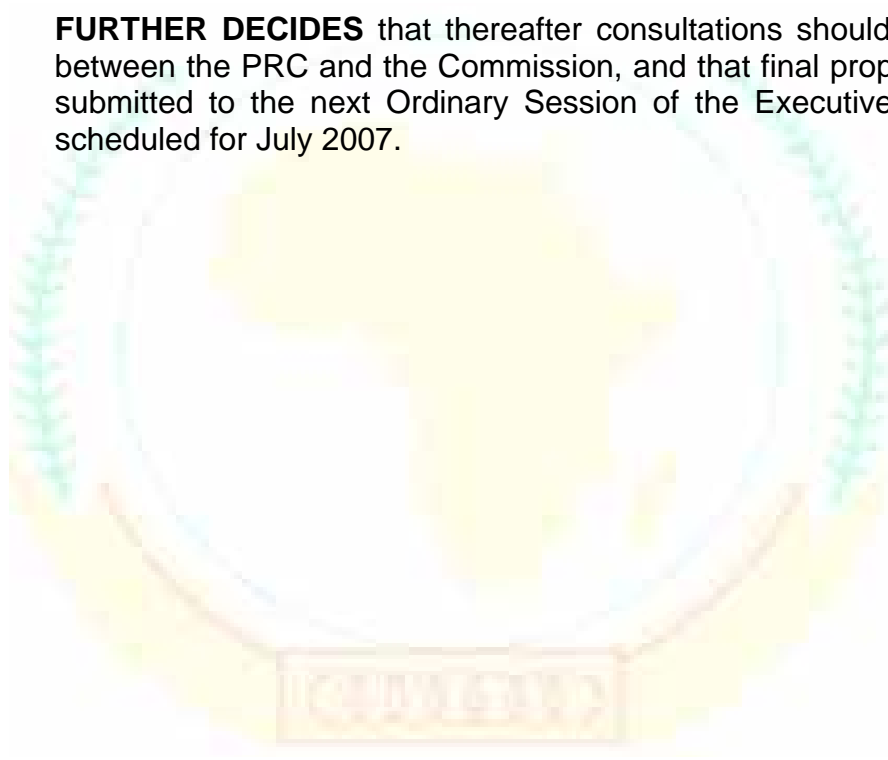
The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Status of OAU/AU Treaties;
2. **COMMENDS** the Chairperson and the Commission as a whole as well as some Member States for the ongoing efforts aimed at encouraging Member States to become States Parties to the OAU/AU Treaties;
3. **APPEALS** to Member States to prioritize and accelerate the signing and ratification/accession to OAU/AU Treaties;
4. **FURTHER APPEALS** to the Pan-African Parliament to assist with advocacy and sensitization of Member States to expedite the process of ratification/accession to OAU/AU Treaties;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to find ways and means of addressing the recurring problem of inconsistency between the various linguistic texts and submit appropriate recommendations thereon;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary steps to implement the previous decisions of the Executive Council on harmonization of ratification procedures and the review of OAU/AU treaties.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEES - DOC. EX.CL/297(X)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Specialized Technical Committees;
2. **REQUESTS** Member States to carry out internal consultations with the relevant sectors within their countries;
3. **FURTHER DECIDES** that thereafter consultations should be held between the PRC and the Commission, and that final proposals be submitted to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for July 2007.



DECISION ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES' COMMITTEE, AND THE STATUTES OF THE COMMISSION - DOC. EX.CL/298 (X)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Union, The Executive Council and the Permanent Representatives' Committee, and the Statutes of the Commission;
2. **ADOPTS** the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Representatives' Committee;
3. **APPROVES** the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Union and the Statutes of the Commission and **RECOMMENDS** them to the Assembly for adoption.



**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON AFRICA'S
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE EMERGING POWERS OF
THE SOUTH – DOC. EX.CL/304 (X)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Task Force on Africa's Strategic Partnership with Emerging Powers of the South;
2. **ENDORSES** the Recommendations of the Task Force;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to deploy necessary efforts to develop a new type of partnership of a horizontal nature in order to maximize mutual benefits;
4. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to undertake in collaboration with the PRC, through its sub-committee on Multilateral Cooperation a review of each of Africa's partnerships with the Emerging Powers of the South every two (2) years;
5. **MANDATES** the Commission to undertake every five years, with the participation of all stakeholders (Member States, the RECs, African Groups in the capitals of Africa's major traditional and emerging partners, the public and private sectors, the civil society, and African universities and research institutes), a global review of all Africa's partnerships;
6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to submit to the Executive Council, every five (5) years, a report on the status of each of Africa's major strategic partnerships;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to earmark resources in its budget, for the review, assessment and follow-up of Africa's strategic partnerships with the Emerging Powers of the South.

