

AFRICAN UNION

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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Twelfth Ordinary Council
25 – 29 January 2008
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

**EX.CL/DEC.378 – 414 (XII)
EX.CL/Decl.1 (XII)**

DECISIONS AND DECLARATION



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**DECISION ON THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE
AU COMMISSION FOR 2008 - DOC.EX.CL/367 (XII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **APPROVES** the Budget of the African Union for the year 2008 amounting to US\$140,037,880:
 - A total amount of US\$ 106,554,635 assessed to Member States on the basis of the approved Scale of Assessment;
 - A total amount of US\$ 32,395,800 earmarked for the programs is secured from International Partners;
 - An amount of US\$1,087,445 financed from arrears;
2. **REQUESTS** the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) to review the Financial Rules and Regulations with regard to the carrying over of budget surpluses from one financial year to the other and make appropriate recommendations thereon, to the Executive Council;
3. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Advisory Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters to evaluate the actual surpluses under the 2007 budget and make appropriate recommendations to the Executive Council on how to allocate it;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** that the Advisory Sub-Committee meets on a quarterly basis with a view to regularly monitoring budget implementation;
5. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to review the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement with the host country with a view to cutting down on operational costs, and report to the Executive Council in July 2008;
6. **ALSO REQUESTS** the AU Commission to continue to improve budget drafting, furnish timely information justifying its proposals and be more realistic in its submissions;
7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, in conformity with the Rules and Regulations to start budget discussions well ahead of the Assembly of the Union Sessions;

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8. **DIRECTS** the establishment of the Ministerial Committee of Five charged with the implementation of the recommendations and the findings of the External Auditors on PAP provided for by Decision EX.CL/Dec.371(XI) as a matter of urgency;
9. **APPRECIATES** the efforts of the AU Commission in mobilizing resources from International Partners.

DECISION ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER STATES
DOC. EX.CL/369(XII)c

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Contributions of Member States;
2. **APPRECIATES** that the following Member States are up to date with the payment of their contributions to the regular Budget;
Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Congo Republic, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe;
3. **URGES** Member States who are in arrears of contributions to pay up their arrears;
4. **DECIDES** that temporary and exceptional exemption from sanctions granted to Sierra Leone and Burundi be extended so long as they honour their agreed payment schedules;
5. **DECIDES** that Tunisia pays the contribution of 2004 & 2005 at 2.88% scale of assessment and **URGES** it to clear all its arrears;
6. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Commission in relation to the Executive Council's Decision (EX.CL/Dec.377(XI) that mandates the Commission to work out a standard formula that could be applied to Member States and **DIRECTS** the Commission to further augment the analysis with additional data and re-submit a comprehensive report for the consideration of the Sub-Committee on Contribution;
7. **AFFIRMS** that the following Member States shall be under sanctions:-
 - i) Cape Verde
 - ii) Central African Republic
 - iii) Democratic Republic of Congo
 - iv) Eritrea
 - v) Guinea Bissau
 - vi) Sao Tome Principe
 - vii) Seychelles

**DECISION ON THE STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION
OF OAU/AU TREATIES - DOC. EX.CL/371(XII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Status of Signature and Ratification of OAU/AU Treaties;
2. **COMMENDS** the Chairperson and the Commission as a whole for the ongoing efforts aimed at encouraging Member States to become States Parties to the OAU/AU Treaties;
3. **REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to Member States to prioritize and accelerate the signing and ratification/accession to OAU/AU Treaties;
4. **FURTHER REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to the Pan-African Parliament to assist with advocacy and sensitization of Member States to expedite the process of ratification/accession to OAU/AU Treaties;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to expedite resolving the inconsistencies in various linguistic texts, in particular in Arabic and Portuguese, and to set up a team of experts in this regard;
6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary steps to expedite the implementation of the previous decisions of the Executive Council on harmonization of ratification procedures and the review of OAU/AU treaties and to report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council scheduled for July 2008.

**DECISION ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES
AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA**
DOC.EX.CL/372 (XII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;
2. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** over the unrelenting state of Africa's refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and the frequency of natural disasters on the Continent;
3. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the efforts made by Member States in addressing the root causes of forced displacement, and in responding to the needs of victims of natural disasters;
4. **COMMENDS** the efforts and contributions made by the AU Partners, humanitarian agencies, donor countries and other organizations to assist Member States faced with the problem of forced displacement and **URGES** them to continue their work in addressing the critical needs of the victims of forced displacement in Africa;
5. **CALLS UPON** the International Community to redouble its assistance to victims of forced displacement in Africa;
6. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission together with the Permanent Representatives' Committee's Sub-Committee on Refugees and the AU Partners, in particular the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Committee of the Red Cross, World Food Programme and International Organization for Migration to keep monitoring closely the problem of forced displacement in Africa;
7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to develop a mechanism for verification of the statistics provided on victims of forced displacement to ensure that it matches the realities on the ground;
8. **SUPPORTS** the preparatory efforts being made by the Task Force for the Special Summit of Heads of State and Government on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons scheduled for November 2008, **AND REQUESTS** it to continue the preparations for the success of the Summit; and
9. **TAKES NOTE** of the convening of the Meeting of Legal Experts from AU Member States on the draft AU Convention on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa which was held in December 2007 and **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to convene a second meeting to finalize the document before the Special Summit in 2008.

DECISION ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE REVITALIZED AFRICAN UNION COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA (CCAR) – DOC.EX.CL/372 (XII)

The Executive Council:

1. **ADOPTS** the revised Rules of Procedure of the Revitalized African Union Coordinating Committee on Assistance and Protection to Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (CCAR) and the Terms of Reference of its Working Group, as amended by the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC);
2. **REQUESTS** the Commission to reactivate the Coordinating Committee as soon as possible so as to enable it address the challenges of forced displacement in Africa.



