

AFRICAN UNION

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UMOJA WA AFRIKA



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

UNIÓN AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 5517 700

Fax: 5517844

Website: www.au.int

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DRAFT
DECISIONS, DECLARATIONS, RESOLUTION
AND MOTION

DRAFT
DECISION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL REFORM OF THE AFRICAN UNION BY H.E.
PAUL KAGAME, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

The Assembly,

1. .

DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE EVALUATION OF THE FIRST TEN YEAR PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2063, ADOPTION AND LAUNCH OF THE SECOND TEN YEAR PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2063 BY H.E. ALASSANE OUATTARA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE- Doc. Assembly/AU/3(XXXVII)

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** the Executive Council Decision ***EX.CL/Dec.1164(XL)*** directing the Commission and AUDA-NEPAD to lead the process of the Evaluation of Agenda First Ten-Year Implementation Plan and the development of Agenda 2063 Second Ten Year Implementation Plan;
2. **ADOPTS** the report of the Agenda 2063 Champion on the Special Project and the **ANNOUNCE** the launch of the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan on Agenda 2063;
3. **EXPRESSES** its appreciation to the Ministerial Follow-Up Committee on the Implementation of Agenda 2063, the Ambassadorial Committee on Agenda 2063 and the Agenda 2063 Champion H.E Alassane OUATTARA President of the Republique of Cote d'Ivoire and his team for their continued guidance and commitment to Agenda 2063 Implementation to achieve the Africa we want;
4. **ALSO EXPRESSES** its appreciation to the Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency, AUDA-NEPAD, African Development Bank, the African Capacity Building Foundation, the African Peer Review Mechanism, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Development Agency and the Joint Support Secretariat Organization for their continued collaboration and the excellent work accomplished in executing the Special Project;
5. **RETEIRATES** the Executive Council Decisions ***EX.CL/Dec.807(XXIV)*** and ***EX.CL/Dec.998(XXXII)Rev1*** which highlights the structure and mandate of the Ministerial and Ambassadorial Committees and **ACKNOWLEDGES** the importance to continue as such for efficiency purposes;
6. **REQUESTS** Member States and RECs to accelerate the Domestication of the STYIP of Agenda 2063 and aligning it into their National and Regional Development Plans;
7. **UNERSCORES** the need for Member States and Partners to avail necessary funds in a timely manner to enable the AU to carry out its programmes in a predictable and sustainable manner;

8. **RECOMMENDS** that an Extraordinary Summit to be organized at the level of Heads of States and Governments in Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire for a deeper engagement of the African Leaders, increased ownership, enhanced awareness and visibility of the Agenda 2063 STYIP.

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND THE STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA.**

The Assembly,

- 1. ENDORSES** the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa and **COMMENDS** the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for its continued efforts in addressing peace and security challenges facing the Continent; **ENCOURAGES** all Member States and partners to continue to respect and support the implementation of the decisions of the PSC, as well as to participate in the commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the PSC in May 2024 for reflection on the state of peace and security on the continent;
- 2. COMMENDS** the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the leadership of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and the people of Ethiopia for working toward sustainable peace and promoting national dialogue and reconciliation; **URGES** the parties to speed up and ensure the full implementation of the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) including the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) program; and **WELCOMES** the disbursement of 1 million USD from the Crisis Reserve Fund (CRF) of the AU Peace Fund to support the DDR programme within the COHA for the Tigray region; **URGES** the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the United Nations (UN), the African Development (AfDB) and other AU partners, to continue their support towards the implementation of the COHA; **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the High-Level Panel on Ethiopia and the Commission for their continued support of the implementation of the Ethiopian peace process; **COMMENDS** the AU Monitoring, Verification, and Compliance Mission (MVCM) in Tigray for monitoring the parties' compliance with the implementation of the Peace Agreement; and **APPEALS** to the international partners to continue to support Ethiopia's efforts towards effective recovery and reconstruction in Tigray and the neighbouring regions;
- 3. REAFFIRMS** the continued readiness of the AU to support the Government and People of Ethiopia in their quest for lasting peace in the country;
- 4. COMMENDS** the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) under the leadership of H.E. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud for progress being made, as well as the AU Transition mission in Somalia (ATMIS) and the Troop and Police Contributing countries (T/PCCs) for the sacrifices made in supporting the FGS in the fight against Al Shabaab; **APPEALS** to Member States and the international community, in particular, bilateral partners, to increase their support to the FGS efforts at this critical stage, including in enhancing force generation, to degrade and ultimately defeat Al-Shabaab, as well as towards, social cohesion and extension of stabilisation initiatives, including in newly liberated areas; **COMMENDS** the UN, the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom and the United States of America and other partners for their continued financial and logistical support to ATMIS; **ACKNOWLEDGES** and **COMMENDS** progress with the

transition of security responsibilities from ATMIS to the Somali Security Forces and **DIRECTS** the Commission, in consultation with FGS, the T/PCCs, the UN and other partners, reach a consensus on the transfer of security responsibility from ATMIS to the FGS, including the Phase 3 drawdown scheduled for June 2024, and final ATMIS exit by December 2024, and **CALLS ON** the Commission and the FGS to take appropriate measures to preserve the gains and sacrifices made over the past 17 years of AU's engagement in Somalia; and **WELCOMES** the disbursement of USD3.5 million from the Crisis Reserve Facility (CRF) of the AU Peace Fund and USD19,068,914 from AU Member States contributions to bridge the 25,895,129 USD funding gap in ATMIS operations;

5. EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN over the ongoing tension between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Federal Republic of Somalia, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and the northern region of Somalia (Somaliland) on 1 January 2024 and its impact on peace, security and stability of the region; **REAFFIRMS** its strong commitment and support for preserving the unity, territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of all Member States, including those of the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; and therefore, **CALLS ON** the two countries to de-escalate and engage in meaningful dialogue towards finding a peaceful resolution of the matter;

6. COMMENDS H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit and First Vice President Dr. Riek Machar Teny, and the South Sudanese political leaders, for their continued commitments towards the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS); **CONGRATULATES** President Salva Kiir for appointing the leadership of the National Elections Commission, the National Constitutional Review Commission, and Political Parties Council, which pave the way for the commencement of the constitutional and electoral processes; and **RENEWS ITS CALL** to the Reconstituted Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) to expedite the implementation of the outstanding aspects of the R-ARCSS, particularly, the constitution-making and electoral processes and **URGES** for immediate high-level political discussion by all the signatories to address all outstanding issues; **CALLS ON** the RTGoNU to immediately deploy the trained Necessary Unified Forces (NUF), and to commence the training of the second batch to ensure security and protection of civilians in the country, and undertake effective DDR and SSR programme; **REITERATES THE CALLS** for the lifting of punitive measures imposed against South Sudan, particularly economic sanctions and the arms embargo, in order to create a facilitating environment for the RTGoNU to fully implement the outstanding transition tasks, including enabling the Government to equip the NUF to undertake effective national security tasks; **ENCOURAGES** the RTGoNU to mainstream the active participation of women and youth to enhance inclusive decision-making processes; **APPEALS** to Member States to provide technical and financial support for the electoral process to conclude the democratic transition; **APPEALS** to the international community to provide humanitarian support to populations in dire need of assistance, which has been exacerbated by the influx of returnees and refugees from Sudan;

7. CONDEMNS IN THE STRONGEST TERMS the continued and unjustified fighting in Sudan that has resulted to loss of lives and destruction of property, including critical public infrastructure; **REITERATES** that there is no military solution to the crisis and that the parties must immediately and unconditionally cease hostilities to facilitate the much needed humanitarian supplies to the millions of Sudanese trapped in the conflict and commence political dialogue; **REQUESTS** the AU Commission, working closely with the IGAD Secretariat, to expedite the launch of a fully inclusive Sudanese Political Dialogue; **REAFFIRMS THE NEED** for a single coordinated international effort to resolve the crisis in Sudan, under the auspices of the AU together with IGAD, with the support of the UN, League of Arab States and key international partners, and based on the AU Roadmap for the Resolution of the Sudan Crisis; **COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the Commission for appointing Members of the High-Level Ad Hoc Panel on Sudan, namely, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns (Chairperson); Dr. Speciosa Wandira-Kazibwe, Former Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda (Member); and Ambassador Francisco Madeira, Former Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission to Somalia and Head of AU Mission in Somalia (Member); **ENCOURAGES** the Panel to work with all Sudanese stakeholders, including women and the youth, in order to ensure an inclusive process towards the restoration of peace and stability, as well as the establishment of a civilian-led political transition; and **APPEALS** to the Sudanese stakeholders, neighbouring countries and the international community to cooperate with the Panel; **STRESSES THE NEED** for external actors including neighboring countries, to cease and refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Sudan in order not to exacerbate the conflict; **EXPRESSES CONCERN** over the humanitarian situation in Darfur, Kordofan and Khartoum, as well as in the Abyei Administrative Area, and the spread of conflicts to parts of the country; **CALLS UPON** all parties to ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access throughout Sudan;

8. TAKES NOTE of the establishment of the Transition Roadmap and the Independent National Electoral Commission in Burkina Faso; **URGES** the Transitional Authorities to expedite the implementation of the Transition Roadmap towards the restoration of constitutional democratic order, as per the decisions of the AU PSC and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); **REQUESTS** the AU Commission, through the existing financial mechanisms, including the Crisis Reserve Facility, to continue providing the required technical and financial support for the transition; **UNDERScores THE NEED** for an inclusive transitional process to ensure national ownership; in this respect, **URGES** the Transitional Authorities to lift the ban on the activities of political parties and other key stakeholders, in order to foster an inclusive, participatory and credible political transition process; **CALLS** on the Commission to operationalize the Joint Transition Monitoring Mechanism, in line with the decisions of the AU PSC, towards the effective implementation of the Transition Roadmap; **ALSO REQUESTS** Member States and international partners to support the transitional process, as well as the efforts of the Transitional Authorities aimed at combating terrorism, violent extremism and addressing humanitarian challenges;

9. **NOTES** the establishment of the Independent Election Management organ and the constitution review process within the framework of the implementation of the Transition Roadmap in Mali; **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN OVER** the postponement of the elections, initially scheduled for February 2024; and **CALLS ON** the Transitional Authorities to conduct elections within an acceptable timeframe; **EXPRESSES CONCERN** on the dissolution of the 2015 Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation resulting from the Algiers Process; **ENCOURAGES** the Transitional Authorities to take actions to avert further deterioration of the security and humanitarian situations; and **CALLS ON** the Transitional Authorities to expedite the implementation of the AU PSC and ECOWAS decisions and ensure a timely return to constitutional order;

10. **WELCOMES** the outcome of the 64th Ordinary Summit of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government held on 10 December 2023, under the leadership of H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in his capacity as the Chair of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government; **TAKES NOTE** of the Communique and **URGES** the Transition Authorities in Niger, to collaborate with ECOWAS and AU on the establishment of a credible and inclusive transition Roadmap, towards a speedy return to constitutional order, and to unconditionally release President Mohamed Bazoum and other detainees; **EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER** the humanitarian situation and **URGES** the Transitional Authorities to cooperate with ECOWAS and to ensure sustained humanitarian access into the country;

11. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** over the establishment of the Alliance of Sahelian States (AES) and **STRONGLY URGES** the Transitional Authorities in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, to reconsider their decision in the spirit of fostering African integration; **NOTES WITH GRAVE CONCERN** the Joint Communique of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger withdrawing from ECOWAS, **CALLS ON** the Authorities to engage in dialogue with ECOWAS, to foster Africa's integration agenda consistent with AU Agenda 2063;

12. **EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER** the stalled transition timetable and the shrinking political and civic space in Guinea; **STRONGLY URGES** the Transitional Authorities to ensure implementation of the transition calendar towards an expeditious return to constitutional order; **REITERATES THE CALL** for the Commission to operationalize the Monitoring Mechanism of the Transition in Guinea (MMTG), in accordance with Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM.1030(2021)] of 10 September 2021; and **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to engage with the Transitional Authorities, on the implementation of the Transition Roadmap;

13. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** over the attempted coup d'état in Sierra Leone and the security breaches in Guinea Bissau; and **REITERATES** AU's zero tolerance on unconstitutional changes of government; and **REAFFIRMS** AU's commitment to the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the two countries;

14. EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN OVER the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** continued attacks against civilians by the M23, other armed groups and negative forces operating in the eastern DRC; **REITERATES ITS CALL** for M23, FDLR and other armed groups to unconditionally cease hostilities, disarm and engage in dialogue through the Luanda and Nairobi processes; **WELCOMES** the efforts on the revitalization of the Peace and Security Cooperation Framework (PSCF) for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes of February 2013, as well as the institutionalization of the Quadripartite Platform on coordination and harmonization of peace initiatives in the eastern DRC with the Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms, namely, the East Africa Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the DRC and Rwanda, with the participation of the UN; **CALLS** for the reinvigoration of the Luanda and the Nairobi Processes under the leadership of President João Lourenço of the Republic of Angola and former President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya, respectively, in order to consolidate the progress made so far **COMMENDS** the EAC Regional Forces (RF) for its contribution to peacemaking efforts in eastern DRC and **WELCOMES** the financial support from the Crisis Reserve Facility of the AU Peace Fund to EACRF; **COMMENDS** SADC Forces for the deployment of the SADC Mission in the DRC on 15 December 2023 and **CALLS ON** the international community to provide support to the SADC deployment; **ALSO COMMENDS** the Congolese people for their collective efforts in ensuring largely peaceful and credible elections; **CALLS ON** Member States and the international community to continue supporting the humanitarian response in the eastern DRC, and **UNDERScores THE NEED** for the Great Lakes Region countries to strengthen their commitments towards peaceful resolution of conflict through the PSCF;

15. COMMENDS the efforts of the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) towards the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR (PAPR-CAR); **ENCOURAGES** the Authorities to take the necessary steps towards the successful implementation of the Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation (DDRR) process, and **CALLS ON** the non-signatory armed groups to join PAPR-CAR and for the Government to continue its efforts to bring these movements into the peace process; **URGES** the Government to ensure the conduct of the local elections in an inclusive, transparent, free and fair manner that responds to the aspirations of the people of CAR; and **ENCOURAGES** neighbouring countries of the CAR, relevant RECs/RMs, international partners and other stakeholders to redouble their efforts towards the effective implementation of the commitments contained in the Yaoundé Declaration of 27 April 2022 on the question of forced human displacement caused by the crisis in CAR and **REQUESTS** the UN Security Council to fully lift the arms embargo to allow the country to respond to its security challenges appropriately; **PAYS TRIBUTE** to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central Africa Republic

(MINUSCA) for continued efforts towards the protection of civilians and sustainment of peace in the CAR;

16. STRONGLY CONDEMNS the military coup d'état in Gabon of 30 August 2023; **CALLS** for a swift return to constitutional order; **TAKES NOTE** of the adoption of the Transitional Charter; and; **STRESSES THE NEED** for the Transitional Authorities to ensure conducive conditions for the inclusive national dialogue; and **REQUESTS** the AU Commission in collaboration the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to support a speedy return of constitutional order;

17. COMMENDS the Government of Mozambique in its efforts towards addressing the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism in Cabo Delgado and other affected areas; and **COMMENDS** the SADC for the deployment of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) and the AU Commission for its financial, technical and logistical support to the Mission; and **CALLS** for enhanced coordination and cooperation aimed at combating terrorism and violent extremism in the region;

18. COMMENDS the significant political progress in Libya towards presidential and parliamentary elections; **EMPHASIZES** the need to unify the country through an inclusive national reconciliation process to foster social and political cohesion; and **ENCOURAGES** the Presidential Council to establish, as soon as possible, the National Commission for Reconciliation; **COMMENDS** H.E President Denis Sassou Nguesso, Chair of the AU High-Level Committee for Libya, for his relentless efforts and for convening the Summit of the High-Level Committee on Libya on 5 February 2024, which adopted the Brazzaville Call for the Acceleration of the Peace and Reconciliation Process in Libya; and **LOOKS FORWARD** to the convening of the National Reconciliation Conference, on 28 April 2024, in Sirte, Libya, as an imperative to foster national unity, social cohesion and stability in Libya;

19. TAKES NOTE of the development dimension of migration and **ACKNOWLEDGES** the efforts and measures taken by the Tunisian Government to protect the rights of African migrants; **EMPHASIZES** the call made through the Common African Position on Migration to tackle the root causes of irregular migration, including the pull and push factors, both at continental and international levels; **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to undertake a comprehensive study on the issue of illegal migration and its effects on peace and security in the continent and to present the outcome of the study to the PSC; **URGES** all AU Member States to steadfastly uphold their international law and human rights obligations, while respecting the African values which prioritizes African solidarity;

20. URGES Member States that have ratified the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) to submit their reports for review by the African Governance Platform (AGP); **WELCOMES** the AU Strategic Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human and Peoples Rights, and **ENCOURAGES** the Commission and other AU Organs to work with the RECs/RMs and Member States to

ensure its implementation towards Africa's good governance, democracy and human rights;

21. CONGRATULATES Member States that successfully conducted elections during the reporting period, **ENCOURAGES** Member States to implement the African Charter on Democracy, Election and Governance in order to prevent election-related crises and **ALSO ENCOURAGES** those who are yet to sign and ratify the Charter to do so; **COMMENDS** the Commission for its support provided to Member States during elections, including deployment of preventive diplomacy missions and **URGES** to Member States to extend their support to the AU Commission;

22. URGES Member States to redouble efforts in developing comprehensive strategies to address the underlying root causes of unconstitutional changes of government; and **DIRECTS** the AU Commission to fast track the conclusion of a comprehensive and objective study on structural root causes/drivers and impact of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa;

23. CALLS on Member States to support and empower local organizations actively engaged in promoting human rights, particularly social and economic rights, fostering sustainable social development; **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to continue to provide support for transitional justice programs, with a focus on promoting reconciliation, healing and social cohesion, and to conduct, in close collaboration with RECs/RMs, a comprehensive review of judicial independence, civic spaces, and existing frameworks, with a specific action plan to address constitutional infringements and enhance legal safeguards;

24. ENCOURAGES Member States, that have not yet done so, to ratify the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration and the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development;

25. EXPRESSES CONCERN over the continued proliferation of Small Arms Light Weapons (SALW) in the Continent and **DIRECTS** the AU Commission, in close collaboration with Member States, RECs/RMs, to provide technical support to Member States in curbing proliferation of illicit SALW; **REQUESTS** the AU Commission, Member States and partners to support the efforts of AU Member States facing the challenge of landmines to enable them meet their landmine clearance obligations; and **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission and the international community to support Member States in developing local expertise towards the development of a comprehensive strategy for arms control frameworks, landmine clearance, and DDR programs; **DIRECTS** the Commission to strengthen its support to Member States in utilizing Security Sector Reform as a crucial tool for conflict prevention, including by incorporating security sector governance indicators into continental and regional conflict early warning systems;