**DECISION ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND
DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA – DOC.EX.CL/299 (X)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa;
2. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** over the recurrent problem of forced displacement, in particular the internal displacement of persons, and the alarming deterioration of their living conditions, especially the vulnerable groups;
3. **FURTHER NOTES WITH GRAVE CONCERN** the diminishing availability of resources to over 20 million victims of forced displacement in Africa and the disparity in meeting their assessed needs that places a heavy social and economic burden on the countries affected by the presence of these victims of forced displacement;
4. **REAFFIRMS** that the best solution to the problem of forced displacement is voluntary repatriation and **APPEALS** to countries of origin to create conducive conditions for the return of their nationals in safety and dignity;
5. **NOTES WITH GRATITUDE** the readiness and willingness with which Member States continue to welcome refugees and assist them in spite of their meager resources;
6. **COMMENDS** the efforts and contributions made by the AU Partners, humanitarian agencies, donor countries and other organizations to assist Member States faced with the problem of forced displacement;
7. **RECOGNIZES** the constraints faced by Member States in addressing the critical needs of the victims of forced displacement;
8. **CALLS UPON** the international community to increase its assistance to victims of forced displacement in Africa;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission together with the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees and the AU Partners, in particular the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Committee of the Red Cross, World Food Programme and International Organization for Migration to keep monitoring closely the problem of forced displacement in Africa;
10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees and the Commission to work closely with AU partners in the planning and preparations of the Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons scheduled to take place in 2008.



**DECISION ON THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS
AND GOVERNANCE – DOC.EX.CL/301 (X)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Draft African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
2. **REITERATES** the importance of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance in the consolidation of commitments collectively taken by Member States to promote Democracy and Good Governance on the Continent;
3. **TAKES NOTE** of the clarifications provided by the Legal Counsel of the Commission on the concerns raised by some Member States;
4. **RECOMMENDS** the Charter, which is a major step towards the realization of the democratic agenda of the Union, for adoption by the Assembly.

**DECISION ON THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN UNION MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR HYDROCARBONS (OIL AND GAS)
(DOC.EX.CL 311 (X))**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for hydrocarbons (oil and gas) held in Cairo, Egypt, in December 2006;
2. **WELCOMES** the strategic guidelines and measures defined by the African Ministers responsible for hydrocarbons (oil and gas) to mitigate the effects of high oil and gas prices, maximize oil revenue of producing countries, increase the volume and improve the quality of petroleum products in Africa;
3. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the mechanisms and modalities proposed for the establishment of a Fund within the African Union to alleviate the increase in oil price on poor African countries;
4. **ENDORSES** the Declaration and the Plan of Action of the First Conference of African Union Ministers responsible for hydrocarbons (oil and gas);
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to:
 - foster cooperation and solidarity among Member States to improve the supply of petroleum products, build capacities in the management and monitoring of upstream and downstream activities in the hydrocarbon sector with a view to maximizing the revenues of African oil and gas producing countries;
 - take the necessary measures to finalize studies for the establishment of the African Petroleum Fund and to communicate the documents thereon to Member States;
 - formulate policies and strategies for the development of new, clean and renewable energies, particularly bio-fuels as an alternative to hydrocarbons.

6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (ADB), the African Energy Commission (AFREC), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Member States and development partners to implement the Plan of Action adopted;
7. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Commission to submit an activity report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for July 2007.



**DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMCEN 11 WORK
PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 2007 TO 2008 - DOC.EX.CL/312 (X)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the eleventh regular session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Brazzaville, Congo in May 2006;
2. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the progress made in strengthening the working relations between the Commission and AMCEN towards the adaptation of the mandates, structure and activities of AMCEN with a view to integrating them into the activities of the Commission and its Specialized Technical Committees in accordance with the requirements of the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water of February 2004;
3. **ENDORSES** the Decisions and the Brazzaville Declaration on the Environment adopted by the Conference of Ministers;
4. **SUPPORTS** the proposal to establish an African Environment Facility at the African Development Bank and **CALLS UPON** the African Development Bank to facilitate the establishment of the said Facility;
5. **URGES** all Member States and development partners to contribute to the Fund after its establishment;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as well as other development partners to support AMCEN in the implementation of its programme of work for biennium 2007 to 2008.

**DECISION ON AFRICA-EU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT – DOC. EX.CL/313 (X)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Africa-EU Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development held in Tripoli, Libya in November 2006;
2. **ENDORSES** the Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development;
3. **URGES** Member States to allocate adequate resources for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development;
4. **APPEALS** to the International Community to continue to provide assistance towards the attainment of the objectives contained in the Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development;
5. **REQUESTS** Member States and the Commission to take part in the Global Forum on Migration and Development scheduled from 9 – 11 July, 2007 in Brussels, Belgium as a follow-up to the UN High Level Session on Migration in September 2006;
6. **MANDATES** the Commission to develop an implementation plan of the Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and other partners, to advocate for the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development;
8. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to report on the outcome of the Global Forum on Migration and Development to the January 2008 Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Declaration annually to the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE AFRICA-EU PLAN OF ACTION ON TRAFFICKING IN
HUMAN BEINGS ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN**
DOC. EX.CL/313 (X)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Africa-EU Plan of Action on Trafficking in Human Beings especially Women and Children;
2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that Human Trafficking is a violation of human rights;
3. **ENDORSES** the Africa-EU Plan of Action on Trafficking in Human Beings especially Women and Children;
4. **URGES** Member States to allocate adequate resources for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Africa-EU Plan of Action on Trafficking in Human Beings especially Women and Children;
5. **FURTHER URGES** Member States to strengthen their capacity for the implementation of the Africa-EU Plan of Action on Trafficking in Human Beings especially Women and Children;
6. **APPEALS** to the International Community to continue to provide assistance towards the elimination of Trafficking in Human Beings especially Women and Children;
7. **CALLS UPON** the Chairperson of the Commission, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and other partners, to advocate for the implementation of the Africa-EU Plan of Action on Trafficking in Human Beings especially Women and Children;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and other relevant partners, to assist Member States with the development and implementation of sound migration policies aimed at addressing Trafficking in Human Beings especially Women and Children;