**DECISION ON THE PREPARATION OF THE TWELFTH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND
DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD) - DOC. EX.CL/375(XII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Preparation of the Twelfth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);
2. **COMMENDS** the Government of Ghana for offering to host the UNCTAD Ministerial Conference and efforts deployed towards its preparation;
3. **TAKES NOTE** of the efforts made by the Africa Group in Geneva aimed at protecting African interests during negotiations according to the Bangkok Plan of Action (UNCTAD X), the directives of the Sao Paulo Consensus and the mid-term review of UNCTAD XI;
4. **ENCOURAGES** the African Group in Geneva to continue to participate fully and actively in meetings of the Preparatory Committee in order to achieve results which could promote Africa's development;
5. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** African States to present concrete cooperation programmes that give priority to development aspect of UNCTAD;
6. **URGES** Member States to continue to coordinate efforts at technical and political levels with groups having similar interests, particularly the G77 and China.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE INTERIM STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COUNCIL (ECOSOCC)
DOC. EX.CL/377(XII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Interim Standing Committee of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC);
2. **RECOGNIZES** the efforts of the ECOSOCC Interim Standing Committee and the Credentials Committee in implementing Decision EX.CL/Dec.338(X) on the elections into the Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC;
3. **DECIDES** to extend the mandate of the Interim ECOSOCC Assembly until 30 April 2008 to facilitate the completion of its task of organizing elections into the Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC;
4. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to take appropriate measures to support this process, in accordance with the AU Rules and Regulations;
5. **CALLS UPON** Member States to cooperate with the AU Commission and the Interim Standing Committee of ECOSOCC to facilitate the election process by 30 April 2008;
6. **AUTHORIZES** the AU Commission to take appropriate measures to launch the Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC by 30 May 2008;
7. **MANDATES** the First Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC to complete the election process in Member States and Regions that may not have conducted elections by the time the First Permanent General Assembly of ECOSOCC is launched.

**DECISION ON THE THIRD SESSION OF THE AU CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS FOR DRUG CONTROL AND CRIME PREVENTION**
DOC. EX.CL/381(XII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Third Session of the AU Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 3 to 7 December 2007;
2. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other stakeholders for their cooperation and continued support in the organization of the Third Session, and subsequent follow-up on its conclusions and recommendations;
3. **ENDORSES** the outcome of the Third Session of the Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention;
4. **CALLS ON** Member States to renew their commitment to the fight against the scourge of drug abuse and trafficking as well as related crimes;
5. **URGES** Member States to fully implement the Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012) in collaboration with stakeholders; and to submit progress report to the AU Commission every two years;
6. **ALSO CALLS ON** the International Community to assist Member States in developing and/or implementing appropriate national and regional strategies to combat illicit drugs and crime, in particular through the available expert resources in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM);
7. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission and the RECs, in collaboration with relevant partners, to follow-up on and monitor implementation of the Plan of Action and report to the AU policy organs every two (2) years;
8. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Government of the Republic of Mali to host the Fourth (4th) African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in Bamako in 2009, and **REQUESTS** the Bureau of the 3rd Session and the AU Commission to agree on the theme of the 4th Conference.

**DECISION ON THE FIRST AFRICAN UNION DIASPORA MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE - DOC. EX.CL/383(XII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the First African Union Diaspora Ministerial Conference held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 16 to 18 November 2007 ;
2. **AFFIRMS** that this is an important milestone in the consolidation of the Diaspora Initiative;
3. **COMMENDS** the efforts of the Republic of South Africa and the AU Commission in the progress made towards organizing the African Diaspora Summit scheduled to be held in the Republic of South Africa in October 2008 and **ENCOURAGES** the Government of South Africa and the AU Commission to continue cooperating in this regard;
4. **FURTHER COMMENDS** Member States and the Diaspora for their participation in the meetings held so far and **CALLS ON** them to continue to participate actively in the process;
5. **ENCOURAGES** consensus-building in the finalization of the Programme and Plan of Action to be adopted at the Summit, which would serve as building blocks for integrating efforts towards implementation of the Diaspora Initiative;
6. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to develop a framework document, as decided by the Second Africa-Caribbean Conference on the modalities of Diaspora participation in the organs, activities and meetings of the Union, conduct a feasibility study on the Diaspora as a sixth region of the Union to support this programme, and to submit a report to the Executive Council in January 2009;
7. **URGES** the Commission to continue the Regional Consultation Conferences, to include the African Diaspora in the Gulf, the Middle East, Asia and Oceania;
8. **APPEALS** to Member States to continue to support and provide adequate resources for the implementation of the Diaspora Initiative.

**DECISION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE REPORT OF THE THIRD
ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AMCOST III) - DOC. EX.CL/385 (XII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and Ministerial Decisions of the Third Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology, held in Mombasa Kenya from 12th to 16th November 2007;
2. **ADOPTS** the conclusions and recommendations of the Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology as follows:
 - a. **REQUESTS** Member States and RECs to champion the implementation and domestication of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action at the local, national and regional levels;
 - b. **SUPPORTS** the formation of the Pan-African Association of African Women in Science and Technology and **REQUESTS** the Commission and Member States to gather gender-disaggregated data about women in science and technology at country level in order to formulate concrete initiatives and programmes for women;
 - c. **ALSO REQUESTS** the AU Commission and NEPAD to prepare a common framework coordinated by the Bureau of AMCOST and the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) in order to determine the rationale and modalities for establishing a panel on climate change;
 - d. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the AU Commission to present the Revised Model Law on Biosafety to all relevant departments and sectors in Member States for their comments;
 - e. **REQUESTS** the Commission in Consultation with Member States to:
 - i) Develop a comprehensive framework on intellectual property, individual and community rights to protect traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, including the centralization of all matters related to intellectual property, individual and community rights;
 - ii) Develop a bio-prospecting policy framework that ensures beneficial utilization and equitable commercialisation of biotic resources, including the creation of a central national control system to manage bio-prospecting affairs in all their diversity.