- 26. ENDORSES** the revised Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy; **REQUESTS** the Commission to work with the RECs/RMs to implement measures for their effective implementation, and **CONGRATULATES** H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and AU Champion for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, for his continued commitment and leadership;
- 27. COMMENDS** Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) for their unwavering support to the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF); **ACKNOWLEDGES** the significant progress by MNJTF in degrading Boko Haram and other terrorist groups in the Lake Chad Basin; and **CALLS ON** AU Commission, the UN and partner to support the ongoing DDR efforts, including resettlement of IDPs and reintegration of surrendered combatants; **CALLS ON** the AU Commission to continue supporting the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) by the LCBC;
- 28. COMMENDS** the AU Commission, Member States, and the RECs/RMs for continued enhancement of the African Standby Force (ASF), specifically, in the development of the AU Strategic Framework for Compliance and Accountability in Peace Support Operations (PSOs), and the draft AU Policies on Selection and Screening, and the Protection of Civilians;
- 29. RECALLS** the approved structure of the Continental Logistics Base (CLB) as per Decision EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI); **REITERATES ITS CALL ON** AU Member States to allocate adequate funding for the implementation of the approved structure by 31st December 2024; **COMMENDS** Member States for providing support to the CLB, by deploying staff at their own cost pending the recruitment of staff as per the approved structure; **DIRECTS** the AU Commission to provide substantial support in form of equipment from the CLB to the MNJTF and Federal Government of Somalia in order to strengthen their operational capacity; **COMMENDS** ECOWAS for the progress towards the completion of the ECOWAS logistic Depot in Lungi, Sierra Leone, and in that regard, **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to provide support to RECs/RMs, in the operationalization of the Regional Logistic Depots in the various regions;
- 30. CALLS ON** Member States and RECs/RMs to support the successful conduct of the AMANI AFRICA III ASF Continental Maritime Exercise before the end of 2024;
- 31. COMMENDS** Member States for the progress in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment; **ENCOURAGES** Member States and AU Commission to ensure allocation of sufficient resources on WPS and mainstreaming WPS agenda in the activities of the Union; **STRESSES THE IMPERATIVE** for the protection of women, youth, and children and vulnerable groups in situations of conflict and crisis, including against sexual and gender-based violence; and **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to provide support to the countries concerned to develop and implement rehabilitation programs for women and girls affected by conflict, in particular, sexual violence and abuse;

32. COMMENDS H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi and AU Champion for Youth, Peace and Security for his tireless efforts in the promotion of youth agenda and for successful organization of the 2nd Continental Youth Dialogue in Bujumbura; **ALSO COMMENDS** the 2nd cohort of the African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAPs) for their relentless efforts in championing peace, security and governance efforts in their respective regions during their tenure and thank them for their service; and **CONGRATULATES** the 3rd AYAPs cohort; and **URGES** them to deploy the efforts to involve youth in their respective regions to promote peace, security and stability in the Continent; **CALLS ON** Member States to continue the implementation of Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security, including through the development of National Action Plans (NAPs); and **ALSO ENCOURAGES** Member States to invest in the youth in terms of research capacity building, mentorship and development initiatives that empower young people to actively carry out their roles in advancing peace, security and stability at local, regional and continental levels, as well as to put in place policy frameworks for the promotion of youth empowerment, including through entrepreneurship;

33. COMMENDS the efforts of the AU Commission to establish a child protection architecture as an element of the African Peace and Security Architecture at the Continental level, and the technical support it continues to provide towards this goal and, in this regard, **REITERATES THE REQUEST** to the Chairperson of the Commission to appoint a Special Envoy for Children in Conflict Situations to advocate for the protection of children affected by armed conflict and to promote the AU policy;

34. COMMENDS the AU Commission in partnership with the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) for revitalizing the Nouakchott and Djibouti Processes in the light of the growing threat of terrorism, violent extremism, and transnational organized crime and in this regard, **REQUESTS** the Commission to foster close coordination and cooperation between these processes and other existing security mechanisms, such as Accra Initiative, among others;

35. CALLS ON Member States and RECs/RMs to renew their commitment towards Silencing the Guns in the Continent by 2030; in this context, **ENCOURAGES** Member States, RECs/RMs to continue implementation of the AU Master Roadmap on Practical Steps to Silencing the Guns in Africa;

36. COMMENDS Member States that have signed and ratified the AU Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation (Niamey Convention) and **ENCOURAGES** those Member States who have not yet done so to do the same; and **ENCOURAGES** Member States to support the implementation of the AU Strategy on Better Integrated Border Governance;

37. ENCOURAGES Member States and partners to support the Africa Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), in order to enable the Centre to effectively

implement its mandate; **APPROVES** the change of name of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) to the African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre (AUCTC); **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to accelerate the review of its status and structure, following the due process, in order to improve synergies, within the framework of institutional reforms, as requested by the 36th Ordinary Summit and report back to the Assembly;

38. COMMENDS the AU Commission for mainstreaming climate, peace and security into activities of the African Peace and Security Architecture and for its participation in COP 28 in the United Arab Emirates in Dubai in December 2023; and **REITERATES** the imperative to develop a Common African Position on climate change, peace and security;

39. COMMENDS the efforts of the Inter-Regional Economic Communities Knowledge Exchange (I-RECKE) platform and **URGES** it to continue to facilitate cross-regional learning on conflict prevention and resilience building as part of efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Master Roadmap on Silencing the Guns;

40. COMMENDS the African Network of Think Tanks for Peace (Nett4Peace) for their efforts; and **ENCOURAGES** them to continue providing a structured interface between AU Commission and African think tanks to foster evidence-based decision-making in promoting peace, security, and governance on the Continent;

41. TAKES NOTE of the utilization of the Crisis Reserve Facility of the AU Peace Fund in support of the activities of the EAC Regional Force, ATMIS, and the implementation of the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in Ethiopia, and the pilot projects as pioneer beneficiaries of the AU Peace Fund; in this regard, **URGES** Member States, RECs/RMs, private sector and partners, for increased support in mobilizing more resources into the Peace Fund and the CRF; and **DELEGATES** the authority to the Executive Council to determine appropriate CRF levels for 2025;

42. WELCOMES the UNSC Resolution 2719 (2023) as a significant step forward towards securing predictable, adequate, and sustainable financing for AU-led Peace Support Operations from the UN-assessed contributions; and **REQUESTS** the AU Commission, working closely with the UN Secretariat, to report on the progress on the implementation of the Resolution to the Peace and Security Council by June 2024;

43. REQUESTS the AU Commission to take the required steps to change the name of the building hosting the new Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security from “Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Peace and Security Building” to “Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Political Affairs, Peace and Security Building” and also for the Plenary Hall of the Building to be called “Peace and Security Council Chamber;”

44. ALSO ENDORSES the Common African Position on the Application of International Law to the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in

Cyberspace; **ENCOURAGES** Member States to issue national position statements on the application of International Law in the cyberspace and to actively participate in regional and international forums on the governance of the cyberspace, including at the UN; and **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to widely circulate and promote the Common African Position on the Application of International Law to the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in the Cyberspace, including at multilateral forums on cyberspace, particularly at the UN, as well as to continue providing technical assistance and capacity-building support to Member States on the application of international law in the cyberspace;

45. FURTHER ENDORSES the Conclusions of the 15th Retreat of the PSC on its Working Methods held from November 2023, in Tunis, Tunisia; the Conclusions of the Banjul Process held in December 2023 in Banjul, The Gambia; the Conclusions of the 3rd Joint Retreat of the PSC and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) held in December 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa; and the Conclusions of the 10th High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa held in December 2023, in Oran, Algeria; and **EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE** of ensuring the implementation of these Conclusions in their letter and spirit;

46. COMMENDS the efforts being exerted by the African Members of the United Nations Security Council (A3) in effectively articulating, promoting, and defending African common positions and interests within the UN Security Council; **PAYS TRIBUTE** to Gabon and Ghana, for their exemplary representation of Africa within the Security Council during their tenure; **CONGRATULATES** Algeria and Sierra Leone on their election into the Security Council for a two-year term and **LOOKS FORWARD** to their contribution alongside Mozambique, in effectively articulating, promoting and defending African common positions and interests in the UNSC;

47. REQUESTS the AU Commission to continue engagements with Member States on the regional consultations on the review of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council and report back to the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly in 2025.

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE 15th ORDINARY MEETING
OF THE STC ON DEFENSE, SAFETY AND SECURITY**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1220(XLIII) of 14 July 2023 on the Report of the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS);
2. **ADOPTS** the recommendations contained in the Report of the 15th meeting of the STCDSS, and **REQUESTS** the Commission, working with Member States and with the Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Mechanisms, to follow up on the activities outlined in the Report for implementation;
3. **ADOPTS** the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms on the Use of the African Standby Force;
4. **FURTHER ADOPTS** the draft African Union Strategic Framework for Compliance and Accountability in Peace Support Operations, the draft African Union Policy on Protection of Civilians in Peace Support Operations, and the draft African Union Policy on the Selection and Screening of Personnel for Peace Support Operations;
5. **CALLS ON** Member States to domesticate the strategic framework document and the policies, and the African Union, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms to expedite the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms on the Use of the African Standby Force for the conduct of Peace Support Operations.

DRAFT DECISION OF THE DEBRIEF ON THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SECOND REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PSC COUNCIL IN LINE WITH AU ASSEMBLY 1DECISION 844(XXXVI)

The Assembly,

1.

¹ PRC requested it be mentioned as a footnote here and recommend it to the EXCL while considering the Draft Agenda of the Assembly

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE
AU HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE FOR LIBYA**

The Assembly,

1. **COMMENDS** H.E President Denis Sassou Nguesso, Chair of the African Union High-Level Committee for Libya, in close coordination with the Libyan Presidential Council, for his relentless efforts to bring all Libyans together in the National Reconciliation Conference, to be convened on the 28 April 2024, in Sirte, Libya as an imperative to foster sovereignty, national unity, prosperity and stability in Libya;
2. **ENDORSES** the “Brazzaville Call for the Acceleration of the Peace and Reconciliation Process in Libya”, adopted by the Members of the AU High-Level Committee for Libya, in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, on the 5th February 2024;
3. **STRESSES** the imperative for convergence and complementarity of efforts by the African Union, the United Nations, the League of Arab States, the European Union and the international community in order to avoid duplication of efforts in Libya;
4. **REITERATES** its call for all external actors to cease and refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Libya, as it undermines the fundamental rights of the Libyan people and their legitimate aspirations for peace, prosperity and development;
5. **RENEWS** the call for the withdrawal of all Foreign Fighters, Foreign Forces and Mercenaries from Libya, in line with the provisions of the October 2020 Ceasefire Agreement;
6. **COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the Commission for his efforts and **ENCOURAGES** him to continue to work towards the successful preparation and conduct of the Reconciliation Conference

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE AFRICAN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
(CAADP) 4TH BIENNIAL REVIEW REPORT**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendation of the Executive Council in the report of the 5th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) held in November 2023;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the achievements of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme 4th Biennial Review (BR) Report and **EXPRESSES CONCERN** that the continent is not on-track to meet the CAADP goals and targets by 2025;
3. **NOTES** that despite significant progress over two decades, the continent's ambitions and aspirations under the Maputo and Malabo agendas have not been met. This challenge has been compounded by global issues, including climate change, conflicts, epidemic outbreaks, and economic downturns; and therefore, there is a need to retain the strengths of the CAADP agenda while adjusting and deepening it to respond to emerging issues;
4. **ENDORSES** the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) 4th Biennial Review Report;
5. **URGES** Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AUC, and all stakeholders to renew their commitments to CAADP as Africa's transformative plan for agriculture-led growth;
6. **CALLS UPON** Member States, AUC and RECs to use different available platforms to disseminate the 4th CAADP BR Report and use it as widely as possible to stimulate debate, discussions, and policy changes;
7. **REQUESTS** AU Member States, RECs, AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to strengthen the existing established central multi-sectoral coordination mechanism for effective CAADP implementation;
8. **ENCOURAGES** RECs to continue to play a critical role in the CAADP implementation and, in particular, the management of the Biennial Review process;
9. **REQUESTS** AUC and Member States to work on improving data quality and incorporating the BR process into the national statistical and monitoring and evaluation systems. Furthermore, Member States, with support of AUC and technical partners should synergize the processes of the BR, National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIP) and Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs).

DRAFT DECISION ON MODALITIES FOR PARTICIPATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN THE G20 AND PRELIMINARY PRIORITIES TO BE PURSUED

The Assembly,

RECALLING Assembly Decision Assembly/AU.Dec.845(XXXVI) that the Chairperson of the African Union assisted by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission shall represent the African Union in the G20;

WELCOMING WITH APPRECIATION, the Decision of the New Delhi 2023 G20 Leaders' Summit to make the African Union a permanent member of the G20;

FURTHER WELCOMING WITH APPRECIATION the decision of South Africa, the current only African permanent member of the G20, to share lessons of experience in the G20 to the African Union through the Permanent Representatives Committee and the African Union Commission;

REAFFIRMING readiness to leverage Africa's position in the world economy as well as contribute to meeting in the G20, the emerging global challenges;

TAKING NOTE of the Executive Council Decision;

1. **DECIDES** on the following modalities for participation of the African Union in the G20 as well as preliminary priorities to be pursued.

I. Participation in the Leaders' Summit of the Group of 20

2. **REAFFIRMS** its earlier Assembly Decision Assembly/AU.Dec.845(XXXVI) that the Chairperson of the African Union assisted by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission shall represent the African Union in the G20;

3. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to propose positions to the Assembly to be advanced as African Common positions in the G20 Leaders' Summits;

4. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the African Union assisted by the Chairperson of the Commission to debrief the Assembly on the outcomes of the G20 Leaders' Summits at the February sessions of the Assembly each year.

II. Participation in Ministerial Meetings

5. **DESIGNATES** the Chairperson of the African Union Executive Council, assisted by the Chairperson of the Commission to represent the African Union in the G20 Meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs;
6. **FURTHER DESIGNATES** the Chairpersons of the AU Specialised Technical Committees, assisted by the respective Commissioners, to lead African Delegations to G20 sectoral Ministerial Meetings;
7. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration assisted by the Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals to attend the meetings of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, assisted by the respective Commissioner(s);
8. In this regard, **ENCOURAGES** all Ministers to actively participate in the work of the various Specialised Technical Committees;
9. **REQUESTS** the Ministerial Representatives to the G20 to propose draft African common positions through the Specialised Technical Committees for consideration by the Executive Council before it is advanced in the G20 Ministerial meetings and Leaders Summits.

III. Sherpa and Sous Sherpa

10. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the African Union to appoint a Sherpa;
11. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the designated G20 Sherpa to:
 - (a) Join other G20 Sherpas in planning, negotiating and shaping the agenda of the G20 Leaders each year;
 - (b) Advance the interests of the African Union in the G20;
 - (c) Advance Africa's positions in the negotiations of the G20 Leaders' Declarations;
 - (d) As G20 contact point, the AU Sherpa shall coordinate, with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and AU Member States (PRC and Executive Council) on the positions to be advanced in the various G20 Ministerial, Task Forces and Working Group meetings in order to ensure that the African Union prepares common positions well ahead of each G20 meeting and speaks with one voice in the G20 meetings;
 - (e) Coordinate the timely submission of reports from G20 Ministerial, Task Force and Working Group meetings by the AU representatives in these

meetings which will be inputs in the preparation of the annual report of the Chairperson of the African Union to the Assembly on the participation of the African Union in the G20 in the preceding year.

12. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to appoint a Sous-Sherpa to:
 - (a) Act as liaison between the Commission and the Chairperson of the Union;
 - (b) Work with and Deputise the Sherpa;
 - (c) Report to the Chairperson of the Union on G20 matters.

- IV. Financing Africa's Participation in the G20.**

13. **WELCOMES** the pledges of the African Development Bank and the African Export Import Bank to provide initial financing for the participation of the African Union in the G20;

14. **INVITES** other Pan-African Multilateral Financial Institutions to make similar pledges;

15. **DECIDES** that the financing of the participation and engagement (including organization of workshops, trainings, etc.) of the African Union in the G20 shall be sought from the Member States contributions in the regular budget of the African Union, grants of Pan-African financial institutions and other key development partners;

16. **REQUESTS** the Commission to incorporate the budget for the participation of the African Union in the G20 meetings and submit a supplementary budget by March 2024, in accordance with AU FR.

The Assembly therefore:

17. **DELEGATES** the Executive Council to deal with G20 issues on behalf of the Assembly during its July Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, and when necessary, convene extraordinary sessions. In this regard, extends the sitting of the July Ordinary Session with one additional day to discuss G20 related matters if deemed necessary.