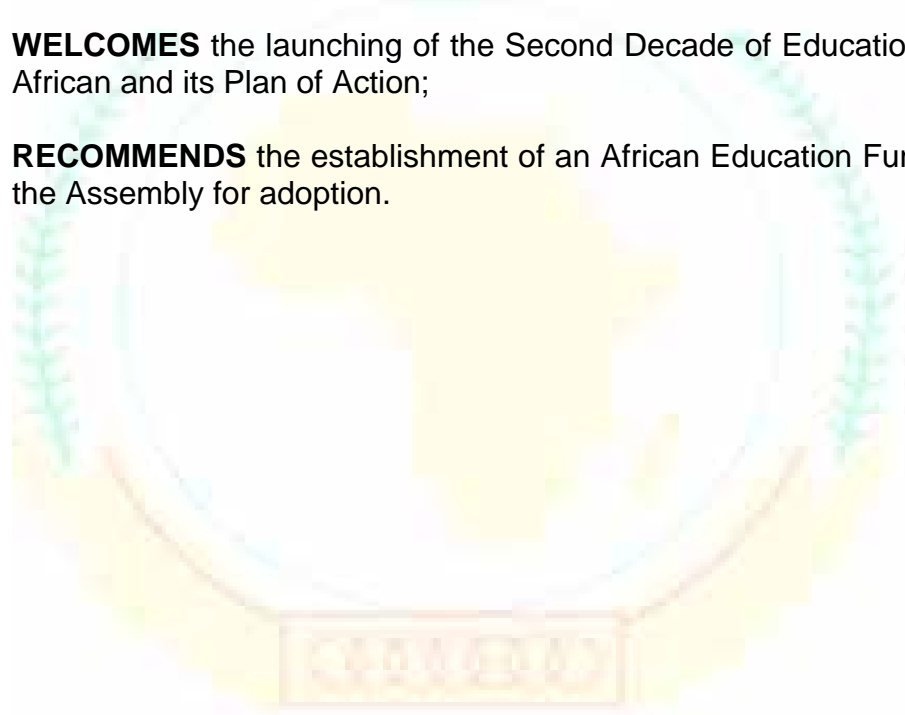
9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Member States and the Chairperson of the Commission to take part in the Global Forum on Migration and Development scheduled for July 9 -11, 2007 in Brussels, Belgium as a follow up to the UN High Level Session on Migration in September 2006;
10. **MANDATES** the Chairperson of the Commission to develop an implementation plan of the Africa-EU Plan of Action on Trafficking in Human Beings especially Women and Children in consultation with the European Union;
11. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to report on the progress on implementation of the Plan of Action annually.



**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION OF THE AFRICAN
UNION DOC.EX.CL/314 (X)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Second Extraordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF II) held in Maputo, Mozambique in September 2006;
2. **WELCOMES** the launching of the Second Decade of Education for African and its Plan of Action;
3. **RECOMMENDS** the establishment of an African Education Fund to the Assembly for adoption.



DECISION ON PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
DOC.EX.CL/321 (X)

The Executive Council:

1. **RECALLS** all relevant resolutions and Decisions adopted by the OAU/AU on the situation in Palestine and the Middle East;
2. **REITERATES** its continued full support to and solidarity with the Palestinian people in their just and legitimate struggle, under the leadership of PLO, their sole and legitimate representative in the exercise of their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, return to their land and recover their properties, and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil, with Al-Quds as its capital, in accordance with the principles of international law, the UN Resolution 194 and other pertinent resolutions of the OAU/AU and all UN Resolutions;
3. **REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT** for the peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in accordance with the principles of international law, all UN Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions, pertinent resolutions of the OAU/AU, the Arab peace initiative, and the Quartet Committee's Road Map, to end the Israel occupation that began in 1967 with the achievement of the vision of two States, Israel and an independent, sovereign and territorially contiguous Palestine, living side by side, in peace and security;
4. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the Israeli repressive measures, inhumane aggressions and all State Terrorism acts perpetrated against defenseless Palestinian civilians, such as the policy of targeted assassinations, ongoing invasions to the majority of the Palestinian territories, as well as the heinous crimes and massacres, especially the latest atrocious assault committed by the Israeli forces on 10 November on Beit Hanoun, which resulted in the death and injury of hundreds of innocent lives and people as well as the latest attack perpetrated by Israeli Forces against Ramallah town on 5 January 2007; and **URGES** the Israeli Government to immediately halt all these indiscriminate measures and retaliatory actions that violate the International Law and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;