**DECISION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE REPORT OF THE THIRD
ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF
EDUCATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION (COMEDAF III)
DOC. EX.CL/386 (XII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report and Communiqué of the Third Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers of Education, held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 6th to 10th August 2007;
2. **ADOPTS** the conclusions and recommendations of the Ministers of Education as follows:
 - a. **CALLS ON** Member States, with support from development partners to expedite the implementation of the following, and to report progress at the COMEDAF IV session in 2009:
 - (i) Strategy for harmonisation of Higher Education in Africa;
 - (ii) African quality rating mechanism for Higher Education;
 - (iii) Strategy for technical and vocational education with special reference to countries in post-conflict situations;
 - (iv) Policy framework on access to post-primary education for refugees and internally displaced persons;
 - (v) Mechanism for reporting on implementation of the Plan of Action, and
 - (vi) Framework for establishing strategic partnerships to ensure greater harmonisation and co-ordination of education sector programmes in Africa.
 - b. **CALLS ON** the Commission to expedite the implementation of the strategy for developing a mechanism for the establishment of an African Education, Science and Technology Fund.
 - c. **FURTHER CALLS** on the Commission to spearhead the development of a framework for national and continental book policies to strengthen the development, production and distribution of quality African education materials.

DECISION ON EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FUND
DOCS.EX.CL/385 (XII) – EX.CL/386 (XII)

The Executive Council:

1. **RECALLS** the Decision on the Establishment of an African Education Fund (Assembly/AU/Dec.139 (VIII)) to be supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB);
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the decision of AMCOST II, November 2006, requesting the Commission and NEPAD to develop the modalities to establish the African Science and Innovation Fund (ASIF);
3. **FURTHER NOTES** the offer of the African Development Bank to assist in the establishment of a single combined fund for Education, Science and Technology, as reflected in the reports of the Bureau meetings of COMEDAF (Addis Ababa May 2007) and AMCOST (Johannesburg June 2007);
4. **ALSO NOTES** that the COMEDAF III in August 2007 approved the proposal to establish an African Education, Science and Technology Fund;
5. **NOTES FURTHER** the contention by AMCOST III in November 2007 over a common fund for both Education and Science and Technology, and its call for a separate fund for Science and Technology;
6. **CONVINCED** that there is need for an African continental funding mechanism for both Education and Science and Technology, and that the AfDB as the lead financial institution of the continent should host such funds;
7. **FURTHER CONVINCED** of the advantage of a combined fund;
8. **CALLS** for the establishment of a combined African Education, Science and Technology Fund governed and managed by AfDB and the Commission, in coordination with the Bureaux of AMCOST and COMEDAF.

**DECISION ON THE POLICY ON ACCESS TO POST-PRIMARY
EDUCATION FOR VICTIMS OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN AFRICA**
DOC. EX.CL/387 (XII)

The Executive Council:

1. **ADOPTS** the Concept Paper on the Policy on Access to Post-Primary Education for Victims of Forced Displacement in Africa, adopted by the Third Ordinary Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Education (COMEDAF III) in Johannesburg, South Africa in August 2007;
2. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission, in close cooperation and collaboration with Member States, relevant AU Partners and other organizations to ensure the provision of post-primary education for victims of forced displacement in Africa.



DECISION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW)
DOC. EX.CL/388 (XII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Sixth Ordinary Session of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) held in Brazzaville, Congo from 28 to 31 May 2007;
2. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the leadership role that AMCOW has been playing in the water and sanitation sector in Africa, especially its efforts to strengthen relations with and between the Regional Economic Communities and the African River and Lake Basin Organizations in the context of the implementation of the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water adopted by the Extraordinary Summit of the African Union in Libya in February 2004;
3. **ENDORSES** the Brazzaville Declaration and Decisions on water and sanitation in Africa adopted by the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers;
4. **SUPPORTS** the initiative to strengthen AMCOW's relation with African Civil society organizations to enhance the achievement of the water and sanitation MDGs in Africa;
5. **CALLS UPON** Member States to increase their cooperation efforts to create more transboundary water basin organizations, where they do not exist, for the sustainable and integrated management of surface and underground waters, and **URGES** them, to this end, to make use of the "Guidelines for the Establishment of Cooperative Framework Agreement for the integrated Management of Transboundary Basin" that the Commission of the African Union developed;
6. **FURTHER URGES** Africa's development partners to increase their support to AMCOW to ensure the sustainable management and utilization of the continent's water resources and to promote sanitation in the country towards the achievement of the relevant MDGs for the continent;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme as well as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Secretariat, to continue to provide policy and institutional support to the African Ministers' Council on Water.

**DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL TO MAKE WATER AND SANITATION
THE THEME OF THE JULY 2008 SUMMIT.- DOC. EX.CL/388(XII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Sixth Ordinary Session of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) held in Brazzaville, Congo from 28 to 31 May 2007;
2. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General to put Water and Sanitation amongst the priority development agenda of Africa;
3. **FURTHER NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the progress that has been made by the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation to bring water and sanitation issues to the attention of the Assembly of the African Union;
4. **APPRECIATES** the offer of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the technical preparatory meeting towards the Summit on Water and Sanitation;
5. **RECOMMENDS** that "Water and Sanitation" be the theme of the July 2008 Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government;
6. **CALLS UPON** the Chairperson of the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board to liaise with the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to lead the preparation of the relevant documents and to convene a technical preparatory meeting for the Summit;
7. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** the Secretary General of the United Nations to continue to support the efforts of Member States to develop their respective water and sanitation sectors in order to enhance the achievement of sustainable development and to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

