

AFRICAN UNION
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UMOJA WA AFRIKA



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**5TH MID-YEAR COORDINATION MEETING
BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION,
THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES AND
THE REGIONAL MECHANISMS
16 JULY 2023
NAIROBI, KENYA**

MYCM/AU /Decl.(V)

DECLARATION

WE, the Heads of State and Government, representing the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union and Chairpersons of the Eight (8) Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as Regional Mechanisms (RMs), meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on 16th July 2023 on the occasion of the Fifth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, chaired by H.E. Azali Assoumani, President of the Union of Comoros and Chairperson of the African Union,

RECALLING the outcomes of the four previous Mid-Year Coordination Meetings, latest of which declaration on 17 July 2022 in Lusaka contained in document MYCM/AU/Draft/Decl.(IV)Rev.4,

UNDERSCORING the need to promote cooperation in all fields of human endeavour in order to raise the standard of living of African peoples, and maintain and enhance economic stability, foster close and peaceful relations among Member States and contribute to the progress, development and the economic integration of the Continent,

UNDERLINING the importance of the harmonization of national and regional policies in order to promote socio-economic development across the Continent,

RECOGNIZING that the promotion of intra-African trade remains a fundamental factor for sustainable economic development, employment generation and effective integration of Africa into the global economy,

REITERATING that the implementation of the Protocol on Relations between the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities places the responsibility for both the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities to guarantee that the continent is integrated in the most economic and effective way possible, and that Africa's integration process is hastened in order for Africa to tackle the challenges caused by globalization,

HEREBY DECLARE THAT WE:

STATUS OF INTEGRATION

1. **TAKE NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the Continental Integration in Africa and Reports of the Chairs of Regional Economic Communities on the state of Regional Integration;
2. **ENCOURAGE** Member States to provide E-visa facilitation for Africans to boost all modes of connectivity and tourism in view of their enormous contributions to socio-economic growth;
3. **URGE** the AUC in collaboration with UNECA, RECs and AU relevant institutions to develop a single comprehensive and harmonized approach and a unique index of assessing African integration that leverages on the strengths of existing indexes at AUC(AMRII) and UNECA(ARII). The Unified Index should be aligned on the objectives of the Abuja Treaty (AEC) and Agenda 2063;

4. **ADOPT** the principle of producing the Africa Integration Report every two years to enable adequate time to prepare a comprehensive report and ensure accuracy of the data through proper quality assurance process;
5. **CALL UPON** the AUC, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA, Regional Mechanisms and Member States to enhance domestic resource mobilization and stem illicit financial flows to secure quality and quantity financial resources to sustainably ensure implementation of its integration agenda;
6. **RECOMMEND** the creation of a budget line in the regular AU budget for the sustainable funding of the implementation of the Protocol on Relations between the AU and RECs;
7. **URGE** Member States to take leadership in its destiny through sustainable financing of regional and continental peace processes through optimal mobilization of domestic resources;
8. **WELCOME** the establishment of Pan African Stock Exchange and African Monetary Institute which are aimed at financially deepening continental economic integration;
9. **URGES** all Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Protocols Establishing the African Monetary Fund and the African Investment Bank;

AFCFTA

10. **TAKE NOTE** of the report by the Champion on the AfCFTA H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, former President of the Republic of Niger and **RECOMMEND** for consideration by the Assembly;
11. **WELCOME** the excellent developments of operationalization of the AfCFTA Adjustment Fund, for the Pan African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) and AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) and **URGE** the AfCFTA Secretariat to scale up implementation in all African regions;
12. **ENCOURAGE** the championing of the ratification of the Protocol on free movement of persons to support the effective implementation of the AfCFTA;

DIVISION OF LABOUR BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION, REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES/REGIONAL MECHANISMS AND MEMBER STATES

13. **TAKE NOTE** of the report on the Division of Labour between the African Union, Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms and Member States and noting that the said report is examined by the PRC in collaboration with the AUC;
14. **URGE** the Commission to convene the meeting of the Committee on Coordination before the end of 2023 to finalize the proposal of division of labour to be submitted to the next Mid-year Coordination on the following sectors, Economic Development, Integration, Investment and Industry; Agriculture, Food Security, Blue Economy and Environment, Education, Science, Technology and Innovation; Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development and Transport, Energy and Infrastructure;