5. **AFFIRMS** also the importance of the United Nations to take concrete measures to protect the people of Palestine by providing international protection forces to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and to compel Israel to allow the UN fact-finding missions charged with establishing investigation about war crimes and atrocities perpetrated against Palestinian Peoples to handle its tasks inside the Occupied Territories in perfect means;
6. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the Israeli ongoing construction of the Separation Wall and the expansion of the Colonial Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, around and inside Al-Quds town, especially the recent Israeli decision to build a new Jewish settlement in the West Bank (Jordanian Valley), which constitutes an Israeli brutal breach of its legal obligations under International Law, International Humanitarian Law and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and **URGES** Israel to comply with the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15;
7. **EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN** over the deterioration of living conditions of Palestinian People in the economic, social and health fields, as a result of the continued Israeli occupation of their land, its ongoing policy of deliberate destruction of infrastructure, as well as imposing strict siege and restriction on the movement of goods and persons, and its unilateral measures including expansion of the settlements and the construction of the Separation Wall;
8. **CONDEMNS** the continuous Israeli Policy of imprisonment and detention against Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, especially its ongoing detention of juveniles, women and old men prisoners and kidnapping of Palestinian Ministers and Parliamentary Officials, which constitute a grave violation of the principles of International Law and Human Rights;
9. **FURTHER CONDEMNS** the ruling of the Israeli Supreme Court issued on 13 Dec. 2006 that approves the assassinations and grants the Israeli military forces a green light to continue its extra-judicial killings of Palestinian activists and politicians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and **URGES** the International Community to stand facing this Israeli Judicial Authority and its indiscriminate rulings that are contrary with the principles of the International Humanitarian Law;

10. **CALLS UPON** the International Community and the Members of the Quartet Committee to continue exerting its utmost efforts in the quest for reinvigorating the negotiations and to salvage the peace process, and **EXPRESSES** the AU support for the organization of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East conflict;
11. **INVITES** the Palestinian Parties to redouble their efforts to accelerate the establishment of a National Union Government, symbol of their unity in the face of Israeli occupation;
12. **WELCOMES** the International Conference on Lebanon held in Paris on 25 January 2007 and **URGES** the International Community to pursue efforts aimed at the reconstruction of Lebanon;
13. **URGES** the Government of Israel, to put an end to its occupation to the Syrian Golan Heights and all Arab Territories occupied, in accordance with the UN Security Council relevant resolutions including Resolutions 242 and 338, the Madrid Declaration, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Road Map in order to reach a just, comprehensive and peaceful solution of the Arab Israeli Conflict;
14. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** of the initial efforts deployed by the Committee of 10 Member States on Palestine established by Decision AHG/Dec.182 (XXXVIII), in July 2002; furthermore, **ASKS** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to follow up and submit a report thereon about the efforts of the esteemed committee in this regard to the next session of the executive council of the AU.

**DECISION ON THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE AU CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS OF HEALTH DEDICATED TO ¹SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH IN AFRICA – DOC.EX.CL/316 (X)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Special Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Health on Sexual and Reproductive Health in Africa held in Maputo, Mozambique in September 2006;
2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the efforts of various UN agencies, International Organizations, other development partners, and NGOs in assisting Member States in improving maternal and newborn health;
3. **RECOGNIZES** the role of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) goals;
4. **ENDORSES** the Maputo Plan of Action for the Operationalization of the Continental Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy Framework in Africa;
5. **URGES** Member States to allocate adequate resources for the improvement of maternal and child health in Africa;
6. ²**FURTHER URGES** Member States to implement the Maputo Plan of Action for the Operationalization of the Continental Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy Framework in Africa in conformity with their national laws;
7. **APPEALS** to the International Community to continue to provide necessary assistance towards the attainment of the objectives contained in the Maputo Plan of Action for the Operationalization of the Continental Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy Framework in Africa;

¹ Reservations entered by the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Great Arab Jamahiriya.

² Reservation entered by the Republic of Uganda.

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations Agencies and other development partners, to advocate for the implementation of the Maputo Plan of Action for the Operationalization of the Continental Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy Framework in Africa and report on progress of implementation periodically.



DECISION ON THE PAN-AFRICAN CULTURAL CONGRESS (PACC)
DOC. EX.CL/317 (X)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and the Consensus Statement of the First Pan-African Cultural Congress of the African Union (PACC) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November 2006;
2. **COMMENDS** the Commission for organizing the Congress and for creating an appropriate forum for cultural practitioners, experts, researchers, policy-makers, civil society organizations in the field of culture;
3. **WELCOMES** the theme of the Congress "*Culture, Integration, and African Renaissance*" which captures the general direction the continent and its people should take to meet the demands of the 21st century;
4. **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained in the Consensus of the Congress and in particular the proposal to convene PACC once every three (3) years and to organize a Pan-African Cultural Festival every year, the venue of which should be based on the principle of rotation in the different regions and capitals of Member States of the Union;
5. **REAFFIRMS** its commitment to the promotion of dialogue and exchange of views, ideas, experiences and best practices in the field of African culture;
6. **ALSO REAFFIRMS** its determination towards the protection, promotion, and use of Africa's tangible and intangible cultural heritage since it is the link between the past, the present and the future of Africa;
7. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to follow up with the implementation of this Decision and the convening of PACC as provided in Paragraph 4 above;

8. **ALSO URGES** the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO), the Regional Economic Communities and other partners to provide necessary support to the Commission in its effort to institutionalize PACC and organize the subsequent sessions.



**DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN
UNION FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS – DOC. EX.CL/308 (X)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Declaration of the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in November 2006;
2. **APPRECIATES** progress made in the establishment of the three institutions, namely, the African Central Bank, the African Monetary Fund and the African Investment Bank;
3. **WELCOMES** and **ENDORSES** the decision by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) designating Cameroon as the host country for the African Monetary Fund in line with Decision-Assembly/AU/Dec. 64 (IV) adopted by the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Abuja, Nigeria in January 2005;
4. **DECIDES** that the technical steering committees should spearhead the setting up of these financial institutions in the host countries and that the Commission establishes a secretariat within the Department of Economic Affairs to work with the technical steering committees;
5. **URGES** the technical steering committees to work closely with the African Development Bank, the Association of African Central Banks, Regional Development Banks and Regional Economic Communities to ensure synergies and complementarity;
6. **ALSO URGES** the host countries to provide, in conformity with the “Criteria for Hosting AU Organs”, the necessary infrastructure and financial resources to facilitate the establishment of these financial institutions.