DRAFT DECISION
ON THE REPORTS OF THE FORUM OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATING IN THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM FORUM) BY H.E. JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the 33rd Summit of the African Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and Government of the Participating States to African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) held on the 7th of February 2024;
2. **REITERATES** that the APRM remains a homegrown, African good governance tool conceived in 2003 and voluntarily acceded to by forty-four (44) Member States representing more than two-thirds of AU Member States;
3. **CONGRATULATES** H.E. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, for his election as the new Chairperson of the African Peer Review (APR) Forum of Heads of State and Government, and **COMMENDS** H.E. Julius Maad Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and outgoing Chairperson of the African Peer Review (APR) Forum of Heads of State and Government, for his sterling leadership and commitment to the Mechanism, including the successful completion of the targeted reviews related to unconstitutional changes government on the continent; conduct of country reviews and targeted reviews ; accession to the APRM of more AU Member States and the preparation and presentation of the African Governance Report-2023 to the Assembly;
4. **COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki and the Chief Executive Officer of the APRM Continental Secretariat, Professor Eddy Maloka, for their steadfast and stained efforts in fast tracking the integration of the APRM into the AU system and ensuring that the APRM implements its mandate.
5. **REITERATES** Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1-4(XI), in which the Assembly reaffirmed the need to strengthen the capacity of the APRM to deliver on its expanded mandate and enhance its functional autonomy;
6. **STRESSESS** the need for the APRM to be provided with adequate and sufficient human resources and budget allocations to execute its mandate without hindrance;
7. **FURTHER RECALLS** its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.631(XXVIII), in which the Assembly welcomed the commitment towards the revitalization of APRM, key among them is sharing the APRM model, experience and knowledge

with other regions of the world, for benchmarking and enhancing the international recognition of the Mechanism;

8. **ACKNOWLEDGES WITH MUCH APPRECIATION** the APRM efforts to support national capacities of AU member states in monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063/Agenda 2030 through the Voluntary National Reporting (VNRs), National development Planning Community of practice and peer- learning activities during the High -Level Political forum at the United Nations.
9. **COMMENDS** the APRM Continental Secretariat partnership with the United Nations and its organs guided by the AU-UN Framework for the implementation of agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063; **ACKNOWLEDGES** that the partnerships with UN ECA, CEPA, AfDB, UNESCO, UNDP and other partners are imperative to implement critical continental programs executed by the APRM.
10. **REITERATES** the significance of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in promoting good governance and economic transformation on the continent; **TAKES NOTE** the offer of the Republic of Sierra Leone to host the Third Africa High-Level Forum on South- South and Triangulation Cooperation for sustainable development scheduled to take place November 2024.
11. **APPRECIATES** the APRM support to the civil service reforms in Sierra Leone as part of implementing the recommendations of the targeted review of Sierra Leone on unconstitutional changes of government.
12. **EXTENDS APPRECIATION** to the Republic of South Africa and the Arab Republic of Egypt for offering peer-learning and knowledge transfer opportunities for further professional and inclusive civil service in Sierra Leone.
13. **RECALLS** its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.686(XXX) in which the Assembly welcomed steps taken to position the APRM as an early warning tool for conflict prevention on the Continent, in the context of harmony and synergy between the APRM, the African Peace and Security Architecture, and the African Governance Architecture;
14. **TAKES NOTE GREAT SATISFACTION** of the holding of the Second Annual Joint Retreat between the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and the AU Panel of the Wise, and the Third Annual Joint Retreat between the APRM and the AU Peace and Security Council, held in December 2023, in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa; **ENDORSES** the Conclusions of the Second Joint Retreat between the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons and AU Panel of the Wise, the Framework of Cooperation between the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and the AU Panel of the Wise and Conclusions of Third Joint Retreat between the APRM and the AU Peace and Security Council; **REQUESTS** the APRM and the African Union Commission to speedily ensure their implementation.

15. **ENCOURAGES** the APRM Continental Secretariat in close collaboration with the African Union (AU) Commission and Member States to continue organising the Joint Retreat between the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and the AU Panel of the Wise, and the Joint Retreat between the APRM and the AU Peace and Security Council,
16. **ACKNOWLEDGES WITH APPRECIATION** the Targeted Review Report of the Republic of Mozambique on State Resilience Against Various Shocks and Natural Disasters and **EXPRESSES** gratitude to H.E. Filipe NYUSI, President of the Republic of Mozambique for his dedication to the cause of good governance with all its five manifestations including sustainable and broad-based socio-economic development;
17. **ENCOURAGES** the Republic of Mozambique to consider the recommendations of Member States on their targeted review report presented to the 33rd APR Forum including the recommendations contained in the report on the development and implementation of their National Programme of Actions as a necessary step towards attaining sustainable and broad-based socio-economic development;
18. **CONGRATULATES** the APR Panel of Eminent Persons that led the conduct of the targeted review Mozambique for their resilience and commitment to the APRM review process and ensuring the integrity, independence, professionalism and credibility of the review process;
19. **ENCOURAGES** APRM Participating States that have not been peer reviewed to take the necessary measures to ensure that country peer reviews are undertaken, and their reports presented to the APR Forum;
20. **FURTHER URGES** APRM Participating States that have been reviewed to implement their National Plans of Actions and recommendations to inform institutional reforms at the national level and avert highlighted challenges in their peer reviews.
21. **ACKNOWLEDGES WITH APPRECIATION** the Progress Report of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the implementation of their Country Review Report; **COMMENDS** H.E. Abdel Fattah EL SISI, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt for his outstanding leadership and consistent efforts to improving governance in his country and on the continent;
22. **SUPPORTS** the decision of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government to mandate the APRM Secretariat in collaboration with the APR Focal Points and the AU Commission to organise the 3rd Extraordinary Summit in line with the request by the Republic of Zambia.

23. **CONGRATULATES** the Central African Republic for their accession as the 44th participating member state of the APRM; **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to H.E. Faustin-Archange Touadéra, President of the Central African Republic for his courageous decision in joining the APRM, an African-owned and African-led platform for self-assessment, peer-learning, and experience-sharing in democracy and good governance;
24. **ENCOURAGES** all Member States of the AU that have not yet joined the APRM to accede to the APRM.
25. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the full implementation of the Strategic Plan of the APRM (2020-2024) and **COMMENDS** APRM for realizing all its key priority areas;
26. **DIRECTS** the APRM Continental Secretariat to initiate the process of the development of the APRM New Strategic Plan (2025-2028) which will be aligned to the AU Second-Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 and the AU Wide Strategy Plan.
27. **ENDORSES** the decision of the APR Forum that APRM Continental Secretariat, working in close collaboration with the African Union Commission, should develop a clear criterion for selection of APR Panel Members and the criterion should be submitted to the Assembly during the next ordinary session for approval. **APPROVES** the decision of APR Forum to place a moratorium on the selection and appointment of new Panel Members until a clear criterion has been developed and adopted by AU Assembly.
28. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the retiring APR Panel Member, Dr Ali Abdel-Rhamani Hagar from Chad, for his unwavering commitment to the realization of the mandate of the APRM.
29. **WELCOMES WITH APPRECIATION** the appointment of Ambassador Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika as the Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and Ambassador El-Henfy Houssam El Din as the Vice-Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons for a period of one (1) year.
30. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec/.851(XXXVI) on the recruitment of the new APRM Continental Secretariat Chief Executive Officer, the modalities, roadmap, job profile and Terms of Reference for the independent consultant for the recruitment of the new CEO of the APRM Continental Secretariat; **COMMENDS** the APRM for adhering to this Decision and **RECOMMENDS** a Review of the Process and Mechanism of the selection of the APRM CEO.
31. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendation of the APR Forum on the appointment of the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the APRM Continental Secretariat; **DECIDE** to appoint Ambassador Marie Antoinette Rose-Quatre of the Republic of

Seychelles as the new CEO of the APRM Continental Secretariat for a mandate of four (4) years; **ASSURES** Ambassador Marie Antoinette Rose-Quatre of the full support of the African Union in the fulfilment of her noble mandate. **ENTRUSTS** her to take full and effective charge of the APRM Continental Secretariat as the legal representative of the Institution.

32. **TAKES COGNISANCE** of the imminent change of leadership at the APRM at all structures of the Mechanism in 2024 including the appointment of the new Incoming Chairperson of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, Incoming Chairperson of the APR Committee of Focal Points, Incoming Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and the Incoming APRM Continental Secretariat CEO; **ENDORSES** the mechanism agreed upon by the APR Forum aimed at ensuring a seamless and smooth transition including the swearing in of the new CEO.
33. **EXPRESSES** its great appreciation to outgoing CEO Professor Eddy Maloka for his sterling leadership of APRM, dedication and contribution to the realization of the AU Agenda 2063.
34. **TAKES NOTE** of the APRM 20th Anniversary celebrations which took place in December 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa, and thanked H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa and the people of South Africa for hosting the event and the related activities; **COMMENDS** the APRM for the successful and colourful celebration of the APRM 20th Anniversary.
35. **TAKES NOTE WITH GREAT SATISFACTION** of the convening of the Special APRM Youth Symposium held on December 2023, in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa, on the margins of the APRM 20th Anniversary celebrations; **ENDORSES** the Conclusions of the Special APRM Youth Symposium and **REQUESTS** the APRM Continental Secretariat, working in close collaboration with the African Union Commission and other relevant stakeholders, to work closely with host Member State for the convening of the Fourth APRM Youth Symposium during the second half of 2024.
36. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.720(XXXII) in which the Assembly decided that the Africa Governance Report shall be developed by APRM in collaboration with African Governance Architecture (AGA) and shall be presented every two (2) years for consideration by the Assembly at its Ordinary Sessions.
37. **DECIDES** that the APRM should develop in collaboration with AGA the theme and focus of the Fourth African Governance Report and present the Report to the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled to take place in February 2025.
38. **EXPRESSES GRATITUDE** to the APR Forum and all structures of the APRM and the AU for working tirelessly in ensuring that the APRM realizes its mandate.

39. **CONGRATULATES** the Chairperson of the APR Forum, H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone for the sterling leadership provided to the APRM and the exceptional success realized by the Mechanism during his tenure.

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE AUDA-NEPAD HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT ORIENTATION COMMITTEE BY H.E. PRESIDENT ABDEL
FATTAH EL SISI PRESIDENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the report of H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of the African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD);
2. **ENDORSES** the conclusions and recommendations of the 41st Session of the AUDA-NEPAD HSGOC, held on 13 of February 2024, in line with AU rules and procedures;
3. **RECALLS** the conclusions and recommendations of the 40th Session of the AUDA-NEPAD HSGOC, held on 15 February 2023; and **NOTES** the progress AUDA-NEPAD has made in addressing them;
4. **REITERATES** the critical role played by the HSGOC in the provision of political leadership and strategic guidance to AUDA-NEPAD and its programmes;
5. **REAFFIRMS** the continued significance and relevance of AUDA-NEPAD as the African Union implementation Agency that is mandated to coordinate development programs, execute priority projects, promote regional integration towards the accelerated realisation of Agenda 2063 as well as to strengthen the capacity of Member States and regional bodies through, *inter-alia*, knowledge-based advisory support, undertaking full range of resource mobilisation, and serving as Africa's technical interface with all development stakeholders and partners;
6. **APPLAUDS** AUDA-NEPAD and African Union Commission (AUC) for leading and delivering the evaluation report of the First Decade of the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the subsequent formulation of the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) and **REQUESTS** AUDA-NEPAD and AUC to finalize all outstanding elements of the STYIP and ensure its successful adoption at the 37th AU Assembly in February 2024;
7. **DIRECTS** AUDA-NEPAD, through increased financial support from Member States, to strengthen the capacities and capabilities of RECs and Member States in data and statistics, to coordinate, domesticate, monitor, and report on the execution of Agenda 2063 Second Ten Year Implementation Plan;

8. **RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.1143-1167(XL) taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, requesting AUDA-NEPAD to accelerate the process of the establishment of a Development Fund; **COMMENDS** the ongoing efforts of AUDA-NEPAD in preparing a feasibility study of the Fund that addresses the financial, governance architecture and programmatic aspects of the proposed Fund, to be presented to the AUDA-NEPAD Steering Committee, AU Policy Organs and the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15) at an Extraordinary Session of the AUDA-NEPAD Steering Committee to be held in the first half of 2024;
9. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the critical challenges related to the sustained funding of AUDA-NEPAD and in this regard **RECOGNISES** the pressing need for Member States to increase their financial contributions to the development efforts in the Continent, including through predictable funding for the optimal functioning of AUDA-NEPAD;
10. **RECALLS** Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec 6-32 (II) Maputo, Declaration 8 Assembly/AU/Dec 268-288 (XIV) 2010, Ethiopia, and Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1-4(XI), 2018, that the AUDA-NEPAD collects voluntary contributions from Member States; **APPLAUDS** Member States who are providing voluntary contributions in support of the AUDA-NEPAD and **URGES ALL** Member States to adhere to these Decisions;
11. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 283 (VIV) on the need for AUDA-NEPAD, as the technical body of the African Union, to have the required flexibility and agility to carry out its mandate. **TAKES NOTES** of the budgetary and recruitment constraints placed on AUDA-NEPAD and **CALLS UPON** the PRC for continued flexibility relative to budget ceiling and recruitment to enable the Agency to attract highly qualified individuals and deliver on its mandate;
12. **RECALLS FURTHER** Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1057(XXXV) of July 2019, which adopted the new proposed structure of AUDA-NEPAD to be implemented over a period of three years; as well as Executive Council Decision EX.CL/ Dec.1217-1232(XLIII) of July 2023 which approved the reorganisation of AUDA-NEPAD's approved structure. While **WELCOMING** the progress of AUDA-NEPAD in implementing the reorganisation, pertaining to only 33% of approved staff capacity; **NOTES WITH CONCERN** the budgetary constraints impeding the full implementation of the above Decision; and **URGES** Member States to prioritize the financial resourcing of already approved 100% staff capacity of the agency;
13. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.852 (XXXVI) of February 2023 which requested AUDA-NEPAD to explore with Member States the possibility of expanding its national and regional presence to accelerate the delivery of priority

programmes of Agenda 2063; and in this regard **WELCOMES** the draft proposal for the establishment of such footprints to deliver on priority projects and realise Agenda 2063; and **LOOKS FORWARD** to its presentation to the AUDA-NEPAD Steering Committee and the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15) at an Extraordinary Session of the AUDA-NEPAD Steering Committee to be held in the first half of 2024;

14. **APPRECIATES** the quality of AUDA-NEPAD programmatic outputs, under the newly established Directorates namely Agriculture, Food Security & Environmental Sustainability; Infrastructure, Trade & Industry; Human Capital & Institutional Development; Strategic Planning, Resource Mobilization & Partnerships; Knowledge Management and Monitoring & Evaluation; and Operations; as well as the Office of Science, Technology & Innovation;
15. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the Report by H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Chairperson of the AUDA-NEPAD HSGOC, presented and adopted at the 5th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting (Nairobi; 16 July 2023) on “AUDA- NEPAD Success Story in the Consolidation Of Continental and Regional Integration and Achieving Agenda 2063 in cooperation with RECs”; and **URGES** AUDA-NEPAD to build on these gains through continued collaboration with RECs in advancing Agenda 2063;
16. **APPLAUDS** AUDA-NEPAD for conceptualizing and developing the “**Africa Team Resource Mobilization Initiative**” wherein African Union (AU) entities and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) “deliver as one”, to unify and consolidate resource mobilisation efforts across the continent and better support the implementation of regional and national priority programs aimed at fulfilling the goals and aspirations of agenda 2063 second ten-year implementation plan; and **CALLS UPON** AUDA-NEPAD to ensure that all AU entities are part of this initiative;
17. **DECIDES** that the draft Presidential Infrastructure Championship Initiative (PICI) Progress Report be deferred to the 6th African Union Mid-Year Coordination Meeting (MYCM) in July 2024 and in that regard **WELCOMES** the intention of H.E Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa in his capacity as PICI Champion, to convene a virtual meeting of all 12-PICI Heads of State and Government, prior to the MYCM, to present the revised draft PICI Progress Report, for endorsement. **PROPOSES** that the AUDA-NEPAD HSGOC considers the draft PICI Progress Report. **REQUESTS** that the 37th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, taking place in Addis Ababa on 17 and 18 February 2024, authorizes the 6th AU MYCM to consider and adopt the PICI Progress Report;
18. **APPLAUDS** AUDA-NEPAD on the launch of 10-Year Implementation Report of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA); and **RECOGNISES** the PIDA achievements throughout the continent over the past decade;

19. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the role played by AUDA-NEPAD in managing information on infrastructure projects across the continent through the Africa Infrastructure Database and **REQUESTS** AUDA-NEPAD to build the capacities of national and regional institutions for the collection of relevant data; as well as to build the adequate infrastructure, systems and processes for systematic collection and analysis of data;
20. **REQUESTS FURTHER** AUDA-NEPAD to establish a coordination platform for infrastructure development and financing to ensure alignment of partners program and funding priorities with PIDA's objectives and **CALLS** Member States to mainstream PIDA PAP 2 projects into National Development Plans to ensure that these projects benefit from national budgeting arrangements;
21. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to work with AUDA-NEPAD to build additional capacity at the country level, ensure that Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes an integral part of country programmes and create AI national agencies to optimize utilisation of AI and ensure security and safety (Responsible AI); and **DIRECTS** the AUDA-NEPAD and AUC to expedite the development of the AI continental strategy framework and Plan of Action considering the fast pace at which the technology is growing;
22. **TAKES NOTE** of the decision of the 4th Specialized Technical Committee of the Ministers of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, which called for the revamp of TVET systems on the continent to boost employability, inclusiveness, competitiveness, and socio-economic growth; and in this regard **APPLAUDS** AUDA-NEPAD for the launch of the WorldSkills Africa Desk and called for its full establishment at AUDA-NEPAD. **URGES** Member States to support the TVET initiative which is one of the flagship initiatives selected as part of the commemoration of the African Union theme of the Year on education. **FURTHER CALLS** upon Member States to support the Government of Zambia, the host of the next WorldSkills Africa Competition in Livingstone in 2025 (WSZML2025).
23. **COMMENDS** the remarkable progress made under the 10-year implementation plan towards the elimination of HIV/AIDS on the continent, the dedication and collaborative efforts of key partners, such as PEPFAR, who have played a pivotal role in advancing the AIDS response in Africa; **RECALLING** AU Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.852(XXXVI), which affirmed the Assembly's commitment to the Abuja Declaration's 15% target for domestic health financing and requested the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and Africa CDC to develop a fully costed roadmap to 2030 that will sustain the AIDS Response, Ensuring Systems and Health Security strengthening for the development of Africa and decided to hold an Extra Ordinary Session of the Assembly as soon as possible on Ending AIDS by 2030 and addressing Preventable Maternal Deaths, Communicable and Non-

Communicable Diseases endemic to the continent; **ENCOURAGES** the continued support of PEPFAR in deploying essential measures towards sustaining the AIDS response and ultimately ending HIV by 2030; and **CALLS UPON** AU Member States continued political commitment by supporting the reauthorization of the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and ensuring the replenishment of PEPFAR funding for Africa;

24. **ACKNOWLEDGES** progress in operationalizing the African Medicines Agency (AMA) and **URGES** AUDA-NEPAD, AUC and CDC **to** prioritize its operationalization, leveraging on the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH). **REQUESTS** AUDA-NEPAD to develop a technical support framework for AMA in alignment with AMRH, AU Smart Safety Surveillance (AU-3S) and Africa Integrated Vector Management (IVM) programs;
25. **WELCOMES** the establishment of the AUDA-NEPAD Center of Excellence on Climate Resilience and Adaptation in Cairo, Egypt. **LOOKS FORWARD** to AUDA-NEPAD's support in operationalizing the center and calls for Member States and development partners to provide technical and financial support;
26. **WELCOMES** AUDA-NEPAD's Report on Climate finance and Carbon Markets in Africa. **DIRECTS** AUDA-NEPAD to develop the "African Gold Standard on Carbon Credit" in collaboration with member states, AUC and partners, mobilizing resources for its effective implementation;
27. **REQUESTS** AUDA-NEPAD to develop a comprehensive Continental Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change, and Blue Economy Program to coordinate activities effectively;
28. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the critical role of agriculture and food systems transformation in sustainable development. **COMMENDS** AUDA-NEPAD's support to Member states and **directs** it, in collaboration with the AUC, to develop a Post-Malabo Framework, prioritizing inclusivity, innovative technologies, climate resilience, gender and youth inclusion, and smallholder empowerment. **REQUESTS** collaboration with partners in mobilizing resources for the framework's design and implementation;
29. **WELCOMES** UNFCCC COP 28 decisions on loss and damage due to climate change. Recognizes Africa's vulnerability and emphasizes disaster risk management and financing initiatives. **DIRECTS** AUDA-NEPAD to collaborate with ARC and WFP to create a continental platform for stakeholders in disaster risk management and to scale up initiatives across Africa with members and partners;
30. **APPLAUDS** the role that AUDA-NEPAD is exerting in facilitating the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, in coordination

with the AfCFTA Secretariat, and in line with the African Union theme of the year for 2023;