**DECISION ON THE FIRST AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR ROAD TRANSPORT – DOC. EX.CL/389 (XII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the First African Union Conference of Ministers responsible for Road Transport held in Durban, South Africa, from 15 to 19 October 2007;
2. **COMMENDS** the Ministers responsible for road transport for the elaborate strategy and commitment to meeting the challenges facing road transport in Africa;
3. **ENDORSES** the Declaration and Plan of Action on Road Transport in Africa;
4. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), specialised institutions, Member States and other stakeholders to take all the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of the Action Plan for the development of the road transport sector in the continent;
5. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to speed up the formulation of a Continental Policy and Integrated Transport Master Plan to provide guidance for sustainable development of the transport sector in Africa;
6. **APPEALS** to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); the African Development Bank (ADB), the European Union, the World Bank and other development partners to support the implementation of the Plan of Action of the African Union on road transport; and
7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the AU Commission to submit periodic reports on the implementation of this Decision to the Executive Council.

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
DOC. EX.CL/397(XII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East;
2. **RECALLS** all Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the OAU/AU on the situation in Palestine and the Middle East;
3. **REITERATES** its full solidarity with the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle, under the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), their sole and legitimate representative, and **EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT** to the PLO's continuous struggle for the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, return to their land, recovery of their property and to live in peace and dignity in an independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds as its capital, in accordance with the principle of international law and all the pertinent UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 149, and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the OAU/AU;
4. **REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT** for the peaceful solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict in general, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in particular, in accordance with the principles of international law, all pertinent resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly, the Arab Peace Initiative, the Quartet Committee's Road Map and pertinent resolutions of the OAU/AU, aimed at ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories that began on 5 June 1967, with the achievement of the vision of the International Community of establishing two States, Israel and an independent, sovereign and territorially contiguous Palestine, living side by side in peace and security;
5. **EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT** for the efforts aimed at achieving reconciliation among all Palestinian people, as a step towards the establishment of a viable Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its Capital;
6. **URGES** the Government of Israel to stop all unilateral measures, particularly Olmert's Consolidation Plan (E1) aimed and designed to create new unilateral facts on the ground, such as the Israeli decision to build 307 new units inside the Jabal Abu Ghneim settlement (Har Huma); **CALLS UPON** the Israeli Government to immediately stop all its settlement activities which brutally violate international law, undermine the peace process as a whole, and pose a serious threat to the establishment of an independent, viable and contiguous Palestinian state; and **ALSO CALLS UPON** the International Community to bring pressure to bear on Israel to cease all its settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories;

7. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** regarding the worsening humanitarian situation and the increasing sanitary and economic deterioration in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip, due to the constant Israeli attacks and ongoing bloody invasions, restrictions of movement of persons and constant closures and blockades of the Palestinian commercial crossing points with neighbouring countries, which have increased the unemployment rate and poverty levels in Palestinian society, and therefore negatively affected security and stability in the region;
8. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the Israeli occupying authority and denounces its use of collective punishment, repressive practices and policies perpetrated against defenceless Palestinians, especially the daily invasions, assassinations and atrocious assaults committed by the Israeli forces against innocent civilians in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Al-Quds; and **URGES** the Israeli Government to immediately put an end to these activities which are in violation of International Law and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;
9. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the recent Israeli occupying forces' large scale attack against civilian areas in Gaza city, targeting Al-Zaitun and Al-Shujaiya neighbourhoods of the City, which claimed many victims among the civilian populations;
10. **URGES** the Israeli Government to stop the construction and expansion of the Separation Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, around and inside Al-Quds town, especially the changes and measures that have been implemented in Al-Quds, aimed at altering the status of the occupied Al-Quds; and **URGES** Israel to comply with the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and General Assembly Decision ES-10/15;
11. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** regarding the blockade imposed on Gaza, whose effects on socio-economic life and the populations are particularly harmful and **URGES** the Israeli authorities to immediately lift the blockage;
12. **CALLS UPON** the International Community to take all necessary measures to contribute to the efforts aimed at alleviating the humanitarian suffering endured by the Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip;
13. **EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** regarding the deterioration of the living and health conditions of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails; and **CALLS UPON** the International Community to work towards the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, especially women, children, Palestine Legislative Council members and other detainees who are being held in Israeli jails without any charge or sentence;

- 14. APPEALS** to the Palestinian Legitimate Leadership and all other faction leaders to work towards resolving their differences and close ranks through dialogue with a view to building a united front to lead all Palestinian people to achieve their Legitimate National Goals in conformity with the Nation's right to self determination as enshrined in the United Nations Charter, in order to establish their own independent and fully sovereign State of Palestine, with Al-Quds as its capital;
- 15. FURTHER CALLS UPON** the Government of Israel to put an end to its occupation of all Arab land occupied since 1967, including the Syrian and Lebanese territories, and to abide by the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 446 (1979), 1322 (2000), 1397 (2002), 1402 (2002), 1403 (2002), 1435 (2002), 1515 (2003) and 1544 (2004), the Madrid Declaration, the Land for Peace Principle, the Arab Peace initiative and the Road Map, in order to reach a just, comprehensive, lasting and peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli Conflict;
- 16. TAKES NOTE** of the efforts deployed by the Committee of Ten (10) Member States on Palestine established by Decision AHG/Dec. 182 (XXXVIII), in July 2002, and **URGES** continued efforts in the quest for a just, comprehensive, lasting and peaceful solution to the conflict in Palestine and the Middle East;
- 17. EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN** over the developments in Lebanon and **CALLS UPON** the Lebanese political players to establish conditions conducive to the holding of presidential elections and to put an end to political assassinations.