**DECISION ON THE ELABORATION OF AN AFRICAN
STATISTICS CHARTER – Doc. EX.CL/308 (X)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Declaration of the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in November 2006.
2. **WELCOMES** the recommendation made by the Ministers on the elaboration of an African Charter on Statistics that will provide a lasting solution to issues related to the production of statistics on our Continent;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the ECA, the ADB and the RECs as well as Regional and National statistics offices to take all the necessary steps to develop an African Statistics Charter as a regulatory framework for statistics development in the continent;
4. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to submit the draft Charter to the Executive Council in July 2007.

**DECISION ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION
COMMISSION AND THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECS)
DOC. EX.CL/308 (X)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Declaration of the Second Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in November 2006;
2. **REITERATES** that the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are the key pillars in the implementation of the African Union programmes;
3. **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to continue working with the RECs in the spirit of cooperation and the principle of subsidiarity; and to formalize representation at each other's meetings;
4. **DECIDES** that the representatives of the Commission and RECs should participate under the same conditions in meetings convened by either party;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary measures for the signature of the Protocol on the Relations between the Commission, the RECs, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, pursuant to the decision adopted thereto in July 2006 in Banjul, The Gambia.

DECISION ON AFRICA-EUROPE DIALOGUE - DOC. EX.CL/320 (X)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Africa-EU Ministerial Troika meeting held in Brazzaville, Congo, in October 2006;
2. **TAKES INTO ACCOUNT** the centuries of relationship between Africa and Europe, which had not benefited Africa much so far;
3. **EXPRESSES** concern for the slow implementation of the Cairo Declaration and Plan of Action adopted in 2000;
4. **WELCOMES** the efforts aimed at holding the 2nd Africa-Europe Summit by the end of 2007 and **CALLS ON** all parties to work together to ensure the success of this Summit with a view to achieving positive outcomes that would transform the relationship to one that is more beneficial to Africa;
5. **STRESSES** that the Cairo documents remain the reference framework for the Africa-Europe dialogue and the basis on which to build on, including with regard to the priority areas and follow-up mechanisms;
6. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress achieved in preparing a more meaningful result oriented joint Africa-Europe Strategy;
7. **DECIDES** that the African Troika be enlarged to include the 8 "*chef de file*", and any other interested Member State to follow-up on the cooperation mechanisms and preparations for the Summit as well as to finalize the joint Africa-Europe Strategy based on Cairo documents, including other relevant documents, to be presented to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for July 2007.

DECISION ON PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT - DOC. EX.CL/302 (X)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Second African Union Private Sector Forum held in Cairo, Egypt, in November 2006;
2. **REQUESTS** Member States to take into account the recommendations made by the private sector in their economic policy frameworks in order to improve and enhance private sector growth on the Continent and promote **“MADE IN AFRICA”**;
3. **WELCOMES** the Action Plan prepared by the Forum and **REQUESTS** the Commission to finalize it in consultation with the relevant stakeholders;
4. **WELCOMES** the initiative of holding the first EU-Africa Business Forum in Brussels on 16 – 17 November 2006, and the outcome of the Forum;
5. **URGES** the four Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) regions to take note of the recommendation of the first EU-Africa Business Forum to conduct an inventory of the business dialogues on EPA negotiations, which exist at national, sub-regional and regional levels in Africa, in order to improve the information flow to the private sector;
6. **DECIDES** that the Commission should commence early and make adequate preparation for the Second EU-Africa Business Forum to be held in Africa.

**DECISION ON THE AFRICAN UNION SATELLITE BASED GLOBAL
PRIVATE NETWORK PROJECT (VSAT)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Implementation of the African Satellite Based Global Private Network Project for the connectivity of the Commission with its Representational/Regional Offices, the Regional Economic Communities, other Organs of the Union and Member States;
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the benefits the Union would derive from using this technology;
3. **WELCOMES** the assistance of the African Partners in the funding of the Project;
4. **CALLS UPON** Member States hosting these Offices and Organs to exempt the African Union from the annual payment of VSAT Frequency Spectrum Licenses in conformity with national laws;
5. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit a Report on the implementation of the Project to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

DECISION ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF MEMBER STATES

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Contributions of Member States;
2. **APPRECIATES** that the following Member States are up to date with the payment of their contributions to the regular Budget;

Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Equatorial Guinea, Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
3. **WELCOMES** the payment by the Government of the Republic of Congo of a voluntary contribution of United States Dollars Twenty Thousand (US\$20,000);
4. **URGES** Member States who are in arrears of contribution to pay up their arrears;
5. **DECIDES** that temporary and exceptional exemption from sanctions granted to Sierra Leone and Burundi be extended so long as they honour their agreed payment schedules;
6. **DECIDES** to waive all the arrears owed by the Government of Liberia up to the financial year 2003 as requested. **FURTHER MANDATES** the Commission to work out a standard formula that could be applied to Member States emerging from conflict situation today and in the future for consideration of the Executive Council;
7. **AFFIRMS** that the following Member States remain under sanctions:-
 - i) Cape Verde
 - ii) Central African Republic
 - iii) Democratic Republic of Congo
 - iv) Eritrea
 - v) Guinea
 - vi) Guinea Bissau
 - vii) Liberia
 - viii) Mauritania
 - ix) Sao Tome Principe
 - x) Seychelles

8. **DECIDES** that the Commission, the Tunisian Embassy in Addis Ababa and the PRC Sub-Committee on contributions should undertake consultations on the issue of the contributions of Tunisia to the regular budget of the African Union for the 2004 – 2005 financial years.