31. **WELCOMES** the decision of the New Delhi 2023 G20 Leaders' Summit to make the African Union a permanent member of the G20 and **RECALLING** AUDA-NEPAD's longstanding constructive involvement with the G20, **REQUESTS** that AUDA-NEPAD be part of the official AU delegation to the G20 summits;
32. **COMMENDS** the continued exceptional quality of AUDA-NEPAD technical output under the leadership of CEO Nardos Bekele-Thomas;
33. **CONGRATULATES** H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for his visionary leadership of the AUDA-NEPAD (HSGOC) during the first year of Chairmanship of the Committee;
34. **RECALLS** that the membership of the AUDA-NEPAD HSGOC for the period February 2023 to February 2025 is as follows:

| Central Region | Eastern Region | Northern Region | Southern Region | Western Region |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Cameroon | 6. Ethiopia | 11. Algeria* | 16. Lesotho | 21. Cote d'Ivoire |
| 2. DRC | 7. Kenya | 12. Egypt* | 17. Malawi | 22. Ghana |
| 3. Central Africa | 8. Rwanda | 13. | 18. South Africa* | 23. Guinea Bissau |
| 4. Equatorial Guinea | 9. Uganda | 14. | 19. Zambia | 24. Nigeria* |
| 5. Gabon | 10. Tanzania | 15. | 20. Zimbabwe | 25. Senegal* |

* non-rotating Initiating Members

| EIGHT (8) HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT CHAIRING THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES | |
|--|---------------|
| 26. | ECOWAS |
| 27. | ECCAS |
| 28. | IGAD |
| 29. | UMA |
| 30. | COMESA |
| 31. | SADC |
| 32. | EAC |
| 33. | CENSAD |

35. **FURTHER RECALLS** that as per the AUDA-NEPAD Rules of Procedures and based on regional consultations, the four (4) Vice-Chairpersons of the AUDA-NEPAD HSGOC for the period February 2023-February 2025 are as follows:

- First Vice – Central Region: vacant.
- Second Chairperson –Southern Region: The Republic of South Africa.
- Third Vice – Western Region: vacant.
- Fourth Vice/Rapporteur – Eastern Region: The Republic of Rwanda (as outgoing AUDA-NEPAD HSGCO Chairperson).

36. In line with the Rules and Procedures, **URGES** the Central and Western regions to conclude their consultations and elect their representatives of the Bureau of HSGOC.

DRAFT DECISION ON REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF TEN (C-10) HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON THE REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, BY H.E. JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA-LEONE

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the 24th Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council and **ENDORSES** the Outcome and Oyala Action Plan of the Fifth Consultative Summit of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council held in Oyala, Equatorial Guinea on 24th November 2023, respectively.
2. **RECALLS DECISIONS ASSEMBLY/AU/853** (.....), Assembly/AU/Dec... (....), Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.12(....) Assembly/AU/Dec564 Assembly/AU/Dec573 (), Assembly/AU/Dec. 617, Assembly/AU/Dec.724).
3. **REITERATES** the crucial need to reform the United Nations to adapt to present geopolitical realities and emerging threats, in particular, the need to correct the historical injustice done to Africa by addressing Africa's non-representation in the Permanent category and its gross under-representation in the Non-Permanent category of the United Nations Security Council.
4. **ACKNOWLEDGES WITH APPRECIATION** the progress made by the Committee of Ten in advocating, defending, and canvassing support for the Common African Position as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the 2005 Sirte Declaration on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council.
5. **WELCOMES**, in that regard, the broad and continued growing momentum of the support and legitimacy of the Common African Position on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council and the call for Africa to be treated as a priority and special case in the reform process.
6. **REAFFIRMS** its firm 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 in the United Nations Security Council.
7. **REITERATES** that full representation of Africa in the reformed 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.

8. REQUESTS

- i) The C-10 of the African Union Member States on the Reform of the UN Security Council must remain focused and vigilant in pursuing the mandate, including further canvassing support for the Common African Position as articulated in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration.
- ii) The Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government to continue its heightened engagement with the Permanent Members (P-5) of the UNSC at the highest political level to follow up and build on previous engagements aimed at advancing and garnering the political will required to support the Common African Position on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council.
- iii) The C-10 should continue to increase its engagement with other Interest and Regional Groups, the African Group in New York, Addis Ababa, the P5, key stakeholders, and the UN Member States.
- iv) African Union Member States to include the issue of the United Nations 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.
- v) The C-10 should also regularly review the “Common Language” for future inclusion in the statements of Heads of State and Governments of AU Member States during the high-level sessions of the UN General Assembly and other multilateral platforms. African Union Member States, to also reflect in their respective National statements at the opening of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2024 a concise common language to advance the Common African Position and to reiterate the call for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council.
- vi) The Common African Position, as enshrined in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration, is the only viable option for Africa. In this regard, African Union Member States should, therefore, remain cohesive on all aspects of the reform process and continue to speak with one voice in unity of purpose until the demands of the Common African Position articulated in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration are achieved.

- vii) Given the present state of play of the United Nations Security Council reform process, the IGN established by Decision 62/557 is the most appropriate and legitimate forum for the reform of the UN Security Council.
 - viii) The Committee of Ten prepares for “appropriate engagement” in the IGN process, guided by the Ezulwini Consensus, the Sirte Declaration, the 2015 Framework Document, and the Oyala Action Plan, to move the IGN process forward.
 - ix) Africa to only engage in text-based negotiations provided there is prior consensus between member States on the five clusters and an agreed framework, which broadly addresses the issue of historical injustice, that has wide consensus, and a model of reform that clearly addresses expansion in both categories of the UNSC.
 - x) The C-10 should ensure that any document emanating from the IGN on the Reform of the Security Council and submitted to the United Nations Summit of the Future for inclusion in the Pact of the Future must include the urgent need to rectify the historical injustice done to Africa and that in the reform process, addressing non-representation and underrepresentation of Africa in Permanent and Non-Permanent categories of the UNSC respectively, should be treated as a special case and priority.
9. **TAKES NOTES** of the recommendation to rescheduling the next C-10 Ministerial meeting planned to be hosted by Algeria in January 2024, and **WELCOMES** the decision to hold the Ministerial meeting in Algeria in June 2024.
10. **REAFFIRMS** the imperative and legitimacy of the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration.
11. **REITERATES** the strong commitment to preserve Africa’s unity and solidarity on all aspects of the United Nations Security Council reform process, 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.
12. **ALSO REITERATES** that the African Union Member States in New York with dual membership should withdraw such membership from all other Interest Groups to consolidate further the Common African Position as contained in the Ezulwini consensus and the Sirte Declaration and to avoid conflicting with the Common African Position with the views/positions of the other Interest and Regional Groups.
13. **RESTATES** that Africa rejects any notion of longer-term seats, intermediary, or transitional options, as they do not seek to address the concerns and demands of

the Common African Position as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration.

14. **DECIDES** that Common African position on the reform of the UN Security Council shall be a strategic item on the Assembly's Agenda and Workplan, and in this regard, **REQUEST** the Commission to continue to provide the required funding and support to facilitate the work of the Committee of Ten and to deliver on its mandate effectively.
15. **FURTHER DECIDES** to increase the allocation in the commission's Budget to make funds available and facilitate the activities of the Committee of Ten on UN reforms and finance the implementation of the Oyala Action Plan.
16. **ALSO DECIDES** that the Committee of Ten remains seized of its mandate until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the United Nations Security Council..

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE AFRICA CDC COMMITTEE OF
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Decision ASSEMBLY/AU/Dec. 835(XXXV), which recognised Africa CDC as an autonomous body of the Union charged with the responsibility for the prevention and control of diseases in Africa, and the subsequent adoption of the Revised Statute of the Africa CDC by Decision EX.CL/Draft/Dec.2(XLI), as per its delegated authority.
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the operationalisation of the Africa CDC, particularly noting the full functionality of its governing structure, including the Committee of Heads of State and Government as its governing and oversight body.
3. **WELCOMES** the Report of the Committee of Heads of State and Government (CHSG) of the Africa CDC, under the Chairmanship of the H.E. Azali Assoumani, President of the Union of Comoros, and **ADOPTS** the recommendations thereof.
4. **NOTES WITH CONCERN** that Africa faces more than two new outbreaks weekly (more than 160 major disease outbreak events per year) as exemplified by current outbreaks of cholera, dengue, measles and monkey pox, with a potential of causing regional and international concerns like pandemics if not appropriately and efficiently managed, with Africa being the epicentre.
5. **CONGRATULATES** AFRICA CDC for the support provided to the Africa Group on the negotiations for the Pandemic Treaty including the development of the Common African Position on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (CAP PPPR), **ADOPTS** the CAP PPPR, and **REQUESTS** the Africa Group to report back on the outcome of the Pandemic Treaty negotiations at the thirty-eight (38th) ordinary session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government.
6. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the importance of strengthening the Pandemic Preparedness Prevention and Response (PPPR) to ensure Africa's preparedness in curbing future pandemics and **CALLS UPON** H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, Champion on COVID to serve as the African Union Champion for Pandemic Preparedness Prevention and Response (PPPR) in Africa to address Africa's challenges beyond COVID-19.
7. **TAKES NOTE** of the appointment of H.E. Hichilema Hakainde, President of Zambia by the World Health Organization as the Global Champion for Cholera and by SADC Heads of State and Government as the Regional Champion for the same disease and **REQUESTS** H.E. Hichilema Hakainde, President of Zambia,

to serve as the African Union Champion for cholera outbreak so as to ensure alignment at continental, global and regional levels.

8. **ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES** the necessity to reinforce the human resources for health in Africa to ensure the health security of the continent and **APPOINTS** H.E. Bola Tinubu, President of Nigeria, as the AU Champion for Human Resources for Health and Community Health Delivery Partnership to accelerate achievement of the Africa CDC agenda of 2 million institutionalized Community Health Workers by 2030.
9. **ALSO NOTES WITH CONCERN** that Africa has the highest maternal mortality rate in the world, accounting for 69% of global maternal deaths in 2020 with HIV remaining a major public health issue, **SUPPORTS** the call for the reauthorization of the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) given the enormous impact that it brought in curbing the drastic impacts of the disease since its establishment in 2004, and **DIRECTS** Africa CDC to organize an extraordinary summit focused on Maternal Mortality, Primary Health Care, and Community Health Workers, and report back at the thirty-eight (38th) ordinary session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government.
10. **ALSO RECALLS** the pivotal role that Africa CDC working with African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), UNECA and the CoVID Special Envoy played through the African Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP) in facilitating access to essential medical supplies during the COVID-19 Pandemic and acknowledges the valuable lessons learnt for a continental pool procured mechanism.
11. **ADOPTS** the AMSP as the continental pooled procurement mechanism under the leadership of Africa CDC with support from Afreximbank and UNECA in improving affordability, availability and equitable access to essential medical supplies across the continent, and report back at the thirty-eight (38th) ordinary session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government.
12. **CELEBRATES** the success gained by Africa CDC under Partnerships for African vaccine manufacturing (PAVM) by securing the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA) to provide 1 billion USD to African Manufacturers and **DIRECTS** Africa CDC to upgrade PAVM to Platform for Harmonized African Health Manufacturing (PHAHM) to respond to the call of the New Public Health Order for expansion of local manufacturing of all medical countermeasures (vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and others) towards building a self-sufficient healthcare manufacturing sector within Africa.
13. **APPOINTS** H.E. President William Ruto as the AU Champion for local manufacturing of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical products aiming to advocate for and support the development of local manufacturing in the public health area across the continent.

14. **APPROVES** the immediate and full operationalisation of the Africa Epidemics Fund (AfEF), as endorsed by Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 835(XXXV) with Africa CDC as the Secretariat to ensure appropriate funding for effective preparedness and response to outbreaks and future pandemics using innovative and robust funding mechanisms that ensures timely response to any public threat.

15. **FURTHER DIRECTS** the Africa CDC secretariat to ensure implementation of the aforementioned and to serve as a bridge in voicing Africa's interest and to report to the forty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2024 and the thirty-eight (38th) ordinary session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON,
INCLUDING REPORTS OF AU CHAMPIONS**

The Assembly,

**DRAFT DECISION ON ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONCEPT NOTE AND ROADMAP
RELATED TO THE AFRICA UNION THEME OF THE YEAR 2024, DEVOTED TO
EDUCATION**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Executive Council decision, related to the review and endorsement of the concept note and roadmap pertaining the AU Theme of the Year 2024.
2. **TAKES NOTE, WITH APPRECIATION,** of the participatory approach observed in the development of the Roadmap and the commitments and dedication of key development partners in their ongoing support to the transformation of Education in Africa;
3. **WELCOMES** and **ENDORSES** the Road Map on the AU theme for 2024 “Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa;
4. **CALLS FOR** voluntary contributions to be made available for the implementation of the Theme of the Year 2024;
5. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** Member States to participate in the implementation of the AU theme for 2024;
6. **CALLS UPON** the African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities, United Nations organizations, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, the Youth and all other stakeholders to continue strengthening their support to Member States by facilitating the implementation of the roadmap;
7. **URGES** Member States RECs and Regional Mechanisms to report on their actions and activities on the implementation of the AU theme for 2024 for experience sharing and peer-learning to accelerate the transformation of education systems in Africa;
8. **REQUESTS** the African Union Commission to report on progress made in the implementation of the roadmap during the upcoming Mid-Year summit and to submit a final report to the 45th session of the Ex Council of February 2025.

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT ON AFRICA'S RESPONSE ON COVID 19
PANDEMIC IN AFRICA BY H.E. MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND AU CHAMPION FOR THE COVID 19
PANDEMIC RESPONSE**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the Report by AU Champion for COVID-19 Response, H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa;
2. **COMMENDS** the Champion for the valuable contribution and **ENDORSES** his recommendations as follows:
 - (i) The adoption of the Common Africa Position on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response and request the African Union, through a duly authorised representative, to conduct and finalize the negotiation by May 2024;
 - (ii) To approve the immediate full operationalisation of the Africa Epidemics Fund (AfEF), as endorsed by Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 835(XXXV) with the Governing structures of Africa CDC as the main mechanism for its governance by considering that Africa's effective preparedness and response to future Epidemics requires an innovative and robust funding mechanisms that ensures timely response to any public threat, and the Champion to begin driving the replenishment campaign for all States to contribute including to better support the Africa CDC and WHO Joint Emergencies Action Plan;
 - (iii) Whilst celebrating the launch of GAVI's African Vaccine Manufacturers Accelerator, continue to engage in robust advocacy to lobby all large procurers of pharmaceuticals to purchase 30% of products destined for Africa from African Manufacturers, to direct Africa CDC to upgrade PAVM to Platform for Harmonized African Health Manufacturing (PHAHM) to respond to the call of the New Public Health Order for expansion of local manufacturing of all medical countermeasures. and to upgrade AMSP as the continental pooled procurement mechanism under the Africa CDC with support of Afreximbank in facilitating access to essential medical supplies to all countries despite their status;
 - (iv) To continue to support the Johannesburg Process and encourage AU member states to use the informal platform as an opportunity for robust discourse and consensus building in preparation for formal negotiations;

- (v) To continue providing political support to the Health Workforce Foundational Team and urge member states to mitigate the devastating brain drain of African Health Workforce;
- (vi) Ensure enabling environments and the deployment of all relevant state capabilities to support Health Systems Strengthening Efforts;
- (vii) Support the establishment of an accountability mechanism within the AU architecture to ensure the effective implementation of the Lusaka Agenda in Africa;
- (viii) Support the investment drive for the Africa CDC and WHO Joint Emergencies Action Plan;
- (ix) Ensure that Gender Sensitivity and Gender Responsiveness finds expression in all pandemic preparedness efforts; and
- (x) To support the reauthorization of the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) given the enormous impact that it brought in curbing the drastic impacts of the HIV AIDS in Africa since its establishment in 2004.

DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE 3RD AU MEN'S CONFERENCE ON POSITIVE MASCULINITY IN LEADERSHIP TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, H.E MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Assembly decision no. Assembly/AU/Dec.865(XXXVI) on the Negotiation of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
2. **FURTHER RECALLS** Assembly decision no. Assembly/ AU/Dec.837 (XXXV) on the appointment of H.E. President Felix Tshisekedi as the first AU Champion on Positive Masculinity as well as Assembly/ AU/Dec 819 (XXV) on the Kinshasa Declaration and Call to Action on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Assembly Executive Council Decision no (EX.CL/Dec.1190 (XLII) on the Dakar Call to Action
3. **WELCOMES** the update on the implementation of the Presidential Initiative on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Girls from H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and takes note of the progress made in developing the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.
4. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the launch of the AU Campaign on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls and we appreciate the participation of AU Citizens through consultations supported by UN Agencies, International Development Partners and Civil Society.
5. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcomes of the 3rd AU Men's Conference on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Girls that was held on 27 and 28 November 2023, in Pretoria, South Africa, under the joint leadership of H.E. Azali Assoumani, President of the Union of Comoros and 2023 AU Chairperson and H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and adopt its outcome document, the "*Moroni and Pretoria: Road to the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls*".
6. **TAKES NOTE** of the Position Paper on Positive Masculinity and adopts the Common Africa Position on Positive Masculinity.
7. **REAFFIRMS** the urgency of an Africa-wide response to the scourge of violence against women and girls as integral to building the Africa we want, based on the values of equality, respect, human dignity and self-determination.
8. **APPLAUDS** Heads of State forming the Circle of Champions on Positive Masculinity for leading efforts towards the development and adoption of the AU

Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls and for serving as role models for men and boys to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

9. **COMMITTS** to support and conclude the negotiations and submit a draft Convention for adoption by this Assembly in February 2025.
10. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission, working with Member States Experts to create conducive conditions for smooth and speedy negotiations and to prepare a draft Convention to be submitted to this Assembly for adoption by February 2025.
11. **DECIDES** to remain seized on this matte.