AU-RECs and Inter-RECs success story on the integration agenda

15. **COMMEND** the Reports of Their Excellencies:
 - **H.E Abdel Fatah El-Sisi**, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Chairperson of the AUDA-NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) on the AUDA-NEPAD success story in the consolidation of regional and continental integration and achieving Agenda 2063 and **ENDORSE** the recommendations contained therein;
 - **H.E Ali Bongo Ondimba**, President of the Gabonese Republic and Chairperson of ECCAS on Inter-RECs Cooperation Initiative: ECCAS and ECOWAS Maritime Security Cooperation and **ENDORSE** recommendations contained therein;
 - **H.E Ismail Omar Guelleh** the President of the Republic of Djibouti and the Chairperson of IGAD on an AU-REC Success Story: The Perspective of IGAD on the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in Ethiopia and **ENDORSE** recommendations contained therein;

AU Inter-Regional Knowledge Exchange (I-RECKE) on Early Warning

16. **WELCOME** the report of the Second Policy Session of the AU Inter-Regional Knowledge Exchange (I-RECKE) on Early Warning and Conflict Prevention and the activities of the I-RECKE since its establishment in July 2022; and **COMMEND** the RECs/RMs as members of the I-RECKE platform for the progress made in enhancing cross-regional strategies on prevention of terrorism and violent extremism, contributing to best practices for the implementation of the AU flagship project “Silencing the Guns in Africa”;
17. **UNDERScore** the critical role of the I-RECKE as a strategic platform to enhance the AU Continental Early Warning System; in this regard, **CALL ON** the Member States and partners to support I-RECKE activities to augment the coordination and cooperation among the RECs/RMs and with the Member States, AU Commission, towards regional integration in the peace and security domain;

18. **WELCOME** the launch of the Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions (AFSIT), a collaborative initiative by the African Union Commission and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) aimed at providing integrated programmatic support to African countries undergoing complex political transitions; **WHILE STRESSING** the role of the I-RECKE in ensuring the full implementation of the AFSIT;
19. **REQUEST** the I-RECKE, as an intra-continental platform, to continue to intensify its efforts towards improving cross-regional best practices on early warning, conflict prevention, resilience and peace building between the AU, RECs/RMs and **LOOK FORWARD** to the next report of the I-RECKE at the 6th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting;

Environment, Climate Change and Blue Economy

20. **TAKE NOTE** of the report of **H.E. Abdel Fatah El-Sisi**, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and host of the 27th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) and **ENDORSE** recommendations contained in the report;
21. **ALSO TAKE NOTE** of the Report of **H.E. Azali Assoumani**, President of the Union of Comoros of and Chairperson of the African Union; and **ENDORSE** recommendations contained in the report;
22. **WELCOME** the Report of **H.E William Ruto**, President of the Republic of Kenya and Chair of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change, and **ENDORSE** recommendations contained in the report;

African Peace Mission on the Russia-Ukraine Conflict

23. **TAKE NOTE** of the briefing of **H.E. Macky Sall**, President of the Republic of Senegal on the Peace Mission on the Russia-Ukraine Conflict and **ENDORSE** recommendations contained in the briefing;

AfDB Continental Initiatives

24. **TAKE NOTE** of the Report of **H.E. Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina** President of the African Development Bank on the AfDB's key continental initiatives and express our appreciation of work done by the AfDB to enhance sustainable development on the continent;

African Multilateral Financial Institutions

25. 25. Acknowledge, in the context of the challenging global economic environment confronting us, the manner in which the AU has amplified the mantra of "African

Solutions to African Problems”, particularly through our own African Multilateral Financial Institutions, which we have created, own, and launched to serve our interests;

26. **FURTHER RECOGNIZE** that these institutions, including the African Export Import Bank, African Trade Insurance Agency, Africa Finance Corporation and the Trade and Development Bank have all come of age and proven their respective values, stepping up to support Member States during times of crises including commodity price shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis;
27. **CALL** on African Ministers of Finance and Central Bank Governors, under the aegis of the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, who will be meeting in Nairobi in July 2023, to discuss some pertinent issues touching on these institutions under the current global economic environment and debt crisis and keep the Champion on the AU Financial Institutions H.E Nana Akufo-Addo fully briefed;
28. **ENCOURAGE** the STC to come out with decisions that will continue to drive the growth, resilience and overall strength of these institutions so that they can continue to serve the continent in the years to come in consultation with the Champion of the AU Financial Institutions;
29. **STRESS** the imperative for Member States to continue to discharge their obligations to these African financial institutions, ensuring that they continue to grow and provide solutions to the pressing financing challenges and to advance the shared ambitions under Agenda 2063;

WE, Heads of State and Government, members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union and Chairpersons of the Eight (8) Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as Regional Mechanisms (RMs), having successfully concluded our meeting, **SEIZE** this opportunity to commend the Government and the People of the Republic of Kenya for successfully hosting the Fifth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting and **EXPRESS** appreciation for the hospitality accorded therein.

Done in Nairobi, Kenya, on 16th July 2023