**DECISION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL
EXPERTS ON EARLY WARNING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION**
DOC.EX.CL/300 (X)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the outcome of the meeting of Governmental Experts on Early Warning and Conflict Prevention, held in Kempton Park, South Africa, from 17 to 19 December 2006, and the Framework for the Operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System;
2. **ENDORSES** the Framework for the Operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System and the timeframe for its implementation, as adopted by the meeting of Governmental Experts and recommended by the PRC;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take all the necessary steps for the timely and full implementation of the Framework for the Operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System, including the mobilization of the financial and technical resources required from both AU Member States and partners, the speedy recruitment of the human resources needed and other relevant steps;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to report on the progress made in the implementation of the Framework for the Operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System every six months.

DECISION ON FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS IN AFRICA

The Executive Council:

1. **RECALLS** the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.211 (VII) on the Ministerial Meeting on Free Movement of Persons in Africa that was adopted in Sirte, Libya in July 2005;
2. **EXPRESSES** concern over the slow pace of implementation of the above mentioned decision;
3. **URGES** Member States to facilitate free movement of persons within the African Union;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to accelerate the implementation of Decision EX.CL/Dec.211 (VII) on Free Movement of Persons;
5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary measures, in collaboration with Member States, to launch the African Union Diplomatic Passport as early as possible.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE INTERIM ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COUNCIL (ECOSOCC)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Transitional Provisions of the ECOSOCC Statute;
2. **DECIDES** to extend the mandate of the Interim ECOSOCC until 31 December 2007;
3. **REQUESTS** the ECOSOCC Standing Committee to take the necessary measures to ensure that the process of elections into the post-interim Assembly is completed by this date;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to take appropriate measures to support this process, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the African Union and to submit a report to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.



**DECISION ON THE HIGH-LEVEL AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON
THE CONTRIBUTION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY TO PEACE AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the briefing of the Head of the Algerian Delegation on the outcome of the High-level African Regional Conference on the Contribution of Nuclear Energy to Peace and Sustainable Development held in Algeria in January 2007;
2. **RECOGNIZES** the contribution that nuclear energy can bring to the consolidation of peace and sustainable development in Africa and the necessity to devote more effort in the area of the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technologies to accelerate the socio-economic development of Africa;
3. **REAFFIRMS** the necessity to explore all the options available to Africa, including those in the electronuclear field for its development and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;
4. **REITERATES** the necessity for a balanced and non-selective implementation of the provisions of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty;
5. **COMMENDS** the outcomes of the High-level African Regional Conference on the Contribution of Nuclear Energy to Peace and Sustainable Development held in Algiers on 9 and 10 January 2007;
6. **THANKS** the Algerian government for having successfully organized this Conference with a view to promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technologies in Africa;
7. **UNDERScores** the importance for African countries to promote the acquisition of scientific know-how and the necessary infrastructure for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, especially in the field of human and animal health, agriculture, water resources, and the production of electricity;
8. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION**, of the Algiers Declaration and its Plan of Action which underscores the need for Africa to fully benefit from the advantages of the peaceful use of nuclear energy for its economic and social development which reiterates Africa's position on the question of disarmament.

**DECISION OF THE TENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE BUDGET FOR 2007**

The Executive Council:

1. **APPROVES** the Budget of the African Union for the year 2007 amounting to US\$124,068,943 million:
 - A total amount of US\$ 87,791,943 million assessed to Member States on the basis of the approved Scale of Assessment;
 - US\$ 36,277,000 million earmarked for the programmes is secured from International Partners.
2. **WELCOMES** the decision of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) to abide by the Financial Rules and Regulations of the African Union to avail its financial statements to be audited by the Board of External Auditors appointed by the Executive Council;
3. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** PAP to establish and strengthen an Internal Audit Department that will perform the internal audit functions without prejudice to the statutory role of the External Auditors of the Commission of the African Union;
4. **AUTHORIZES** PAP to provisionally utilize one-twelfth of its budget for the previous year until accounts are audited;
5. **DIRECTS** the PRC to expeditiously consider the proposed structures of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights so that a realistic budget for the Court is presented for consideration by the Executive Council. In the meantime, **APPROVES** the Courts' appropriations and increment for previous year;
6. **APPRECIATES** the efforts of the Commission in mobilizing resources from International Partners.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF THE COMMISSION - DOC. EX.CL/328 (X)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson on the Strengthening of the Commission;
2. **AGREES** to refer the above-mentioned Report to Member States for further consideration in order to facilitate consultations with stakeholders since some of the issues contained in the Report are of such gravity as to require further consultations;
3. **DECIDES** that consultations be carried out among Member States with a view to recommending the convening of an Extraordinary Session of Council;
4. **WELCOMES** the offer of the Republic of South Africa to host a retreat of Foreign Ministers to reflect on the state of the Union to be followed by such an extraordinary session of the Executive Council;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary measures to facilitate this process and to submit a report to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2007.