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT BY H.E NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO, PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (CAHOSCC) BY H.E. WILLIAM
RUTO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), H.E. William Ruto, President of the Republic Kenya, and **ENDORSES** the following recommendations therein;
2. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the Republic of Kenya for coordinating the work of CAHOSCC and for the outstanding achievements in providing political direction and maintaining the unity of Africa as well as leading the continent during the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the 18th Meeting of the Parties serving as the Conference of the Parties to its Kyoto Protocol (KP) and the 5th Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;
3. **RECALLS** the Assembly Decision **Assembly/AU/Dec.855(XXXVI)** that Approved the offer by Kenya to host the Africa Climate Summit from 4th - 6th September 2023 in Nairobi, **and CONGRATULATES** the Government of Kenya under the leadership of H.E Dr. William Samoei Ruto and the African Union Commission through H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat for a very successful Africa Climate Summit under the theme “Driving Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World. Africa in Solidarity with the World.”
4. **WELCOMES and ADOPTS** the African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action and its implementation efforts including the proposed implementation roadmap and governance structure.
5. **FURTHER WELCOMES** Kenya’s offer to Champion the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and to set up and host the Secretariat which shall be its technical arm for the implementation.. The Secretariat will be financed through voluntary contributions from Kenya and other member states as well as partners.
6. **APPRECIATES** the platform provided by the Africa Climate Summit for the continent to showcase and exchange practical solutions in the effort to place Africa on a sustainable development path in order to build resilience against climate change. **AND EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to AU member States for their support and active participation at the Africa Climate Summit;
7. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the post ACS Roadmap and result framework for implementation.

8. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendation in the Nairobi Leaders' Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action to make the Africa Climate Summit a biennial event and **CALLS UPON** interested African Union Member States to offer to host the next Africa Climate Summit in 2025;
9. **RECOGNIZES** with appreciation the political guidance provided by CAHOSCC and the Commitment shown by its Members as demonstrated by the 3 meetings they held in 2023 to guide the continent's engagement at COP28 and the preparations for the Africa Climate Summit;
10. **EQUALLY RECOGNIZE** of the role played by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) under the leadership of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in the preparation and negotiations for COP28 and the Africa Climate Summit
11. **FURTHER RECOGNIZE** the role of the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change under the leadership of the Republic of Zambia in the preparations and negotiations for COP 28 and ACS and appreciate the support by partners to the AGN;
12. **CONGRATULATES** H.H Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, H.E. Dr. Sultan Ahmed A Jaber, the President of COP28, and the UAE, for hosting a successful Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and delivering critical decisions under the UAE Consensus, and ambitious declarations and pledges to advance a comprehensive climate action agenda across mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation;
13. **WELCOMES** the UAE Consensus decisions adopted by COP 28 and CMA 5 and all efforts towards advancing their implementation and urges Parties to make their best efforts to implement the the COP28 decisions in the spirit of integrity and cooperation, including the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake.
14. **NOTES** that the Nairobi Declaration and the COP28 UAE Consensus are mutually reinforcing and therefore a critical guiding instrument for the Continent's climate action.
15. **APPRECIATES** the successful delivery of the Loss and Damage fund that was agreed at CoP27 in Sharm el Sheikh, and the initial pledge of \$792 million at CoP28;
16. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the UAE for providing free space for an African Pavilion; AND African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, AUDA-NEPAD and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa for role played to facilitate countries African countries and institutions to showcase the continent's response to climate change;

17. **ACKNOWLEDGES WITH APPRECIATION** the role of H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission in coordinating and mounting up climate change events at COP28, which promoted case studies and climate actions for Africa and thus elevated the profile of our continent;
18. **RECALLS Assembly Dec. 457 (XX)** on the Coordination mechanism of CAHOSCC, defining the role of AMCEN and the AGN in Africa's climate change processes; and request that these structures engage further to improve and streamline governance and functional procedures, with a view to enhancing Africa Member States representation and participation as well as encouraging the AUC's involvement and support in Africa Climate Change processes **AND** request AUC to ensure implementation of this decision and report back to the next CAHOSCC meeting.
19. **ACKNOWLEDGES** with appreciation the work of the African Climate Commissions (the African Islands, the Congo Basin and Sahel), the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), and the Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative (AAA Initiative) in coordinating the implementation of Africa's response to Climate Change and **CALLS** for strong coordination by the African Union Commission in order to scale up the implementation of these initiatives and enhance coordinated positive impacts in addressing climate change in Africa;
20. **HIGHLIGHTS** the importance of Adaptation and Climate Finance that is accessible, concessional and at scale for the implementation of African NDCs including the adaptation plans and goals, and stresses the fact that African Governments are already allocating up to 5% of their GDP for Adaptation and climate related losses and damages;
21. **WELCOMES** the Commission's effort in addressing the constraints associated with access to climate finance and **COMMENDS** the implementation of the Africa multi-country GCF Readiness Program which was approved in February 2024; and the World Bank funded Regional Climate Resilience Program both of which form part of the operationalisation of the AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032) and the Green Recovery Action Plan;
22. **WELCOMES** progress made in the implementation of the AU Green Recovery Action Plan; and **URGES** Member states and RECs to join the GRAP implementation through the submission of project pipelines;
23. **EXPRESSES CONCERNS** with climate and environment based unilateral actions, policies and taxes and their potential impacts on African exports and trade;

24. **URGES** Member States in line with the African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action to develop comprehensive and coherent national strategies for critical minerals aligned with broader development visions and priorities and consider the entire value chain from exploration to end-use; **AND** strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks for critical minerals. This should ensure consistency with international best practices and standards and provides a conducive environment for investment, innovation, and competition;
25. **URGES** Member States to consider new and innovative financing mechanisms including opportunities in the Carbon Markets ensuring credibility, integrity and transparency;
26. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to transform education curricula at all levels to enhance their responsiveness to emerging climate realities, position the continent to tap into the opportunities presented by the transition to low carbon economies and scale up climate change education at all levels;
27. **URGES** Developed Country parties to urgently enhance the capitalization the loss and damage facility to enable response to the irreversible impacts that many African Countries continue to experience;
28. **CALLS UPON** Developed Country parties to scale up Support and investments for agriculture and value chain especially smallholder farmers to help enhance their adaptive capacity in African Countries;
29. **SUPPORTS** the Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation agenda as one of the vehicles to scale up and complement support for adaptation action from all stakeholders at all levels in particular for Africa and **URGES** developed countries to quadruple their provisions of support to adaptation in particular for Africa, and further highlights the importance of the Sharm El Sheikh work program on agriculture as a vehicle to enhance support for this crucial sector for Africa;
30. **URGES** Member States to ensure that the just energy transition in Africa take advantage of the rich renewable energy potential in the continent including solar, wind and geothermal where applicable and to enhance energy access for lighting and clean cooking;
31. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the role Africa Green Climate Finance National Designated Authorities Network (AfDAN) is playing in bringing African countries together to build their capacity to accelerate, ease of access and enhanced mobilization of climate finance at scale especially for adaptation and resilience building at the local level;
32. **COMMENDS** the African Civil Society, African Private Sector, the youth, the indigenous people and other stakeholders in supporting and promoting Africa's common position.

33. **REQUESTS** the AUC to initiate the due process for the establishment of the African Climate Change Fund, in accordance with the decision of the 984th meeting of the Peace and Security Council, held at the level of Heads of State and Government, on 9 March, 2021.

DRAFT
**DECISION ON BUILDING A UNITED FRONT TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF
JUSTICE AND THE PAYMENT OF REPARATIONS TO AFRICANS**
(IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASSEMBLY DECISION
(Assembly/AU/Dec.847(XXXVI))

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE**, with appreciation, of the Progress Report submitted by the Commission, in fulfillment of the request made to it in the Assembly Decision on "Building a United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations" (Assembly /AU /Dec .847(XXVI);
2. **RECALLS** that in the aforementioned Assembly Decision (Assembly, AU/Dec.847), it endorsed the proposal made by the Government of Ghana to co-organise with relevant stakeholders, an International Conference on 'Building A United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and Reparations to Africans; and, further, that the Commission was requested to collaborate with the Government of Ghana in organizing the Conference in 2023;
3. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the Republic of Ghana, and to the African Union Commission, for co-organizing the Accra International Conference on Reparations from 14 to 17 November, 2023 in Accra, Ghana.
4. **WELCOMES** the Accra Proclamation on Reparations, the outcome of the Accra Reparations Conference;
5. **RECALLS** the deep-rooted Pan African origins of the African Union and those of its precursor, the Organisation of African Unity, encompassing historical, cultural and blood ties that bind the continent of Africa and the African Diaspora;
6. **REAFFIRMS** thereby that accountability and the provision of remedies, compensation, reparations, restitution and reparatory justice for historical crimes, including the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the consequent enslavement of Africans, as well as colonialism, genocide and apartheid, are fundamental for the recovery of the social and economic losses incurred by African states and societies, as well as states and communities of people of African descent in the diaspora; and **REITERATES** the pre-requisite for combatting systemic racism, and advancing the human rights, dignity and healing of Africans and people of African descent;
7. **FURTHER REAFFIRMS**, that in the context of the claim for reparatory justice, and as reiterated on numerous occasions by the African Union and its leaders , there is a need to address the inequities which characterise the current neo-colonial international economic and political systems, necessitating the reform of the global financial and trade architecture, as well as the United Nations Security Council; and in the same context of reparatory justice, also **RECOGNISES** the need to address the consequences of transatlantic-enslavement, colonialism and apartheid, which have persisted in many forms including, among others, neo-

colonial challenges of debt relief, illicit financial flows, and climate change, as well as loss and damage;

8. **REITERATES** that the payment of reparations and granting of reparatory justice to Africa and the African Diaspora is one of the pillars of sustainable socio-economic development in Africa and relevant parts of the African Diaspora in the Global South;
9. **UNDERLINES** the crucial importance of recognizing the need to safeguard the continent's culture, heritage and dignity, buttressing it through the development of a Common African Position on the Restitution of Cultural Property and Heritage and a Framework for Action on Negotiations for the Return of illicitly trafficked cultural property; and **REAFFIRMS** its full support to the ongoing processes in Africa which are aimed at the full restitution of stolen African cultural, religious artefacts, bodies and body parts;
10. **APPOINTS** H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo -Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana as the African Union Leader on Advancing the Cause of Justice and Payment of Reparations to Africans, with a view to enhancing advocacy for a common position on reparations in Africa, and forging a common front for Africa and the Diaspora at the global level;
11. **EXPRESSES** its appreciation for the other measures proposed in the Accra Proclamation, including the establishment of certain mechanisms, which will serve to underpin the African continental and global movement for reparations, with a view to maintaining its momentum and ensuring its sustainability; and **ACCORDINGLY REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a report to the Executive Council for its approval, based on its assessment of the financial, legal, and structural implications of the implementation of these mechanisms, where applicable, and in particular the establishment of a :-
 - (i) Committee of Experts on Reparations, to develop an African Common Position on Reparations, and incorporate therein, an African Reparatory Programme of Action, as already decided in the aforementioned Assembly Decision 847; in accordance to relevant precedents and other guidelines, especially in terms of composition and selection;
 - (ii) Reference Group of Legal Experts to work in close coordination with the African Union, led by the Commission and including the judicial and quasi-judicial organs of the Union, and provide legal advice in support of the African Union Leader for Advancing the Cause of Justice and Payment of Reparations to Africans, and to the AU Committee of Experts on Reparations;
 - (iii) Global Reparations Fund based in Africa, to work in collaboration with the African Union, to advance the campaign of the African Union on reparations; and

- (iv) Transcontinental Partnership Framework embracing the AU, CARICOM and the African Diaspora in Latin America, North America, Europe and UK, and elsewhere in the world, to build a strong common front among them in pursuit of reparations and reparatory justice at the global level; and FURTHER RECALLS that in Assembly Decision 847, it called for the establishment of an African Caribbean Joint Mechanism on Reparative Justice, based on the resolve of the Global African Diaspora Summit held in South Africa in 2012;
12. **FURTHER DECIDES** that the theme of the Year for 2025 will be “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations”;
13. **DECIDES** to designate the reparations for transatlantic-enslavement, colonialism and apartheid, as a Flagship Issue and Project of the Union, and **ACCORDINGLY REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a strategic framework document for the implementation of the Accra Proclamation and the present decision including the establishment of the above-mentioned mechanisms.
14. **CALLS** on the Commission to promote more active AU- wide engagement on the subject of reparations, in close coordination with the AU Member States, ECOSOCC and other Organs, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, African Court on Human and People’s Rights, and the African Union Commission on International Law, in order to build on their previous work on reparations; as well as with the Pan African Parliament, African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption; **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to collaborate with the RECs to enhance the mainstreaming of the campaign for reparations at regional level .
15. **FURTHER CALLS** on the Commission to engage with relevant structures, sectors and entities in AU Member States, to enhance the mainstreaming of the campaign for reparations at the national level.
16. **CALLS** for enhanced collaboration between the Commission and the UN system, including the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and UNICEF.
17. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to offer to host an annual Conference on Reparations in regional rotation, and in collaboration with the Commission;
18. **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present Decision at the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly in February 2025, and annually thereafter;
19. **ACCORDINGLY DECIDES** to remain seized of the matter.

DRAFT DECISION ON THE DRAFT LEGAL INSTRUMENTS**The Assembly,**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council for the consideration and adoption of the Draft Legal Instruments;
2. **ADOPTS** the following Draft Legal Instruments:
 - i. *Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights relating to the Specific Aspects of the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa;*
 - ii. *Proposed amendment of Article 22(4) of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption to revise the term of office of the members of the African Union Board against Corruption (AUABC) from two (2) to six (6) years renewal once;*
 - iii. *Protocol to the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Women and Youth in Trade; and*
 - iv. *Protocol to the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Digital Trade.*
3. **INVITES** Member States to ratify the above mentioned Protocols to ensure their swift entry into force.

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT TEN (10) MEMBERS OF THE
THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION (PSC)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election of Ten (10) Members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union by the Executive Council;
2. **APPOINTS** the following Ten (10) Members States to the Peace and Security Council for a term of two (2) years:

| NO. | COUNTRY | REGION |
|------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Democratic Republic of Congo | Central |
| 2. | Equatorial Guinea | Central |
| 3. | Tanzania | Eastern |
| 4. | Uganda | Eastern |
| 5. | Egypt | Northern |
| 6. | Angola | Southern |
| 7. | Botswana | Southern |
| 8. | Côte d'Ivoire | Western |
| 9. | Sierra Leone | Western |
| 10. | The Gambia | Western |

DRAFT DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CEO OF APRM

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE AFCFTA**

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE PREPARATION OF THE 2025
ELECTIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Commission on the Preparation for the Election of Senior Leadership of the African Union Commission in February 2025.
2. **RECALLS** decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1(XI) adopted during the Eleventh Extraordinary Session in November 2018 on the Institutional Reform of the African Union.
3. **RECALLS** decision Assembly/AU/Dec.806(XXXIV) adopted during the 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly, which adopted the revised Rules of Procedure of the Assembly; and revised Statute of the Commission incorporating the decision of the Eleventh Extraordinary Session of the Assembly regarding the election of the senior leadership of the Commission.
4. **RECALLS** Executive Council decision EX.CL/Dec.1099(XXXVII) adopted during the 37th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, which adopted the Revised Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council incorporating the decision of the Eleventh Extraordinary session of the Assembly regarding the election of the senior leadership of the Commission.
5. **REAFFIRMS** the need to fully implement and adhere to the principles of predictable inter-and intra-regional rotation following the English Alphabetical order in accordance with the decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1(XI) adopted during the Eleventh Extraordinary Session in November 2018 on the Institutional reform of the Union as well as Article 14 of the revised Statute of the Commission.
6. **DECIDES** in accordance with Assembly decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1(XI) and Articles 13 and 14 of the Statute of the Commission to adopt the following criteria to determine the eligibility of regions to submit candidates based on a predictable inter-regional rotation following the English alphabetical order:
 - i. Allocation of specific portfolio(s) to regions based on a predictable inter-regional rotation following the English alphabetical order:
 1. CP – Only the Eastern region is eligible to submit candidates.
 2. DCP – Only the Northern region is eligible to submit candidates.
 3. Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment – Only the Southern region is eligible to submit candidates.

4. Economic Development, Trade, Industry, and Mining – Only the Southern region is eligible to submit candidates.
5. Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation – Only the Western region is eligible to submit candidates.
6. Infrastructure and Energy – Only the Western region is eligible to submit candidates.
7. Political Affairs, Peace & Security – Only the Central region is eligible to submit candidates.
8. Health, Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Development – Only the Central region is eligible to submit candidates.

7. FURTHER DECIDES:

- i. Eligible regions shall submit at least two candidates (one female and one male) for each allocated portfolio based on a competitive and merit-based process through the Regional Deans.
- ii. Each region will determine its own procedure for nominating candidates for the portfolios for which it is eligible, using the ranking established based on the English alphabetical order.
- iii. Similarly, to strengthen inter and intra-regional rotation, any member state that has occupied a position from a region should be ineligible for future elections until all member states of the region have served as members of the senior leadership of the Commission.

- 8. REQUESTS** the Commission to strictly adhere to the timeline outlined under Article 16 and any other relevant Articles of the revised Statute of the Commission for the selection and election of the Members of the Commission.

**ELECTION OF THE BUREAU OF
THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION FOR 2024**

The Assembly,

1. ELECTS the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union for 2024, as follows:

- i) Chairperson: Mauritania
- ii) 1st Vice-Chairperson: Angola
- iii) 2nd Vice-Chairperson: Republic of Congo
- iv) 3rd Vice-Chairperson: Ghana
- v) Rapporteur: Comoros

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE NAIROBI DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND
CALL TO ACTION (*Item proposed by the Republic of Kenya*)**

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON STRUCTURAL REFORM**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Article 9(2) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which mandates the Assembly to delegate any of its powers and functions to any Organ of the Union;
2. **DECIDES** to delegate its authority to the Executive Council to consider and adopt, during its 45th Session in June/July 2024, the following structures:
 - The African Humanitarian Agency
 - The Africa Inclusive Markets Excellency Centre.