**DECISION ON PURCHASE OF PROPERTY TO ACCOMMODATE
AFRICAN UNION REPRESENTATIONAL OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, DC**

The Executive Council:

1. **DIRECTS** the Commission to purchase in Washington D.C., a building worthy of the dignity of Africa and its organizations, taking into account the American real estate market trends;
2. **REQUESTS** the Commission to identify and to submit to the PRC, through its Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters, a financial mechanism for the implementation of this decision
3. **AUTHORIZES** the purchase of a property to accommodate the AU Representational Office in Washington, D.C., USA.



**DECISION ON THE SALE OF THE OLD AFRICAN UNION
REPRESENTATIONAL OFFICE BUILDING IN NEW YORK**

The Executive Council:

1. **DECIDES** to sell the old building which hosted the AU Representational Office in New York;
2. **DIRECTS** the Commission to sell the building in conformity with AU Financial Rules and Regulations.



DECISION ON AFRICA'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
DOC. EX.CL/374 (XII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the AU Commission's report on Africa strategic partnership with emerging powers of the South;
2. **COMMENDS** the efforts of the Member States, the Permanent Representatives Committee, and the AU Commission towards implementing Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.318 (X);
3. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to continue to work closely with relevant organs of the Union to accelerate progress in this regard;
4. **ALSO REQUESTS** the AU Commission and Member States to continue to work closely with the Coordinating Mechanism established by the first Africa-South America Summit in Abuja to ensure adequate preparation for the second Africa-South America Summit scheduled to be held in Venezuela in November 2008;
5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the AU Commission to take necessary measures to facilitate the successful conduct of the Africa-India Summit in April 2008, and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) scheduled for April 2008 and the Africa-Turkey Summit in August 2008, in line with the Banjul Summit Decision;
6. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the AU Commission to continue working with relevant organs of the Union to enhance and support the process of partnership with emerging powers of the South;
7. **APPEALS** to all Member States to continue to provide support to this process;
8. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to follow-up on this process and undertake a global review of all existing partnerships in order to effectively implement strategies and action plans agreed upon between Africa and its international partners, rationalize the number of Summits, and identify criteria for such partnerships to ensure coherence between and within these partnerships and make necessary recommendations to Council and the Assembly;
9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Permanent Representatives Committee to submit its recommendations on the abovementioned study before initiating any new strategic partnerships.

**DECISION ON THE FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE LABOUR
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION (LSAC) - DOC. EX.CL/382 (XII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Fifth Ordinary Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission, which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 16 to 21 April 2007;
2. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained in the Report;
3. **REQUESTS** Member States to submit on time their reports on the implementation of the LSAC recommendations to the African Union Commission;
4. **REQUESTS** Member States to involve the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs and Social Partners in the process of internal consultations on the reconfiguration of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs);
5. **REQUESTS** Member States and the AU Commission to utilize the available Reporting Mechanism format to prepare and submit the second biennial report to the LSAC in 2008 and the comprehensive analytical report for the LSAC in 2009;
6. **WELCOMES** the Regional Frameworks on the Integration of Policies and Programmes for the promotion of employment and poverty reduction adopted during the Regional Workshops;
7. **REQUESTS** Member States to implement the Regional Frameworks and to report to the African Union Commission;
8. **CALLS ON** Member States to implement the Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development taking into account the fact that rights and dignity of migrant workers be respected by receiving Countries;
9. **RECALLS** that all proposals of candidatures for the International Labour Organization's (ILO) High Offices Chairs of Committee and Conferences be submitted by the African Group, Member of the Governing Body, through the AU Office in Geneva to the LSAC for consideration;
10. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Governing Board of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI);

11. **CALLS ON** the Commission in collaboration with the ARI Governing Board to take all the necessary measures to review the mandate and structure of ARI;
12. **URGES** Member States to capitalize on existing African Institutions such as the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD) in conducting research in the Continent and provide support to the Centre by becoming members and fulfilling their financial obligations.



DECISION ON THE SECOND PAN-AFRICAN FORUM
ON CHILDREN: MID-TERM REVIEW
DOC. EX.CL/380 (XII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Second Pan-African Forum on Children: Mid-Term Review;
2. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the Second Pan-African Forum on Children: Mid-Term Review from 29 October to 2 November 2007;
3. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF), Plan International and other stakeholders for their continued support and assistance in the preparation of the Second Pan-African Forum on Children;
4. **ENDORSES** the outcome of the Second Pan-African Forum on Children, namely, the Call for Accelerated Action on the Implementation of the Plan of Action Towards Africa Fit for Children (2008 – 2012);
5. **CALLS ON** all Member States to renew their commitment to Africa's children and implement the 2001 Plan of Action of Africa Fit for Children as well as the Call for Accelerated Action, in collaboration with development partners;
6. **URGES** those Member States, which have not yet done so, to ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
7. **MANDATES** the Chairperson of the African Union to present the Call for Accelerated Action to the United Nations General Assembly Commemorative High-Level Plenary Meeting, devoted to the follow-up of the 2002 UN Special Session on Children, to be held in New York in December 2008;
8. **ALSO URGES** Member States to participate actively in the UN General Assembly Commemorative High-Level Plenary Meeting in New York in December 2008;
9. **CALLS ON** the AU Commission to report on progress made on the implementation of the 2001 Plan of Action of Africa Fit for Children every two (2) years, and to convene the next Pan-Forum on Children in 2011.