**DECISION ON IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONDITIONS OF SERVICE
OF THE STAFF OF THE COMMISSION AND OTHER ORGANS**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Chairperson of the Commission on improvement of staff conditions of service;
2. **AGREES** that there is urgent need to review the terms and working conditions of the staff of the Commission;
3. **REQUESTS** the PRC, in collaboration with the Commission, to examine the reports on harmonization of the remuneration policy, the introduction of a reliable performance appraisal system, and on the review of the Social Security Scheme, and to submit pertinent recommendations to it at its next ordinary session in July 2007;
4. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to conduct a study on the remunerations and the conditions of service of elected officials of the Commission, the executives of other organs of the Union and special categories of staff such as Special Envoys and Special Representatives and to submit a report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2007;
5. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Commission to pursue the study on the Medical Assistance Scheme and to submit a relevant report at its July 2007 session.

**DECISION ON THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA, (BAMAKO,
6-8 December 2006) - DOC. EX.CL/327 (X) Add. 2**

The Executive Council:

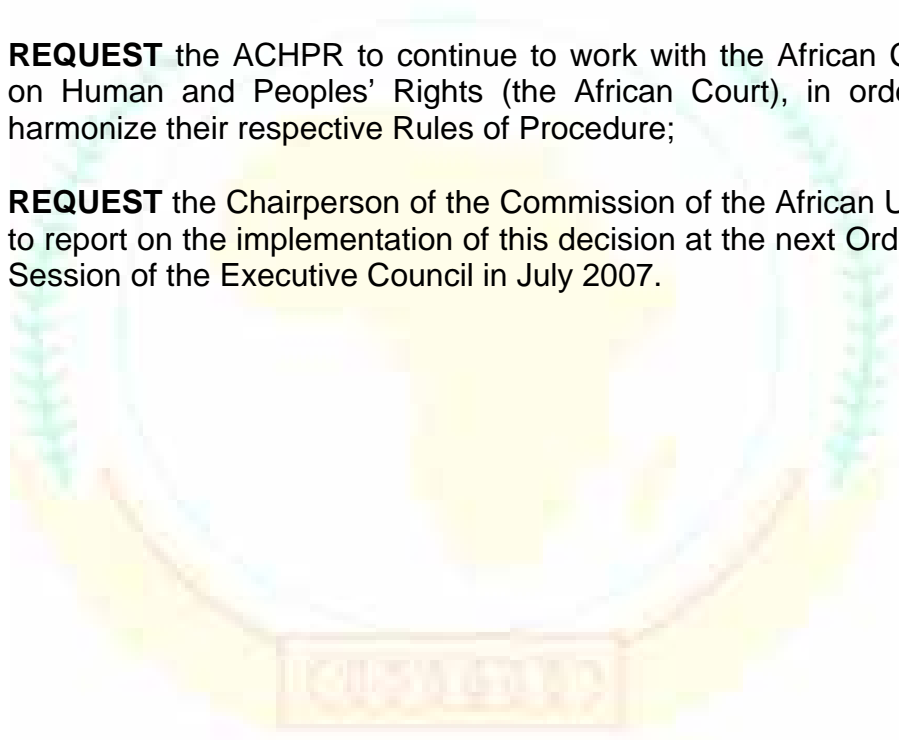
1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Fourth International Conference on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI);
2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the successful organization of the Fourth International Conference on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, held in Bamako, Mali, from 6 to 8 December 2006;
3. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** at the evolving situation of highly pathogenic Avian Influenza and the persistent threat of the pandemic in humans both in the region and worldwide;
4. **RECOGNIZES** the extreme urgency in strengthening healthcare and veterinary services delivery systems in the Continent with the view to building capacities, preventing the disease and tackling future epidemics;
5. **EXPRESSES STRONG SUPPORT** for the Bamako Declaration on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and **URGENTLY APPEALS** to Member States to effectively implement all commitments made under this Declaration;
6. **APPLAUDS** the conclusive results of the Donors' Round Table held in Bamako on 8 December 2006 and **APPEALS** to the International Community to provide the countries of the region with the necessary technical, material and financial support in a coordinated and harmonized manner;
7. **REQUESTS** the African Union Commission, in close collaboration with existing technical networks established by the UN, WHO, FAO, OIE and other concerned organizations and groups, to constantly evaluate the results and the level of the Continent's preparedness for Avian Influenza, periodically review and, if need be, update the Plans of Action, and upgrade the Global Strategy to combat HPAI as well as the preparedness plans against the human pandemic;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a report on the issue at the next session of Council in June 2007.

**DECISION ON THE 21ST ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION
ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS – DOC. EX.CL/322 (X)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the 21st Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;
2. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly to:
 - i) **ADOPT** and authorize, in accordance with Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter), the publication of the 21st Activity Report of the African Union Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Union Commission or the ACHPR) and its annexures;
 - ii) **CONGRATULATE** the ACHPR for the good work it is doing in the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights on the continent in spite the difficult conditions under which it is operating;
 - iii) **REITERATE** its request to the Commission of the African Union to allocate adequate resources from its regular budget to the ACHPR as provided for in Article 41 of the African Charter to enable the ACHPR effectively and independently discharge its mandate under the Charter;
 - iv) **AUTHORIZE** the ACHPR to, beginning the 2008 financial year, present and defend before the Permanent Representative Committee (PRC) its annual budget independently from the budget of the Political Affairs Department;
 - v) **CALL ON** the Commission of the African Union in collaboration with the ACHPR to propose a new Structure for the latter to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council taking into consideration the broad mandate of the ACHPR;
 - vi) **REQUEST** the Commission of the African Union in collaboration with other African human rights institutions charged with human rights protection (the ACHPR, Committee on the Rights of the Child, African court on Human and Peoples' Rights) to put in place the necessary modalities and structures for the effective operationalization of the Voluntary Contributions Fund for African Human Rights institutions provided for in the Kigali Declaration of 8 May 2003 and report to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2007;