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE 2023 AFRICAN MEDICINES AGENCY (AMA)
PROGRESS REPORT**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Progress Report of the Commission on operationalization of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) and the recommendations contained therein.
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the challenges related to the feedback from Member States, RECs and RHOs encountered by the Commission in the establishment of the AMA Governing Board;
3. **CALLS** the RECs and RHOs that not yet designated candidate to finalize the consultations and communicate nominated candidates to the Commission for consideration on the AMA Conference of State Parties;
4. **WELCOMES** the signing and ratification of the AMA Headquarters Agreement between the Commission and the Government of Rwanda as well as the adoption of the Job description of the AMA Director General by the Conference of State Parties to the AMA Treaty
5. **COMMENDS** the Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, Africa CDC, the AMA Bureau and the Conference of State Parties to the AMA Treaty on progress made towards the establishment and operationalization of AMA despite numerous challenges.
6. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the 26 member states that have ratified the AMA Treaty and **URGES** the remaining Member States that signed the AMA Treaty to ratify and those that are yet to sign to do so;
7. **RECOGNIZES** that the AMA is a treaty based specialized agency of the African Union where membership is subject to ratification of the Treaty for the Establishment of AMA.
8. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal to extend the membership of the African Medicines Agency to all AU Member States as opposed to only those who ratified or acceded to the AMA Treaty to enhance of the capacity of Member States and AU Regional Economic Communities to regulate medical products, and to improve access to quality, safe and efficacious medical products across the continent.
9. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the proposal to integrate the AMA budget into the regular budget of the Union;
10. **ACCORDINGLY RECOMMENDS** to the Conference of State Parties of AMA to consider, following due process, proposals for amendment of the Treaty

establishing the AMA extend membership of the AMA to all Member States and integrate the budget of AMA into the regular budget of the Union;

11. **ALSO RECOMMENDS** to the Conference of States Parties of the AMA to consider the possibility of giving provisional application of the proposed amendments.

DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE AIDS WATCH AFRICA (AWA)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of
 - i. The AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) Report on HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, and the recommendations contained therein.
 - ii. of the progress made in the implementation of the Africa Leadership Meeting (ALM) Investing in Health Progress Report and the recommendations contained therein.
 - iii. The Concept note on the Extra Ordinary Summit and the outline of the roadmap on: 'Sustaining the AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other infectious diseases response, ensuring systems strengthening and health security in Africa.'
 - iv. The 2022 TB scorecard and the 2023 UN General Assembly High Level Declaration (HLM) on TB.
2. **COMMENDS** the Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, the office of the Leader for Domestic Financing for Health, H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, EAC, SADC, the Global Fund and supporting partners for the national health financing dialogues and **ENCOURAGES** other RECs to launch the national health financing dialogues in alignment to the Africa Leadership Meeting (ALM) on Investing in Health Declaration.
3. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.649(XXIX) that committed " to sustain the gains made in the fight against Malaria and monitor antimalarial drug resistance and insecticide resistance", **RECOGNIZES** the importance and the registered successes of vector control in the elimination of malaria and other vector borne diseases in and around the African continent; **APPRECIATES** the comprehensiveness of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Vector Control Response strategy 2017-2030, which emphasizes on the realignment of vector control programs, increasing technical capacity, enhancing monitoring and surveillance systems, and mobilizing communities and private sector as key drivers to strengthen vector control.
4. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission, Africa CDC and AUDA-NEPAD in collaboration with the RECs, RHO and WHO to continue supporting the AU Member States to strengthen regulatory and safety surveillance systems for existing and emerging vector control products, tools and technologies, and work closely with other concerned ministries and stakeholders in the continent
5. **ENDORSES** the draft Declaration on 'Health Financing and Sustaining Action to End AIDS and Related Communicable, Non-Communicable and Neglected

Tropical Diseases Ensuring Systems Strengthening and Health Security in Africa'; **REQUESTS** the Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, Africa CDC; Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and partners to support its implementation.

6. **ENDORSES** the Terms of references (TORs) for the permanent AWA Experts Committee the Terms of references (TORs) for the AWA Chair, and the terms of reference for the Community Health Champion in Africa (continental level) and **REQUESTS** the Commission, AUDA-NEPAD and Africa CDC to support their implementation including but not limited to aligned action plans.
7. **ALSO ENDORSES** the Africa Plan Towards the Elimination of Vertical Transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B Virus Infections among Children by 2030 and keeping their mothers alive and **REQUESTS** the Commission through AIDS Watch Africa, Africa CDC, AUDA-NEPAD to coordinate and oversee the plan implementation with the support of RECs, RHO, and partners.
8. **CALLS UPON** AWA Consultative Experts Committee to review and adopt the draft fully costed Roadmap on “Sustaining the AIDS, TB and Malaria and other infectious diseases Response, Ensuring Systems Strengthening and Health Security in Africa”, and to announce the date and venue for the extra ordinary session on health as stipulated in the
9. **DIRECTS** the Commission to finalize consultations on the proposed venue and date of the Extra ordinary session of the Assembly on Ending AIDS by 2030, and addressing preventable maternal Deaths, Communicable, Non-Communicable and Neglected Tropical Diseases endemic to the Continent and strengthening health Systems by 2030” in line with the Assembly /AU/Dec.852.
10. **REQUESTS** AWA Chair to present the AWA Report and Draft Decision to the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in February 2024.

DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORTS ON THE AFRICA NUTRITION AND AFRICAN LEADERS FOR NUTRITION (ALN) INITIATIVE

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** African Union (AU) Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.621(XXVIII)) on the appointment of an Africa Nutrition Champion, His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom Lesotho and the extension of the Championship to 2024 (Assembly/AU/Dec. 819(XXXV)) and the Decision on the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) Initiative (Assembly/AU/Dec.681 (XXX)) that endorsed the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN);
2. **TAKES NOTE AND ENDORSES:**
 - i. Report of the African Union Nutrition Champion, His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom Lesotho for the period 2022 to 2024 and recommendations contained therein;
 - ii. Report on activities and progress of the African Leaders for Nutrition Initiative (2022 -2024) and the recommendations contained therein;
 - iii. Abidjan Declaration “Accelerate investment, implementation and coordination to improve nutrition and food security in Africa” adopted in Abidjan in 2022;
 - iv. Call to Action on Mobilizing Innovative Financing for Fight Against Malnutrition and Call to Action on Adolescent Nutrition adopted during the High-Level Dialogue on Nutrition Financing hosted by AU Nutrition Champion in March 2023
3. **COMMENDS** the efforts of His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Africa Union Nutrition Champion, and the Africa Leaders for Nutrition for sustaining nutrition advocacy high on the agenda and commitments in mobilizing member states to allocate sufficient resources for nutrition interventions;
4. **ENDORSES** the extension of His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho mandate as the African Union Nutrition Champion for two more terms (2024– 2026) to continue to mobilize member states towards the implementation of Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2015-2025) and Malabo Declaration Commitments. **REQUESTS** the African Union Commission to develop a comprehensive high-level work plan for the AU nutrition Champion.
5. **NOTES WITH CONCERN** that data from the Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard (CNAS) shows that most member states are not likely to meet various nutrition targets by 2025. **THEREFORE, CALLS ON** AU member states to redouble efforts to tackle malnutrition in Africa by:
 - i. Creating demand for nutrition investments at the national, continental, and global level by ensuring that nutrition financing feature prominently in development finance engagements.

- ii. Convening Annual Continental Multisectoral Nutrition Conference by the African Union Nutrition champion and African Leaders for Nutrition, following the adoption of **Multisectoral Nutrition Policy Framework**.
- iii. Strengthen the evidence generation, and knowledge management framework to inform investment decisions and accountability at the member state level;
- iv. Mobilize AU member states to make commitment during Nutrition for Growth Summit (N4G) in 2024.

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE ACCELERATING
OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AFRICAN INVESTMENT BANK TO
PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURE IN AFRICA**

The Assembly,

1. **WELCOMES** with appreciation the proposal of the State of Libya aimed at accelerating the operationalization of the African Investment Bank to provide sustainable financing for the development of educational infrastructure in Africa, which is in line with the directive of the African Union for the year 2024, identifying the theme 'Educate an African fit for the 21st Century' as the theme of the year;
2. **TAKES NOTE** that by operationalizing the African Investment Bank, the achievement of sustainable development goals set for this year will be accelerated in accordance with the continental education strategy for the period 2016-2025;
3. **RECALLS** the declaration issued by the mid-year coordination meeting between the African Union, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms on 16th June 2023, which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, urging countries that have not yet signed or ratified the African Investment Bank Protocol to do so.
4. **COMMENDS** the efforts of the Commission in organizing the consultative meeting on financial institutions of the African Union, which was held on 13th and 14th December 2023 in Lusaka, Zambia;
5. **COMMENDS** the efforts made by His Excellency Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, Champion of the African Union Financial Institutions;
6. **URGES** all member states that have not yet signed or ratified the African Investment Bank Protocol to expedite the signing and ratification of the same, with the view to operationalizing the bank and providing sustainable financing for the development of educational infrastructure on the African continent;
7. **AFFIRMS** that providing sustainable financing to develop educational infrastructure in Africa is crucial to achieving increased economic productivity in Africa, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development;
8. **SUPPORTS** the efforts of the State of Libya aimed at strengthening the role of the African financial institutions, including operationalization of the African Investment Bank for the advancement of the African continent

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE DAR-ES-SALAAM DECLARATION ON THE 2023
SUMMIT OF AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE ON HUMAN CAPITAL**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** the theme of the African Union for the year 2024, which is on *Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality and relevant learning in Africa*
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the Human Capital challenges facing the African continent;
3. **COMMENDS** Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania for championing and hosting the Africa Human Capital Summit in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 25th to 26th July, 2023;
4. **ENDORSES** the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Human Capital Summit;
5. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to implement the key elements of Africa Human Capital Summit, including the commitment to increase domestic resources towards human capital outcomes by 3% by 2030; and
6. **CALLS ON** the African Union Commission, NEPAD Development Agency, the World Bank and other partners to increase support to member states in implementing the human capital development programs by at least 5% by 2030.

**DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE THIRD (3RD) EDITION OF THE PAN-
AFRICAN FORUM FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE –
“LUANDA BIENNALE”**

The Assembly,

1. **COMMENDS** the Government of the Republic of Angola, the African Union and UNESCO for the excellent organization of the 3rd Edition of the Pan-African Forum on the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence "Luanda Biennial", held in Luanda from 22 to 24 November 2023.
2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the connection between the theme "*Education, Culture of Peace and African Citizenship as a Tools for the Sustainable Development of the African Continent*" of the 3rd Edition of the Pan-African Forum on Culture of Peace and Non-Violence "Luanda Biennial" and the African Union's theme for the year 2024 "*Educating an adequate African for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems to increase access to inclusive, lifelong, quality and relevant learning in Africa*"
3. **GUIDES** the African Union Commission and UNESCO in preparing and disseminating activities and programs inherent in the Roadmap of the theme of the 3rd Edition of the Pan-African Forum on Culture of Peace and Non-Violence "Luanda Biennial" during the year 2024
4. **REQUESTS** the Member States and the Regional Economic Communities, within the framework of the implementation of the roadmap of the theme of the year 2024, to include activities related to theme of the 3rd Edition of the Pan-African Forum on the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence "Luanda Biennial"
5. **CONSIDERS** the crucial role played by the Pan-African Forum on the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence "Luanda Biennial" in the process of continental pacification and stability and **ENCOURAGES** the Government of the Republic of Angola, together with the African Union and UNESCO, to organize the 4th Edition of the Pan-African Forum on the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence "Luanda Biennial".
6. **CALLS FOR** the active participation of Member States and Regional Economic Communities in the 4th Edition of the Pan-African Forum on the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence "Luanda Biennial".
7. **FURTHER DIRECTS** that future editions of the Pan-African Forum on the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence be henceforth held during the month of October.

**DRAFT DECISION ON DATE AND VENUE OF THE 38TH ORDINARY SESSION OF
THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

The Assembly,

1. **DECIDES** that the dates of the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly, which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, shall be the following:
 - i) Forty-Ninth (49th) Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC), from 14th to 31st January 2025;
 - ii) Forty- Sixth (46th) Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, 12th and 13th February 2025;
 - iii) Thirty-Eighth (38th) Ordinary Session of the Assembly, 15th and 16th February 2025.
2. **REQUESTS** the Commission to make all the necessary arrangements for the successful hosting of the Thirty- Eighth (38th) Ordinary Session of the Assembly and the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC according to the aforementioned dates.

DRAFT DECISION ON THE DATE AND VENUE OF THE SIXTH (6TH) MID-YEAR COORDINATION MEETING

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.558(XXIV) adopted in January 2015 which approved the offer made by Member States to host the June/July 2023 Ordinary Session of the Assembly;
2. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decisions Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.687 (XXX) adopted in January 2017 and January 2018 respectively, regarding the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting;
3. **DECIDES** that the dates of the 6th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting and preceding Executive Council and PRC Sessions, shall be as follows:
 - i) Forty-Eight (48th) Ordinary Session of the PRC from 17th June to 28th July 2024 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
 - ii) Forty-Fifth (45th) Ordinary Session of the Executive Council from 18th and 19th July 2024, in ***** (venue to be determined)
 - iii) Sixth (6th) Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union and the RECs on 21st July 2024, in ***** (venue to be determined)
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to put in place all the necessary measures in order to organize the Sixth (6th) Mid-Year Coordination Meeting as well the preparatory meetings of the Executive Council and the PRC according to the aforementioned dates.

DRAFT DECISION ON THE HOSTING OF THE AFRICA FERTILIZER AND SOIL HEALTH (AFSH) SUMMIT FROM MAY 7-9, 2024 IN NAIROBI, KENYA

The Assembly,

1. **REFERS** to the endorsement of the convening of the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health (AFSH) Summit in 2022/2023 by the 40th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (EX.CL/Dec.1144(XL) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2022.
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the postponement of the AFSH Summit that was supposed to be held in 2022/2023.
3. **APPRECIATES** the Republic of Kenya for accepting to host the Summit from May 7-9, 2024.
4. **RECOGNISES** the endorsement of the 10-year Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan and the Soil Initiative for Africa (SIA) Framework Document by Ministers responsible for ARDWE, at their Extraordinary Session held in May 2023.
5. **ENDORSES** the convening of the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit from May 7-9, 2024.
6. **REQUESTS** AU Member States, RECs and AUC to strengthen the existing established central multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholders' coordination mechanism for effective post-Summit implementation process.
7. **REITERATES** the need to ensure strong political leadership, commitment and support towards the post-Summit implementation activities.

**DRAFT ASSEMBLY DECISION ON THE KAMPALA DECLARATION FROM THE 2ND
G25 AFRICAN COFFEE SUMMIT HELD IN AUGUST 2023**

The Assembly,

1. **APPRECIATES** the Republic of Uganda for hosting 2nd G25 African Coffee Summit in Kampala, Uganda on 8th of August 2023 under the theme “**Transforming the African Coffee Sector Through Value Addition**” that converged to galvanise support for this strategic commodity that holds the key to unlock Africa's inclusive growth prosperity;
2. **RECOGNISES** the challenges and opportunities highlighted in the transformation of the African coffee sector through increased value addition.
3. **ENDORSES** all the recommendations made by the Heads of State and Government in the Kampala Declaration signed on August 8th 2023.
4. **REQUESTS** AU Member States, regional economic communities and AUC to support the approval and inclusion of coffee as a strategic commodity in the AU Agenda 2063’s 2nd Ten-Year Implementation Plan; and appoint the Inter African Coffee Organisation (IACO) as the AU designated agency responsible for coffee to work with the African Union Commission (AUC) and member states on the effective transformation of the coffee value chain in Africa as part of the implementation of the AFCFTA strategy on boosting intra-African agricultural trade.
5. **REITERATES** the need to ensure strong political leadership, commitment and support towards the post-Summit implementation activities.

**DRAFT DECISION ON HOLDING A SPECIAL SUMMIT FOR THE POST-MALABO
CAADP AGENDA IN NOVEMBER 2024**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendation of the Executive Council in the report of the 5th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) held in November 2023;
2. **APPRECIATES** the importance of developing the successor 10-year CAADP implementation plan before the expiry of the Malabo CAADP declaration in 2025;
3. **FURTHER APPRECIATES** the proactive steps taken by the Commission to prepare the post-Malabo CAADP implementation plan ahead of time;
4. **NOTES** the slow progress made by the Member States in the implementation of the CAADP agenda as contained in the 4th CAADP biennial review report and **CALLS** for accelerated implementation of the CAADP in the remaining two years;
5. **DECIDES** to hold a Special Summit in November 2024 to consider the post-Malabo CAADP implementation plan;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, regional economic communities (RECs) with the support of development partners to develop the 10-year post-Malabo CAADP implementation plan and organize the Special Summit.