**DECISION ON THE 6TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN POPULATION COMMISSION
DOC. EX.CL/384 (XII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Sixth Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of the African Population Commission, held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 16 to 17 July 2007, and the State of the African Population Report 2006;
2. **EXPRESSES** gratitude to the Government and People of the Republic of South Africa for hosting the meeting;
3. **ENDORSES** the Johannesburg Declaration of the Sixth Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of the African Population Commission;
4. **URGES** Member States to:
 - i) Allocate adequate resources for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the State of the African Population Report 2006;
 - ii) Strengthen their National Population Councils/Commissions in order to enhance their capacity to advocate for the integration of population variables in development planning especially in the area of human development;
5. **APPEALS** to the International Community to continue to provide assistance towards the implementation of the Johannesburg Declaration of the Sixth Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of the African Population Commission;
6. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to:
 - i. Co-ordinate the review of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+15) in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and other partners;
 - ii. Play an active role in the activities of the UN Population Commission;
 - iii. Advocate for the implementation of the Johannesburg Declaration of the Sixth Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of the African Population Commission;
 - iv. Report on the progress on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Johannesburg Declaration of the Sixth Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of the African Population Commission.



DECISION ON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AND THE HOSTING OF THE THIRD SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION – DOC. EX.CL/DEC.374 (XII)-c

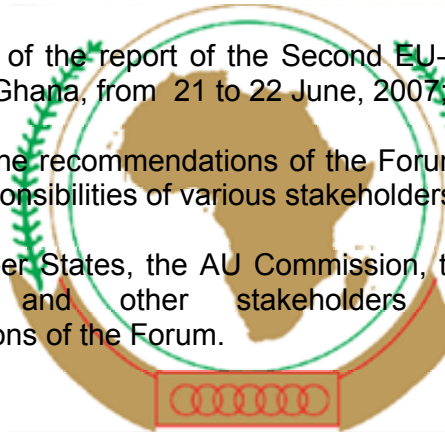
The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Lisbon Summit Report, the Joint Strategy, Action Plan and Declaration of the Africa-EU Summit, held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 8 to 9 December, 2007;
2. **COMMENDS** the Commission of the African Union and the European Commission for the quality of the Joint Strategy and Action Plan;
3. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the concerns expressed by AU Member States during the Lisbon Summit, on the issues of the impact of the interim economic partnership agreement on the African integration agenda and economic development;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue with the coordination of the EPA negotiation process between the various African regional negotiating groups and the European Union;
5. **URGES** Member States, Regional Economic Communities and other stakeholders to implement the first Action Plan under the coordination of the Commission;
6. **DECIDES** that the venue of the Third Africa-EU Summit will be in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

DECISION ON PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT
DOC. EX.CL/374 (XII)-A

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Second EU-Africa Business Forum held in Accra, Ghana, from 21 to 22 June, 2007.
2. **WELCOMES** the recommendations of the Forum and the identification of specific responsibilities of various stakeholders;
3. **URGES** Member States, the AU Commission, the Regional Economic Communities and other stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the Forum.



**DECISION ON THE PURCHASE OF A NEW BUILDING FOR THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN BRUSSELS**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the lack of space and offices for the staff of the Permanent Mission, the representations of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and for the meetings of the Africa Group in Brussels;
2. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the document containing information about the proposed purchase of the new building for the AU Permanent Mission in Brussels;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to identify and submit to the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), through the Advisory Sub-Committee on Administrative, Financial and Budgetary Matters, the financial mechanism for the implementation of this Decision;
4. **AUTHORISES** the Commission to purchase a new building for the AU Permanent Mission in Brussels which meets the needs of the Permanent Mission.

**DECISION ON PAYING THE REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCE
TO COMMISSIONERS – DOC. PRC/RPT (XV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Permanent Representatives Committee's recommendation that payment of hospitality allowance of US\$250.00 per month paid to Commissioners be recovered as recommended by the External Board of Auditors;
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the AU Commission's representation and the appeal made that the allowance has been paid to the elected officials since 1984;
3. **APPROVES as follows:**
 - a) that all previous payments up to 31 December 2007, be retroactively endorsed;
 - b) that approval has been granted with effect from January 2008 to continue payment of this allowance.

**DECISION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES FOR POSTS WITHIN THE
INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures;
2. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained in the Report;
3. **DECIDES** to support the following candidatures:
 - i. Ambassador Boualem Bouguetaia of Algeria as Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea during elections to be held in New York in June 2008;
 - ii. Ambassador José Luis Jesús of Cape Verde for re-election as Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea at elections to be held in New York in June 2008;
 - iii. Mr. Fernando José de França Dias Van-Dunem of Angola as Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea at elections to be held in New York in June 2008;
 - iv. Ambassador Allieu Ibrahim Kanu of Sierra Leone as Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea during elections to be held in New York in June 2008;
 - v. Ambassador Dr. Mohamed Ezzeldin Abdel-Moneim of Egypt to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights during elections due in New York in May 2008;
 - vi. Dr. B.K. Kaigama of Nigeria to the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee at elections to be held in Geneva in March 2008.
4. **FURTHER DECIDES** to refer the candidatures of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and the Republic of Tunisia to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office (ILO) for the period 2008-2011 for consideration by the 6th Session for the Labour and Social Affairs Commission taking place 2008 in conformity with the agreement reached at the 5th Session of the Commission in 2007;
5. **LASTLY DECIDES** that the candidature of Dr. Abdulqawi A. Yusuf of Somalia as Judge of the International of Court of Justice during elections due to take place in New York in October 2008, be considered in July 2008 pursuant to the relevant provisions of Decision EX.CL/Dec.345 (X) which stipulates that “the candidatures be considered when elections are organized between Ordinary Sessions of the Council on the margins of which a Committee is meeting and the following session”.