- vii) **URGE** Member States that have not done so, to present their State Reports to the ACHPR in accordance with Article 62 of the Charter;
- viii) **CALL ON** Member States to which the ACHPR has made recommendations on the protection of human rights in their countries to work with the ACHPR and other relevant national and organs of the African Union to ensure the effective implementation of these recommendations;
- ix) **REQUEST** the ACHPR to continue to work with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Court), in order to harmonize their respective Rules of Procedure;
- x) **REQUEST** the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union to report on the implementation of this decision at the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2007.



DECISION ON CANDIDATURES WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures;
2. **ENDORSES** the following candidatures:
 - a) Mr. Emmanuel Ze Meka, from Cameroon, currently Deputy Director in charge of Reforestation and Forest Regeneration at the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), for the post of Executive Director of ITTO, during elections scheduled for November 2007;
 - b) Republic of Namibia for one of the 13 seats in Part III of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for the period 2007-2009, at elections to take place during the ICAO Assembly in October 2007, in Montreal, Canada;
 - c) Burkina Faso, for a non-permanent seat of the United Nations Security Council for the period 2008-2009, during elections to be held at the 62nd Ordinary Session of the United Nations General Assembly;
 - d) Arab Republic of Egypt for membership of the United Nations Human Rights Council during elections that will be held in 2007;
 - e) Ambassador Moushira Khattab, from Egypt, for re-election as member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, during the elections that will be held in February 2007 at New York;
 - f) Professor Hatem Kotrane, from Tunisia, for re-election to a second term as member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, during elections that will be held at New York in February 2007, at the 11th Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
 - g) Mr. Kamel Filali, from Algeria, for re-election to the post of expert on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child;
 - h) Ms Ojobo Atuluku, from Nigeria, as member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child;
 - i) Ms Marie Gisele Zinkpe, from Benin, as member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child;

- j) Ms Mariama Aribot, from Guinea, as member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child;
 - k) Ms Agnes Akosua Aldoo, from Ghana, as member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child;
 - l) Ms Sylvie Kayitesi, from Rwanda, as member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child;
 - m) Ms Nakpa Polo, from Togo, as member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child;
 - n) Ms Harisima Razafindrakoto, from Madagascar, as member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child;
 - o) Ms Itumeleng Kimane, from Lesotho, as member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child;
 - p) Mr Robert Vincent Makaramba, from Tanzania, as member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child;
 - q) Republic of Congo, representing the Central African Region for the post of Chairperson of the 96th International Labour Conference to be held at Geneva in May – June 2007.
3. **RECALLS** the applicable provision of Article 14(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee which states that "Decisions of the Executive Council on the recommendations of the Committee on a particular candidature shall be binding on all Member States";
4. **DECIDES** that the candidatures be considered when elections are organized between ordinary sessions of the Council on the margins of which the Committee is meeting and the following session.

**DECISION ON THE MODALITIES FOR THE ELECTIONS OF THE
MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ministerial Panel on the Elections of the Members of the Commission;
2. **ADOPTS** the following time table in preparation of the elections scheduled for July 2007:
 - a) **Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson:** in conformity with Article 16(1) of the Statutes of the Commission, nominations for these office shall be circulated to Member States at least three months before election to facilitate election by the Assembly in July 2007. Therefore, the candidatures for the two posts should be submitted to the Commission on or before the **30 March 2007**.
 - b) **Commissioners:**
 - (i) Member States should be requested to submit to the Commission CVs of experts by **15 March 2007**. The Commission shall compile such submissions together with any additional CVs it may identify from its data banks to the Ministerial Panel for appointment of the team of independent consultants (2 per region);
 - (ii) The regional consultations should be finalized and the regions should submit their candidatures **on or before 15 April 2007**;
 - (iii) The Ministerial Panel will meet before **10 April 2007** at a venue to be determined by its Chairperson to appoint the Team of Consultants (2 per region);
 - (iv) The Panel assisted by the team of consultants should meet before the first week of May 2007;
 - (v) The Commission should circulate the list of the candidatures received from the Panel to all Member States **on or before 15 May 2007** in readiness for elections of Commissioners to be undertaken by the Executive Council **in July 2007**.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY – DOC. EX.CL/315 (X)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Science and Technology;
2. **WELCOMES AND SUPPORTS** the Declaration of 2007 as the launching year of building constituencies and champions for science, technology and innovation in Africa;
3. **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the call for Member States to promote Africa's Research and Development (R&D) and develop innovation strategies for wealth creation and economic development by allocating at least 1% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of national economies by 2010 as agreed by Khartoum Decision (EX.CL/Dec.254 (VIII));
4. **ALSO SUPPORTS** the establishment of a Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO);
5. **ENDORSES** the need for South-South and North-South cooperation in science, technology and innovation, and to enhance its role in international partnerships;
6. **ALSO ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Science and Technology.

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