DRAFT DECLARATIONS

DRAFT PROCLAMATION ON THE BUILDING A UNITED FRONT TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE AND PAYMENT OF REPARATIONS TO AFRICANS

PREAMBLE

We, the delegates participating in the Accra Reparations Conference held in Accra, Ghana from 14 to 17 November 2023, under the theme "*Building a United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and Reparations to Africans*" (hereafter referred to as "Accra Reparations Conference" or "Conference"), and hailing from all the regions of the Continent of Africa and the African Diaspora, including the Caribbean, Latin America, North America, Europe and the U.K.;

EXPRESSING our profound appreciation to His Excellency, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the Government and People of the Republic of Ghana and the African Union for co-organizing and conducting this Conference, and to His Excellency Azali Assoumani President of the Union of Comoros, and Chairperson of the African Union (AU) for the support and contribution provided by the Union to this Conference;

ACKNOWLEDGING, with appreciation, the invaluable statements and contributions of the Prime Ministers of Burundi and Barbados, Ministers of Member States of the AU, the Secretary General of the CARICOM, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and Senior Officials attending this Conference;

ALSO NOTING WITH DEEP APPRECIATION, the work led by the Permanent Representative of the Government of Ghana to the African Union in conceptualizing, formulating and shepherding the conduct of the Conference and other pre-conference activities with the AU Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) as well as the substantive and invaluable contributions of the African Union Commission (AUC) in the preparation of the Conference;

RECOGNIZING that the Accra Reparations Conference convened with a shared commitment to addressing historical injustices and injurious crimes committed against Africans and people of African descent, through transatlantic enslavement, colonialism and apartheid, and to addressing the inequities present in the international economic and political orders, is a demonstration of the African Union's commitment to advancing the cause of reparatory justice and healing for Africans and for all people of African descent;

NOTING that the Accra Reparations Conference is in fulfilment of the decision taken in February 2023 at the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, endorsing the Government of Ghana's proposal to co-organize with relevant stakeholders and host an International Conference towards "Building a United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations to Africans";

COGNIZANT that in July 2023, a High-Level delegation of the African Union conducted a study tour to the Republic of Barbados, with a view to developing stronger AU-CARICOM cooperation in advancing the agenda on reparations and racial healing;

NOTING FURTHER that the findings and recommendations that emerged from the Study Tour called for the need to implement joint initiatives that ensure civil society perspectives are represented in the mobilization and advocacy for reparations;

RECALLING that in November 2022, the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) passed a resolution (ACHPR/Res.543 (LXXIII) 2022) reaffirming that accountability and the provision of remedies for historical mass crimes, including slavery, the trade and trafficking of enslaved Africans, colonialism and racial segregation are integral to combatting ongoing systemic racism and to the advancement of the human rights of Africans and people of African descent;

FURTHER RECALLING that in August 2022, the Government of the Republic of Ghana and the African Union, in collaboration with global civil society, held the Accra Summit on Reparations and Healing to build on ongoing conversations in and outside of the African Continent and explore ways to create a platform for adoption of a single transcontinental plan for reparations;

REITERATING our respective and collective understanding and abhorrence of the profound and lasting impacts of slavery, colonialism, racial discrimination and neo-colonialism on Africans and people of African descent, and how these continue to cause immense suffering, cultural disruption, economic exploitation, emotional trauma and unending discrimination endured by Africans and people of African descent throughout history;

AFFIRMING that the fulfilment of reparations is a moral as well as a legal imperative rooted in principles of justice, human rights and human dignity, and that the claim for reparations represents a concrete step towards remedying historical wrongs and fostering healing among the people of Africa and people of African descent;

UNDERSCORING the historic importance of this gathering and the impetus to operationalize proposed and/or existing multi-stakeholder mechanisms and processes as recommended by the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, including but not limited to the establishment of an African Committee of Experts on Reparations for the purpose of developing a Common African Position on Reparations and Healing and incorporate therein, an African-Caribbean Programme of Action; and to consider the establishment of an AU – diaspora-wide program of action in pursuit of the objective of realizing a global African community;

FIRMLY CONVINCED of the need to build on these efforts and outcomes as the basis for establishing a solid foundation for the reinforcement of unity and

revitalization of the global African community as a panacea for a much wider and sustained transcontinental campaign for reparations;

RE-EMPHASIZING the essentiality of resourcing and collectively strengthening the relevant civil society-led actions and initiatives in and outside the African Continent, and promoting a global African reparatory justice campaign that is devoid of unnecessary duplication of efforts;

HEREBY COMMIT to undertaking the following social, cultural, political and economic areas of action;

Guided by the rich deliberations of the Conference attended by legal experts, policymakers, academics, and stakeholders from, among others, the African Union, the global African diaspora and peoples of African descent, and the Caribbean Region

Commitments of the Accra Reparations Conference and Recommendations for Member States of the African Union:

1. **Establishment by the African Union Commission and inauguration of a Committee of Experts on Reparations, in consultation with Member States, ECOSOCC and other AU Organs as well as the RECs, for the purpose of developing a Common African Policy on Reparations and incorporating therein, an African Reparatory Programme of Action, in accordance with due process and taking into consideration the following proposals:**
 - a. To serve as a principal point of reference for the African Union on matters relating to reparations and healing;
 - b. To solicit, nurture and promote reparatory justice knowledge at the African Union, by developing and implementing knowledge about reparations between and among different AU organs, Member States and the global African community;
 - c. Liaise with and support the mandate of an AU Special Envoy on Reparations for Africa; and
 - d. Undertake any other tasks which may be assigned and determined by the African Union.
2. **Establishment of a Global Reparations Fund**, based in Africa and supported by multilateral institutions and agencies aligned with the reparatory justice agenda. Such a Fund will complement the efforts of similar initiatives in and outside the Continent, while operating as an autonomous entity geared towards ensuring the judicious utilization of a pool of resources to advance the campaign for reparations, in close cooperation with the African Union Commission and for consideration by Member States, according to due process;
3. **Establishment of the Office of AU Special Envoy on Reparations for**

Africans, to be recommended for consideration according to the AUC due process, and with a view to help champion the international advocacy and campaign for reparations at the global level. The full mandate of this Special Envoy will be determined, in consultation with the

Executive Council of the African Union. The postholder of this office will reinforce the work of the Committee of Experts on Reparations and Healing.

4. **Recognition of African civil society efforts on reparations:** The African Union Commission, through the Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), have made tremendous progress in engaging and collaborating with African peoples through civil society actors, and expanding engagement with the African Diaspora community through State and non-state institutions. To build on this and continue the advancement of equitable representation and participation that will inform the day-to-day discourses on reparations and reparative justice, we commit to supporting relevant African networks, coalitions and initiatives that foster synergy and cooperation between and among the relevant actors of the reparatory justice movement.
5. **Creation of a transcontinental partnership framework between the AU, CARICOM Latin American States, and the African diaspora in Europe and all other regions in the world, including, where appropriate, relevant CSOs:** This will seek to enhance Global South cooperation, in close coordination with the African Union Commission, through stronger collaboration between the African Union (AU) and other inter- governmental entities in the Global South with significant African and people of African descent. The framework will support efforts by the AU to accelerate processes that will catalyse the development of transcontinental messaging around reparations, including the need to emphasize that reparations are an integral pillar for the achievement of sustainable development. It will also be deployed to foster intercontinental knowledge building and exchange on reparations and healing.
6. **Exploration of legal and judicial options for reparations:** This will involve engagement, in close coordination with the African Union Commission, on the question of how international law interacts with or supports the quest for reparations, including the potential for exploring litigation options in regional and international court systems. This effort will require the African Union, including the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, CARICOM and Latin American states, Europe and all other regions of the world, among others, in collaboration with civil society, to engage the United Nations and other multilateral bodies on the legal merits of the call for reparations, including on the question of whether acts of enslavement, colonialism and apartheid against Africans, constitute grave violations of human rights at the time they were

committed. In addition, we support actions being taken in and outside the Continent by individual Member States and descendants of victims of these historical crimes and call on the African Union to lend its weight behind future litigatory actions for reparations.

7. **Increased role for the United Nations:** Conference Members call on the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, to convene, in close coordination with the African Union Commission, an International Conference, involving former colonial powers, on the issue of reparations as well as to extend the Decade for People of African Descent, for acknowledgement and healing with regard to the Trans-Atlantic enslavement, colonialism, and apartheid.
8. **Establishment of a Legal Reference Group,** in close coordination with the African Union Commission, to be set up to support the AU Committee of Experts and the AU Special Envoy, through the provision of legal advice on the question of reparations, including best practice on the law, practice and litigation of the reparation's agenda. The Legal/Expert Reference Group will further provide thought leadership and advice, drawing from global case studies, for influencing policy and advocating for the application of global norms in support of reparatory justice.
9. **Amplification of marginalized voices in the reparatory justice movement.** The Conference acknowledges that contemporary forms of discrimination, especially against women and young people, stem from long-standing discriminatory and non-representative policies rooted in colonialism, apartheid and neo-colonialism, which have further strained the overall development of former colonized countries in the Global South. As such, the Conference calls for political discussions on reparations accompanied by actions that demonstrate genuine socio-political equality through fair representation of marginalized voices.
10. **A united front for the reform of global financial systems and structures:** The delegates commit to supporting the advocacy campaign headlined by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and the Republic of Ghana for the reform of the global financial infrastructure with a view to achieving a new global financial pact that is reparatory in nature and economically equitable in scope and practice. Member States of the AU, CARICOM and other developing and Least Developed Countries that have been adversely impacted by trans-Atlantic enslavement, colonialism, apartheid and other forms of extractivism, are urged to support the Government of Ghana and similar efforts, including the Bridgetown Initiative championed by Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley of the Republic of Barbados, to pursue joint reparatory efforts within the global multilateral system.

11. **Increased and active role for AU organs Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the reparations campaign:** Conference delegates further call on AU organs, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of the African Union, to take concrete measures, in close coordination with the African Union Commission, that would promote and sustain linkages between the various AU organs, the RECs and Civil Society, including through the use of information and communication technology as well as the arts and culture industries to advance reparatory justice and healing.
12. **Climate justice and reparatory justice:** The delegates of the Conference note that descendants of the victims of Trans-Atlantic enslavement and colonialism have also been exposed to the dangers of climate change, including the impact of environmental damage caused by the exploitative forces of colonialism and through the forced relocation of enslaved African labour to other regions. Delegates, therefore, commit to supporting efforts campaigning for the compensation of the people of African descent suffering from those effects.
13. **Repatriation, restitution and safeguarding of African cultural artifacts:** Developing a strong Common African Position on the Restitution of Cultural Property and Heritage and producing a Framework for Action on the Negotiations for the Return/Restitution of illicitly trafficked cultural property from the Continent in accordance with the Continental Consultations on the Restitution of Cultural Property and Heritage held from 30 November to 2 December 2021. African experts should endeavour to establish networks of African cultural experts, policymakers, certified dealers and auctioneers, and museum curators, among others, working in combatting illicit trafficking in cultural property and heritage. As the African Union Agenda 2063 underscored, Africa's stolen culture, heritage and artifacts should be fully repatriated and safeguarded.
14. **Neo-colonialism:** Highlight that African States are still facing the repercussions of trans- Atlantic enslavement, colonialism, and apartheid through the persistence of neo- colonialism and dependency on former colonial powers. Hence, they call for immediate, just and comprehensive reforms of the prevailing architecture of multilateral institutions by fully realizing related African Common Positions. Particularly in regard to the composition and working methods of the United Nations Security Council, and the Bretton Woods Institutions, as well as ensuring an equitable and just international system through concrete measures including, but not limited to, special and differential treatment, common but differentiated responsibility and mechanisms for loss and damage, debt relief, curbing illicit financial flows and return of African cultural artifacts.
15. **Propose** the holding of the International Conference on Reparations regularly

and **encourage** other AU Member States to offer to host the Conference in collaboration with the AU Commission, alongside other relevant mechanisms for dialogue relating to specific aspects of reparations to sustain the momentum.

16. Recommend that the Theme of the Year 2025 be “**Justice for Africa Through Reparations**”.

**DRAFT DECLARATION ON HEALTH FINANCING AND SUSTAINING ACTION TO
END AIDS AND RELATED COMMUNICABLE, NON-COMMUNICABLE AND
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES IN AFRICA**

WE, the Heads of State and Government attending the **High-Level Event on Health Financing and Sustaining Action to End AIDS and related Communicable Non-communicable and Neglected Tropical diseases** in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 17 February 2023;

Preamble

We take note that in addressing the AIDS response, the Roadmap will take into consideration addressing other health challenges including Tuberculosis, controlling and eliminating Malaria, endemic and neglected tropical diseases, non-communicable diseases and improving maternal, child and adolescent health.

We take note that strengthening Primary Health Care represents the most cost-effective way to increase accessibility, quality and affordability of health services for populations, especially vulnerable populations. This is critical to progressively move towards Universal Health Coverage.

We take note of the challenges in health security, which is impacted by climate change, conflict and food insecurity, all impacting the health and wellbeing of affected populations, particularly mothers and children.

We recognize the critical importance of adequate nutrition for African populations, which underpins the ability to fight communicable and neglected tropical diseases as well as prevent or delay the onset of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular conditions. We also recognize the impact of cancers on African populations, across all age groups, with challenges in the availability and affordability of diagnosis, treatment and related care.

We recognize that health and well-being is not only the responsibility of the health sector, but involves all other sectors which contribute to the well-being of African populations.

RECALLING AND EMPHASIZING the highest-level commitment shown by Africa's Heads of State and Government to fight the AIDS Epidemic including but not limited to the following:

- i. the AIDS WATCH AFRICA (AWA) was established in 2001 as an entity of the African Union and has a mandate to lead advocacy, accountability, and resource mobilization for the acceleration of action to combat the AIDS epidemic. The mandate of AWA was expanded to include Malaria and TB and all other Member States in 2012;

- ii. the Assembly Decision /AU/Dec.42(II) that repositioned AWA's Secretariat within the former Department of Social Affairs (now Health Humanitarian and Social Development) of the AU Commission for a more effective coordination of AWA's roles and activities;
- iii. the Assembly Decision /AU/Dec.395(XVIII) on the revitalization of AIDS Watch Africa as the highest continental-level advocacy, resource mobilization and accountability platform for AIDS, TB and Malaria;
- iv. the Assembly Decision /AU/Dec. Assembly/AU/Dec.619 (XXVII) on AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) that took note of the AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) Report and Endorsed the recommendations contained therein including on the Africa Health Strategy, the Maputo Plan of Action, and the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, Tuberculosis and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030;
- v. The Executive Council/EX.CL/810/(XXIV) CALLS UPON all partners to support initiatives on mitigation of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Africa and together with the RECs,
- vi. The Assembly/AU/Dec.565 (XXIV) which ADOPTED the Agenda 2063 Framework Document and Popular Version. Agenda 2063 "the Africa We want" a guiding framework for Africa Union Member States which calls for the elimination of all NTDs in Africa by 2030.
- vii. The Executive Council/EX.CL/Dec.1169(XLI) that adopted the Common African Position and the Continental Framework on Neglected Tropical Diseases during the 41st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2022, Lusaka, Zambia:
- viii. the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.503(XXII) adopting the Common African Position (CAP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (Jan 2014) which includes 'Ending the epidemics of AIDS, TB and Malaria' by 2030 under the Pillar III on People-Centred Development;
- ix. the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.649(XXIX) on AIDS Watch Africa Report that reaffirmed commitments to the Abuja 15% target on domestic financing for health;

ALSO RECALLING Assembly/AU/decl.4(xxxii) declaration of the Africa Leadership Meeting – Investing in Health (ALM) and the Addis Ababa commitments towards shared responsibility and global solidarity for increased health financing of 2019 which called for coordination and acceleration of progress towards Universal Health Coverage and the need to invest in health to drive human capital development as a basis for sustainable growth;

FURTHER RECALLING the entry into force on 5th November 2021 of the Treaty for the establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA), that will improve access to affordable, high-quality medicines, vaccines, and medical devices on the continent.

TAKE NOTE of decision EX.CL/1352(XLI) which adopted the Common African Position (CAP) to the 2021 United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AIDS;

ACKNOWLEDGING WITH SATISFACTION that the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the Global Fund for HIV TB & Malaria have contributed significantly to fighting HIV/AIDS in Africa for 20 years;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that despite the progress, and significantly affected by the disruptions to the AIDS response brought in by COVID-19, the AIDS epidemic is NOT OVER YET and that the continent is not currently on track to achieve an AIDS-free Africa by 2030:

- Vulnerable Populations due to the higher risk of acquiring HIV accounted for 70% of HIV infections globally 57% of which were from Africa;
- Gender inequalities are a key driver of the AIDS epidemic in Africa; six in seven new HIV infections among adolescents aged 15-19 years were among girls. Women and girls accounted for 63% of all new HIV infections in 2021;
- Risk-taking behavior amongst the youth and adolescents, who constitute 75% of Africa's population;
- Progress continues to be undermined by various factors such as inadequate financing levels, weak health systems including inadequate human resources for health, weak drug and commodity supply chains, insufficient quality control of medical products, inadequate integration of HIV services with tuberculosis, RMNCAH, Hepatitis, cancer and other health and development services;
- COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately threatened outcomes for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and adversely affected testing and treatment protocols, as well as their availability;

ACKNOWLEDGING that:

- The critical investments made in the HIV response have resulted in notable gains in life expectancy, and significant reductions in AIDS-related mortality and new HIV infections;
- HIV investments in laboratory systems, workforce, supply chains and other areas further strengthened health systems, enabling a more effective response to other health crises, such as COVID-19 and Ebola;
- The critical role that private sector, civil society, and faith-based entities have played and will increasingly need to play in the future of the HIV response;

WE COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY COMMIT TO:

1. Taking personal responsibility and providing active leadership in the HIV/AIDS response, championing the science, mobilizing domestic political and financial support, strengthening national capacity to oversee and manage the end-to-end response, and elevating dialogue on sustainable health security;
2. Creating a conducive structural, legal, regulatory, and policy environment that addresses persistent HIV-related equity gaps, promotes gender equality, respects human rights, and eliminates discrimination and stigma for People living with HIV;
3. Ensuring that the hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations in the community have access to HIV services and treatment;
4. Reinvigorating continental leadership of the HIV response through the AIDS Watch Africa and Africa Leadership Meeting on Investing in Health (ALM) mechanisms to hold ourselves accountable for continental progress;

NOTE WITH APPRECIATION the Outline of the Roadmap to 2030: ‘Sustaining the AIDS, TB Malaria and other infectious diseases response, ensuring systems strengthening and health security of the development of Africa’ ; and its six pillars: Diversified and Sustainable Financing; Youth and adolescents; Access to medicines, regulatory harmonization Local/Regional Manufacturing of medicines and diagnostics; Health Equity; Health security and health systems strengthening; Leadership, Governance, community engagement and oversight for sustainability; and **REQUEST** the Commission, AUDA-NEPAD to develop a fully costed Roadmap to 2030 and to submit to the Assembly at its next session.

INVITE THE ASSEMBLY 10 years after the Abuja+12 to hold a Special Session On ‘Sustaining AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and, Malaria Response, Ensuring Systems Strengthening and Health Security in Africa’ as soon as possible but not later than July 2024;

REQUEST the Commission and AUDA-NEPAD in collaboration with RECs and Partners to revitalizing the convening of the AWA and ALM events annually at the January/February Summit of Heads of State and Government;

CALL ON our partners, especially PEPFAR, UNAIDS, The Global Fund, The African Private Sector and others, to support the implementation of this Declaration;

REQUEST the Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, the Africa CDC to support the development of the Roadmap to 2030.

ALSO REQUEST the Commission and AUDA-NEPAD to report progress on implementation of this Declaration to the Assembly in January/February 2025, 2027, and 2030.

ABIDJAN DECLARATION ON THE AFRICAN UNION YEAR OF NUTRITION 2022**A CALL TO ACTION**

“Accelerate investment, implementation and coordination to improve nutrition and food security in Africa”.

We, the Leaders of Governmental Action of the Member States of the African Union, meeting in Abidjan, on 8 December 2022, as part of the implementation of the roadmap of the African Union Year of Nutrition 2022 theme on Nutritional Resilience and Food Security to examine the multiple challenges posed by hunger and malnutrition in all its forms and identify actions and strategies to address them,

Salute the leadership of H.E. ALASSANE OUATTARA, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, for his advocacy with his peers which led to the adoption by the African Union of the theme for the year 2022 and for hosting this high-level meeting jointly organised by Côte d'Ivoire and the African Union,

Let us also salute HIS MAJESTY LETSIE III, King of the Kingdom of Lesotho and African Union Champion for Nutrition, for his actions to promote nutrition on the Continent,

Express our gratitude to the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) for their efforts in promoting the nutrition agenda on the continent since 2018

Commend the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, as well as all partners and stakeholders for their cooperation and support in advocating for an enabling environment for financing and investing in nutrition in situations of peace and stability, as well as in times of conflict and crisis of all kinds.