**DECISION ON THE REPRESENTATION OF THE AFRICAN
DIASPORA AT ASSEMBLIES OF THE AFRICAN UNION**
Doc. EX.CL/406(XII)Add. 1

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Proposal of the Republic of Senegal on 'Representation of the African Diaspora at Assemblies of the African Union';
2. **RECALLS** the Protocol on Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union approved by the First Extra-Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2003, of which Article 3(q) invites the African Diaspora to participate as an important component in the building of the African Union;
3. **AFFIRMS** the commitment of the Union to seek appropriate means of implementing this objective;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission as part of this process to conduct an in-depth feasibility study on the idea of having the Diaspora as the sixth region of the continent as well as develop modalities for Diaspora participation in the organs and activities of the Union;
5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Senegal to convene a technical experts' meeting of AU Member States to examine modalities for Diaspora participation in the organs and activities of the Union, including the feasibility of the concept of the Diaspora as the sixth region and provide a report to the next Ordinary Session of Council and Assembly.

DECISION PRESENTED BY THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

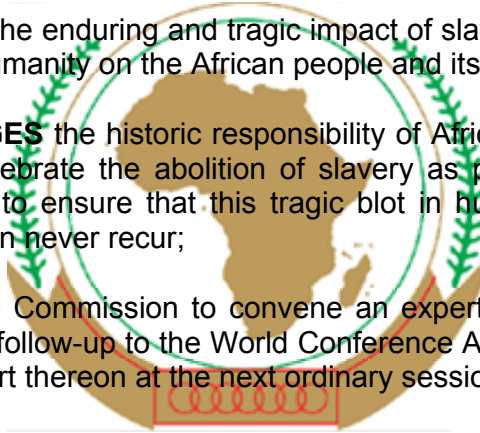
The Executive Council:

1. **HAVING** considered representations made by the Pan-African Parliament on the negative effects some provisions of the EX.CL/Dec.98 (V) have on the effective and efficient operations of the Parliament, therefore **DECIDES** the following amendments to the said decision:
 - i) Member States should bear the expenses for the participation of members of the Pan-African Parliament, including the members of the Bureau and the Committees (air ticket, per diem and other related expenses) at the statutory meetings of the Pan-African Parliament and its Committees during the first 5 years of its existence; provided that non-statutory meetings and other activities of PAP be provided for in the PAP budget;
 - ii) Members of the Bureau shall be present at the headquarters on a rotational basis to ensure an effective administration and management of the PAP as required by Article 12 (5) of the Protocol;
 - iii) Sitting and responsibility allowances, as well as the Solidarity Fund, and other allowances for members of the Pan-African Parliament for statutory meetings should continue to be borne by Member States during the said 5 year period; however, medical and accident insurance for Members of Parliament while engaged in PAP activities shall be borne out of the PAP budget.
2. **DIRECTS** that the Pan African Parliament shall implement this Decision in conformity with the financial Rules and Regulations of the African Union.

**DECISION ON THE COMMEMORATION OF
THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY**

The Executive Council:

1. **RECALLS** the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slave Trade in the United Kingdom in 2007 and the current Bicentennial Anniversary of the end of Slavery in the United States;
2. **COMMENDS** the efforts of various Civil Society groups, Diaspora Communities and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the UN in this regard;
3. **RECOGNISES** the enduring and tragic impact of slave trade, which is a crime against humanity on the African people and its generations;
4. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the historic responsibility of Africans everywhere in the world to celebrate the abolition of slavery as part of its historical legacy in order to ensure that this tragic blot in human history is not forgotten and can never recur;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to convene an expert group meeting on slavery and the follow-up to the World Conference Against Racism, and to submit a report thereon at the next ordinary session of Council in July 2008;
6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to use the outcome of the said meeting to prepare inputs for effective African participation in bicentennial events, the Special Session of the UN on Slavery and Racism and the African Diaspora Summit to be held in South Africa in October 2008 and to submit a report to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary measures to implement this Decision and to charge any expenses thereof from arrears.

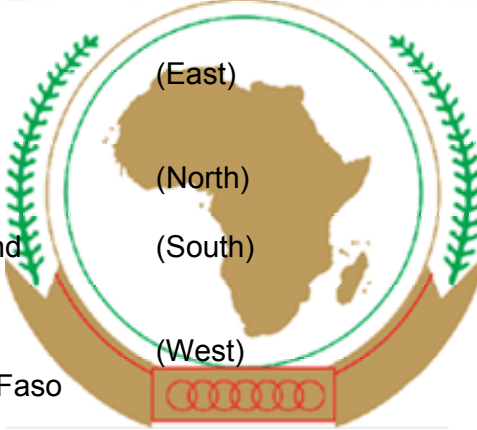


**DECISION ON ELECTION OF TEN (10) MEMBERS OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION
DOC. EX.CL/402 (XII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **ELECTS** the following ten (10) Members of the Peace and Security Council for a two-year term as of March 2008:

1.	Burundi	(Central)
2.	Chad	
3.	Rwanda	(East)
4.	Uganda	
5.	Tunisia	(North)
6.	Swaziland	(South)
7.	Zambia	
8.	Benin	(West)
9.	Burkina Faso	
10.	Mali	

A map of the African continent is centered within a circular emblem. The map is divided into five regions: Central, East, North, South, and West. The emblem is flanked by two green laurel branches. At the bottom of the emblem, there are five interlocking red rings. The map is colored in shades of brown and tan.

3. **RECOMMENDS** the elected Members for appointment by the 10th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union.

**DECISION ON REVIEW OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE AFRICAN
UNION COMMISSION – DOC. EX.CL/369 (XII)-b**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the two options mentioned in the PRC Report on the review of the AUC Structure namely:
 - a) **Option 1:** The Executive Council to consider the proposed review of the structure and implementation be made in 2009;
 - b) **Option 2:** The PRC should review the Report of the Sub-Committee of Structural Reform and make necessary recommendations to the next Executive Council for consideration.
3. **DECIDES** that Option 2 be implemented accordingly and the PRC report on Structure be submitted to the Executive Council for consideration along with the Audit Report of the Union.