1. Considering the long-term vision of Africa's Agenda 2063, as well as the common African aspirations adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union based, inter alia, on the potential for well-nourished and healthy populations with a special focus on women, adolescents and children;

2. Taking note on the continental policies and key commitments of the African Union, including the Malabo Declaration on Nutritional Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa [Assembly/AU/Decl.4 (XXIII)], which recognizes that food security without improved nutrition is not conducive to the desired inclusive socio-economic outcomes, given the increasing number of people affected by hunger and malnutrition; the African Regional Nutrition Strategy 2015-2016; the Conference Decision on Home School Feeding for 2016 (Assembly/AU/Dec.589 (XXVI)), among others.

Recognizing, furthermore, the global nutrition targets agreed by the World Health Assembly (WHA), and the WHO nutrition guidelines for achieving these targets; and taking into account the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 13 and 17;

3. Recognizing that human capital is the key to development and that it contributes to improving the lives of individuals, as well as to increasing the earnings and incomes of countries;

4. Recognizing nutritional security, in addition to food security, as a key human rights issue and the joint efforts to address the continental food crisis to directly address the needs of the most nutritionally vulnerable people (e.g. women of childbearing age, infants and young children);

5. Taking note of the findings of the study on Cost of Hunger in Africa, including the impact of child undernutrition on health, education and productivity, and stressing the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration between all sectors;

6. Resolved to ensure alignment of national strategic objectives with the continental and global nutrition and food security agenda for mutual implementation and accountability;

7. Observing with concern the prevalence of hunger and malnutrition in all its forms on the continent, as well as its complex and multifactorial root causes;

8. Noting with concern that despite significant achievements in many countries, challenges continue to undermine the efforts of Member States, including the increasing and negative impact of climate change on food security, health, social protection, water supply and sanitation which are fundamental to good nutrition;

9. Recognizing nutrition as a factor of social cohesion and resilience of our African populations, communities and countries;

10. Highlighting the new "Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN)" and Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transitions Initiative (FAST) launched at COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh calling for a focus on climate change adaptation efforts and building nutritional resilience; And we support the outcomes of COP27 related to the Establishment of Risk and Damage Fund,

11. Noting that the global nutrition community is making nutrition a development agenda on the Continent with a particular focus on increasing investment in Africa.

12. Welcoming the conclusions of the Abidjan High Level Meeting which, taking note of the efforts already made at national, regional and continental levels in the field of nutrition, calls for their reinforcement and for the adoption of a common African position to fight against all forms of malnutrition.

In this regard, in order to achieve very rapidly the targets of the 2014 Malabo Declaration on the eradication of hunger, the reduction of child stunting to 10% and underweight to 5% by 2025,

We agree on the following:

1. ACT to end malnutrition in all its forms, taking particular account of the specific needs of all children, including the youngest, adolescent girls, women, the elderly, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, as well as people in humanitarian crises, with a special focus on women and children in the 1,000-day window between conception and the child's second birthday;
2. TAKE INTO ACCOUNT the full range of determinants of malnutrition and hunger that vary from country to country and especially their interconnectedness;
3. TAKE urgent action and build strong partnerships in a comprehensive, systemic, synergistic and coordinated approach by all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, the private sector, the research community, women and youth, to accelerate progress on nutrition and food security;
4. ADOPT sustainable agri-food systems which are healthy, climate-sensitive and environmental friendly including the use of drought-resistant indigenous varieties, resilient health systems with universal health coverage, inclusive of sanitation and drinking water systems, effective education/literacy and social protection systems for all, including young children, the poorest and most nutritionally vulnerable.
5. STRENGTHEN AND INVEST in the national multi-sectoral coordination framework with the participation of all stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia and research, women and youth, for a convergence of interventions as a relevant approach to accelerate the improvement of the nutritional status of the population.
6. MAKE nutrition programmes gender sensitive and adequately address gender-related barriers to accessing quality nutrition programmes and services.
7. INCLUDE target beneficiaries, especially women and adolescent girls, in the design, implementation, review and improvement of programmes to ensure that their unique needs are addressed.
8. ADOPT, according to the realities of each country, an adequate anchoring of the coordination platform facilitating the responsibility and accountability of each sector concerned by the issue of nutrition, notably agriculture, health, water/sanitation, education/literacy, trade, industry, women empowerment, among others
9. STRENGTHEN the legislative, regulatory and normative framework for nutrition and promote the adoption of a continental policy framework to integrate nutrition into

national health, agricultural development, social protection, education programmes. Also ensure that essential nutrition interventions are integrated into national health care policy, including national University Hospital (UHC) and Primary Health Care (PHC) programmes and national health insurance schemes, ensuring that national agricultural development programmes include nutrition and health objectives;

10. MAKE nutrition a priority in government programming and budgeting by developing and adopting a nutrition financing target to ensure resources for implementation, that include both dedicated nutrition budgets and sectoral budgets;

11. MOBILISE financial and human resources for priority nutrition interventions, both at central and local levels, in a more optimal way. MOBILISE through private sector and innovative financing from taxation on certain imported products to ensure effective and self-sustaining programme investments in nutrition;

12. STRENGTHEN data management and information systems, knowledge generation and dissemination to inform decision making taking into account adequate budget allocation for state sovereignty in nutrition data;

13. INCREASE strategic investments to better address climate-related threats to food and nutrition security in order to achieve the long-term goal of sustainable and safe food for all in Africa.

14. STRENGTHEN at the continental level the mechanism for monitoring commitments, traceability of funding and nutrition interventions, in coherence with national systems, through the creation of an African Nutrition Coordination Agency supported by sub-regional offices.

15. CREATE and STRENGTHEN existing facilities for mutual learning and experience sharing among Member States and Regional Economic Communities;

16. CALL ON the African Union Commission to ensure the implementation and follow-up of the recommendations of the Abidjan High Level Meeting on the African Union 2022 theme on Nutritional Resilience and Food Security.

17. ADVOCATE, on the occasion of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, that the activities of the African Union roadmap on the theme of the year be extended beyond 2022, in view of the persistence of the multifaceted challenges facing the Continent in the areas of nutrition and food security.

Done in Abidjan on 8 December 2022

**DRAFT DECLARATION
ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST**

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Thirty-Seven Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 17 and 18 February 2024;

TAKING NOTE of the report on the situation in the State of Palestine and the Middle East and all previous declarations, decisions and resolutions adopted by the Organization of African Unity and the African Union on the situation in Palestine aimed at achieving a lasting peace and security in the Middle East;

NOTING with great concern the dangerous developments in the occupied Palestinian territories and the brutal aggression launched by the Israeli against the Gaza Strip, which has been besieged for more than 17 years, using internationally prohibited weapons, targeting civilians, property, and infrastructure;

FURTHER NOTING the tragic crises on Gaza in which the principles of State Responsibility to Protect citizens and the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, are being compromised with impunity by the Israeli authorities, and the dire humanitarian situation created by the targeting of civilians, particularly women and children and forcible relocation of about one million Palestinians contrary to international law;

EXPRESSING our full support for the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle against the Israeli occupation, represented by the Palestine Liberation Organization under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, in order to restore their inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination, return of refugees and independence in their State of Palestine existing side by side with the State of Israel;

CALLING on the international community to live up to the shared principles of humanity and justice and underscoring the imperative collective action to stop the atrocities and protracted aggression against the State of Palestine,

VOICING our total outrage at the humanitarian catastrophe that is occurring in the Gaza Strip caused by Israeli forces, the number of civilian casualties, the destruction of properties, the forced displacement of its population, and the lack of respect for the sanctity of hospitals and places of worship;

REAFFIRMING the centrality of the just cause of Palestine and the steadfastness of our supportive position and decisions based on our shared values against colonialism, oppression and apartheid and the historically established African solidarity with the Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for freedom and an independent state;

FURTHER CALLING for the launch of a credible political process to end the Israeli occupation and to dismantle the system of colonialism and apartheid on the occupied

territory of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in order to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region;

REJECTING the Israeli violations of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people by continuing the blockade on the Gaza Strip, and the consolidation of an apartheid regime that discriminates on the basis of nationality and religion.

WE HEREBY DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. **STRONGLY CONDEMN** Israel, the occupying military force, for its brutal war on the Gaza Strip following the 7 October 2023 attack, and its use of excessive and disproportionate force against unarmed 2.2 million civilians, which have led to the death and injury of thousands, including children, women and the elderly.
2. **DENOUNCE** the Israeli policies, represented by collective punishment measures against civilians, especially the attempts to forcibly transfer the Gaza population to the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula. These policies require an immediate international intervention and response.
3. **DEPLORE** the unprecedented support from some countries for the Israeli occupation, and recent unleashing of atrocities by Israeli military operation that targeted Palestinian citizens and their property, in addition to destroying the infrastructure of the besieged Gaza Strip under the pretext "Israel's right to defend itself".
4. **GRAVELY CONCERNED** of the possibility of the ongoing conflict spreading to Lebanon, other neighboring countries and the Middle East region, **CALL ON** all external actors to stop forthwith further or any support to the war on Gaza;
5. **REJECT** the Israeli violation of the international humanitarian law, specifically the Fourth Geneva Convention, by targeting hospitals, medical centers, media facilities, and the use of internationally prohibited weapons, and support the call for an independent international investigation on these violations.
6. **STRESS** the urgent need to immediately open safe humanitarian corridors to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinian People.
7. **ALSO CONDEMN** the Israeli administrative policy of detention without trial and request authorities to immediately release all Palestinian prisoners, especially children, women, elderly and sick, detained in harsh conditions in contravention of all rights guaranteed by applicable laws and international treaties.
8. **REITERATE** our commitment to the steadfastness of the cause of the Palestinian People for their homeland and our continued to support for a peaceful and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of international law and all relevant United Nations resolutions, which call for the

establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine on the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

9. **UNDERScore** the necessity of resolving the Palestinian issue to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East region, on the basis of the two-state solution, provisions of international law, all resolutions of international community, the Arab Peace Initiative, decisions by the African Union, and guided by the vision of His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas and his repeated calls to achieve peace.
10. **SUPPORT** the renewal of the State of Palestine's request for a full membership in the United Nations, aimed at holding the Israeli occupation accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed and still being committed against the Palestinian People.
11. **INVITE** all African countries to support the urgent relief campaign to the Gaza Strip in an effort to stop the humanitarian catastrophe resulting from the Israeli war, and further support the efforts to lift the unjust Israeli siege on the Strip and accelerate the reconstruction process.
12. **REQUEST** Member States and the international community to observe the provisions of international law and relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the African Union, and to work to end the Israeli occupation, which undermine the basic fundamentals of the international legal order.
13. **FURTHER REQUEST** AU Member States to end all direct and indirect trade, scientific and cultural exchanges with Israel in accordance with the resolutions of international community, in particular Resolution 2334 (2016), paragraph 5, and the relevant decisions of the African Union.
14. **CALL** on the international community to ensure the protection of the Palestinian People in accordance with Security Council resolutions 605 of (1987), 673 of (1990), and 904 of (1994), based on the Geneva Conventions as well as resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including its emergency special session in July 2018.
15. **FURTHER CALL** on the international community, and the major world powers in particular, to assume their responsibilities to impose peace and guarantee the rights of the two peoples.
16. **APPRECIATE** the ongoing African efforts to support the Palestinian People, especially the submission of its legal inquiry to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) requesting an advisory opinion on the legal implications arising from the Israel's continued violation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-

determination, and the prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of the Palestinian territories.

17. **APPLAUD** the position of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, in condemning the recent barbaric aggression on the Gaza Strip and harnessing the African solidarity in support of the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights.
18. **WELCOME AND COMMEND** the Republic of South Africa for taking the bold step to institute proceedings against Israel before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), regarding the blatant violations by Israel of its obligations under the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the “Genocide Convention”) in relation to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip; **EQUALLY COMMEND** the Arab Republic of Egypt for providing urgent life-saving humanitarian relief to the people of Palestine, despite all the challenges.
19. **FURTHER WELCOME AND COMMEND** the urgent provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 26 January 2024 in the application submitted by the Republic of South Africa against Israel regarding the ongoing conflict in the Gaza strip, which upholds the universal respect for international law and the imperative for Israel to comply immediately with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. **EQUALLY COMMEND** the Republic of South Africa and calls on Israel to fully comply with the provisional order and embrace the persistent calls by the AU and other freedom-loving international actors, for a permanent ceasefire in the collective interest of peace and stability in the Middle East.
20. **UNDERLINE** the imperative to address the root causes of this protracted conflict, particularly the unjustified and continued Israeli occupation, confiscation of Palestinian land, Israeli settlements, and unchecked violation of international law: and the stalled peace process in wanton defiance of international law and UN Security Council’s resolutions: **WHILE REAFFIRMING** that only a political solution based on the two-state vision, is the most feasible way to guarantee peace, stability and security for the people and States in the region.
21. **REAFFIRM** our position that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East requires the complete Israeli withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since June 1967, including the Syrian Golan Heights and the territories still occupied in southern Lebanon, and the embodiment of the independence State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, and the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes.

RESOLUTIONS

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE IMPACT OF SANCTIONS AND UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES ON AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, assembled on 17 and 18 February 2024 at our 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

Recalling the purposes and principles of the African Union Constitutive Act, inter alia, affirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the African Union Member States, as well as the commitment to promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels, for an integrated and prosperous continent;

Reaffirming the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights;

Emphasising that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the African Union Constitutive Act, the United Nations Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States;

Reiterating the pronouncements of the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 76/161 of 16 December 2021 and 78/135 and 78/202 of 19 December 2023, and the United Nations Human Rights Council Decision 18/120 of 30 September 2011 and Resolutions 24/14 of 27 September 2013, 27/21 of 26 September 2014, 30/2 of 1 October 2015, 36/10 of 28 September 2017, 37/21 of 23 March 2018, 40/3 of 21 March 2019, 43/15 of 22 June 2020, 46/5 of 23 March 2022, 49/6 of 31 March 2022 and 52/13 of 3 April 2023, calling on States not to recognise unilateral coercive economic measures, and not to recognize or apply such measures or legislation imposed by any State across territorial boundaries, which are contrary to recognized principles of international law and stressing that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States and underscoring that in the long-term, these measures have a negative impact on socio-economic development and overall national progress and raising humanitarian concerns and crisis in the States targeted;

Acknowledging that socio-economic sanctions and coercive measures are obstacles impeding the implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Expressing our grave concern at the negative impact of sanctions and unilateral coercive measures on the right to development, and promoting cordial international relations, trade, investment, cooperation, as well as peace, security and stability;

Alarmed by the double standards and the disproportionate and indiscriminate human costs of coercive measures and unilateral sanctions and their negative effects on the civilian population, in particular women and children, of targeted States;

Deeply concerned at the negative impact of sanctions and unilateral coercive measures on post conflict development, reconstruction, peace building and on the African Union 2024 Theme of the Year: **“Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa”**;

1. **STRONGLY CONDEMN** the continued unilateral application and enforcement by certain countries of such measures as tools of pressure, including political and economic pressure, against any country, particularly against African Union Member States, with a view to preventing these countries from exercising their right of sovereignty and self-determination;
2. **URGE** all States to refrain from imposing unilateral coercive measures, and calls on concerned States to remove such measures, as they are contrary to the African Union Constitutive Act, United Nations Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States at all levels, and preventing the full realization of economic and socio-cultural development of nations while also affecting the full realization of human rights;
3. **STRONGLY OBJECT** to the extraterritorial nature of those measures which, in addition, threaten the sovereignty of States;
4. **CALL UPON** all States not to recognise these measures nor to apply them, and to take measures as appropriate, to counteract the extraterritorial application or effects of unilateral coercive measures;
5. **URGE** the Government of the United States of America to lift the long-standing sanctions imposed on the Government and People of Zimbabwe, to facilitate the socio-economic recovery of the country. Calls upon the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to lift all sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe that it inherited when it withdrew from the European Union on 31 January 2020 and all the additional sanctions that it adopted on its own. We acknowledge the steps taken, inter alia, political dialogue and high-level engagements between Zimbabwe and the European Union towards the removal of sanctions. We further urge that the European Union takes the requisite actions to ensure that all remaining sanctions are terminated;
6. **CALL UPON** the United States of America, other Countries and Institutions to lift all unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Government, its Leadership and People of the Republic of South Sudan in an effort to promote post conflict development, reconstruction and peace building, and that due consideration be

made by the United Nations to lift the Arms Embargo imposed on South Sudan, and all other sanctions and coercive measures by other entities;

7. **URGE** the European Union and the United States of America to lift the unilateral coercive sanctions imposed on the State of Eritrea;
8. **MANDATE** the Panel of the Wise, once again, to lobby the Capitals of those countries that have imposed illegal economic and other sanctions against African Union Member States, for their immediate and unconditional removal;
9. **REAFFIRM** its solidarity with the People of Zimbabwe, South Sudan and the State of Eritrea in exercising their sovereign right to determine their own destiny.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE LIFTING OF THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL BLOCKADE IMPOSED ON THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Assembly,

1. **EXPRESSES** serious concern about the continuous and illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Cuban government and people;
2. **REAFFIRMS** its full support to the resolution of the UNGA “Necessity to end the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”;
3. **REGRETS** the regression in the bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States and once again, calls upon the Government of the United States of America to lift the long standing and unjustifiable economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on the Cuban people;
4. **ALSO REGRETS** the measures implemented by the Government of the United States since 9th November 2017, which strengthen and **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** over the widening of the extraterritorial nature of the blockade, including the full implementation of Chapter III of the Helms-Burton Act (based on paragraph 334 of the G-77 Ministerial Declaration of 2023, which maintains the same language agreed in 2022);
5. **EXPRESSES** serious concern about the arbitrary inclusion of Cuba in the unilateral list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism, which has further exacerbated the financial prohibitions and restrictions to Cuba emanating from the blockade; therefore, **CALLS FOR** the removal of Cuba from that list;
6. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that the negative impact of the blockade is aggravated and even crueler in the current context, when Cuba is facing the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic;
7. **ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES** that the blockade is the main obstacle for Cuba’s implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and shares this concern due to the importance that the African Union attaches to the achievements of the objectives on the said Agenda;
8. **ALSO REAFFIRMS** its solidarity with the people of Cuba.