DECISION ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION
DOC. EX.CL/391 (XII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **On the 2nd Afro-Arab Summit:**
 - a) **EXPRESSES CONCERN** over the long delays in convening the 2nd Afro-Arab Summit;
 - b) **UNDERScores** the vital role the Summit would play in providing new directions to Afro-Arab Cooperation in order to fulfil the aspirations of the peoples and Governments of the two regions;
 - c) **URGES** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to take all necessary measures to ensure the early convening of the 2nd Afro-Arab Summit.
3. **On the General Agreement on Cooperation Between the African Union and the League of Arab States:**
 - a) **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** that the General Agreement on Cooperation Between the African Union and the League of Arab States signed in March 2007, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia has come into effect upon endorsement by the 10th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the 128th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the League of Arab States in accordance with Article V of the Agreement;
 - b) **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to:
 - i) Circulate the Agreement among all Member States Departments and other Organs of the African Union particularly the Commission and the Arab League as well as to the relevant agencies within the United Nations Organization with a clear description of expected action;
 - ii) Hold regular consultations and meetings between the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the Secretary General of LAS and among the professional staff of the two organizations;

- iii) Take all necessary measures to ensure that the delegation of one party attending the Summits, Ministerial Meetings and other Meetings of the other party is accorded with all necessary protocol and security services in host countries, as envisaged by the Agreement.

4. On the upgrading of the Portfolio of Afro-Arab Cooperation Unit:

- a) **NOTES** that the role and responsibilities of the current Afro-Arab Cooperation Unit within the Commission is continuously expanding with the inclusion of new programmes, and consolidation of the existing ones;
- b) **REQUESTS** the Commission and the PRC, through its Sub-Committee on Structures to submit appropriate recommendations on the upgrading of the Current Afro-Arab Cooperation Unit to the level of a Division with the necessary human and financial resources to enable it efficiently discharge its growing responsibilities and submit a report to the next Ordinary Session of the Council in July 2008.

DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCRA DECLARATION
ON THE UNION GOVERNMENT AND THE AUDIT OF THE UNION
DOC. EX.CL/390 (XII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Reports and Recommendations by the Ministerial Committee on the Union Government and the High Level Panel on the Audit of the Union as well as the Commission's response to the recommendations of the Panel's Report;
2. **COMMENDS AND CONGRATULATES** the Ministerial Committee, the High Level Panel and the Commission for the work that they have done;
3. **CONSIDERS** the Reports and the recommendations contained therein as a solid basis for further reflection on the future of the Union, its Organs, Institutions and Structures;
4. **DECIDES TO RECOMMEND to the Assembly:**
 - a) To mandate the Ministerial Committee to consider all the technical, legal and related issues, and submit specific recommendations that would facilitate decision-making on the way forward to achieving the Union government;
 - b) To authorize the convening of an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council within three (3) months on the consideration of the Report on the Audit of the African Union and the comments of the Commission as well as those of the other organs of the Union, with the view to making appropriate recommendations thereon to the Assembly;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take all necessary measures for wider circulation of the Audit Report together with the comments by the Commission.

**DECISION ON THE TUNIS DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY
AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA AND MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

The Executive Council:

1. **CONSCIOUS** of the seriousness of the phenomenon of climatic changes which constitutes today one of the most important challenges in the international arena, especially for African countries which are still striving to acquire the appropriate tools and mechanisms to cope with the repercussions of this phenomenon and its implications on the economic and social levels;
2. **COMMENDS THE EFFORT** of Tunisia in convening an international conference on climate change and its implications on African and Mediterranean countries;
3. **WELCOMES** the Tunis Declaration and Action Plan on international solidarity against climate change in Africa and Mediterranean region;
4. **DECIDES** that the Tunis Declaration be referred to the African Ministerial Council on Environment (AMCEN) and to the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST) for further discussion, and **REQUESTS** AMCEN to make appropriate recommendations to Council.

DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF AU COMMISSIONERS
DOC. EX.CL/403 (XII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **ELECTS** the following persons as Commissioner of the African Union:
 - a) Mr. Ramtane LAMAMRA (Algeria) - Peace and Security Portfolio
 - b) Mrs. Julia Dolly JOINER (The Gambia) - Political Affairs Portfolio
 - c) Mrs. Elham Mahmood Ahmed IBRAHIM (Egypt) - Infrastructure and Energy Portfolio
 - d) Mrs. Bience Philomina GAWANAS (Namibia) - Social Affairs Portfolio
 - e) Mr. Jean Pierre Onvehoun EZIN (Benin) - Human Resources, Science and Technology Portfolio
 - f) Mrs. Elizabeth TANKEU (Cameroon) - Trade and Industry Portfolio
 - g) Mr. M. Maxwell MKWEZALAMBA (Malawi) - Economic Affairs portfolio
3. **RECOMMENDS** the elected AU Commissioners for appointment by the 10th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union;
4. **FURTHER RECOMMENDS** that the Assembly authorize the Executive Council to elect and appoint the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture from among female candidates from the Eastern Region during the forthcoming Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council.

**DECLARATION SUPPORTING THE CANDIDATURE OF THE HONOURABLE
THEO- BEN GURIRAB TO THE POST OF PRESIDENT OF THE
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

The Executive Council:

Noticing the vacancy of the post of President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

Considering the candidature of the Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab of Namibia to this post;

Recognizing the importance of this post in the coordination of the necessary interaction between the representatives of peoples from all the continents;

Recognizing the Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab's intrinsic qualities, wealth of experience and proven competence as well as his universally established commitment to the promotion of democracy in the continent:

- i) **Decides** to support the candidature of the Honourable Theo- Ben Gurirab to the post of President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;
- ii) **Appeals** to the representatives of parliaments of African Union Member States to lend him their total support and to ensure the success of this candidature.