

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

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ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION
Eleventh Ordinary Session
30 June – 1 July 2008
Sharm El-Sheikh, EGYPT

**DECISIONS, DECLARATIONS, TRIBUTE
AND RESOLUTION**

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY
COUNCIL ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND THE STATE OF PEACE
AND SECURITY IN AFRICA
DOC. ASSEMBLY/AU/2(XI)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa;
2. **WELCOMES** the efforts deployed to promote peace, security and stability in Africa, as well as the progress made to date. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** all parties concerned to redouble efforts and **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to support the ongoing processes and mobilize the support of the international community to that effect;
3. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and **REQUESTS** the Commission to pursue the efforts being deployed, particularly with respect to the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the African Standby Force (ASF);
4. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the success of the operation "Democracy in the Comoros", which enabled the Government of the Union of the Comoros to re-establish its authority in Anjouan, and **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the Governments of Tanzania and the Sudan, as well as Libya and Senegal, which kindly provided their support to the Government of the Comoros, in implementation of Decision Assembly/Dec.186 (X) adopted at the 10th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 31 January to 2 February 2008.
5. **ALSO EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the countries of the region, under the coordination of the Republic of South Africa, which spared no effort to come to the aid of Comoros and support the reconciliation efforts in the Archipelago. The Assembly **THANKS** the AU partners for their support. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the holding in Anjouan, on 15 and 29 June 2008, of elections which made it possible to designate the new President of the Autonomous Island of Anjouan;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission and AU Member States to continue to support efforts aimed at consolidating the progress made to date in the Comoros, including the rationalization of current institutional arrangements and the improvement of governance, as well as the socio-economic recovery of the Archipelago and the war on poverty;
7. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the Agreements reached to resolve the electoral crisis in Kenya and the establishment the coalition Government, in particular the National Accord and Reconciliation Act and the Agreement on the Principles of Partnership of the coalition Government. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the work done by President John Kufour of Ghana, the Panel of Eminent African Personalities led by Kofi Annan, and including Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, former President of Tanzania and Mrs. Graça Machel, as

well as the critical role played by the Chairperson of the AU, President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania and President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda in his capacity as Chairperson of the East African Community, in assisting the parties to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis. The Assembly **AKNOWLEDGES** the goodwill shown so far in implementing these Agreements and **CALLS ON** all parties to fully implement all aspects of the Agreements;

8. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the promotion of an all-inclusive political process in Somalia, in particular the conclusion, on 9 June 2008, in Djibouti, of an Agreement between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS), under the auspices of the United Nations, with the support of the AU, other regional organizations and international partners. The Assembly **STRONGLY URGES** all Somali stakeholders to join this process and commit themselves to the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the conflict in Somalia. The Assembly **CONDEMNS** all attempts aimed at undermining the ongoing peace and reconciliation process in Somalia;
9. **CALLS UPON** the international community to lend increased support to the efforts aimed at bringing to a definite end the violence that has plagued Somalia for about two decades, including the early deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation that would take over from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and support the long-term stabilization and reconstruction of Somalia in view of ;
10. **REITERATES ITS APPRECIATION** for the work done by the AMISOM and **APPEALS** to the Member States and AU partners to provide increased support to the Mission to enable it successfully carry out its mandate;
11. ¹**EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** over the situation prevailing at the border between Djibouti and Eritrea, and the tension in the relations between the two countries. The Assembly **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the use of force, **REITERATES** the obligation to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Member States, and **CALLS FOR** the return to the situation prevailing at the common border between the two countries before the current tension, including the immediate withdrawal of all the forces positioned there since 4 February 2008;
12. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the initiatives taken by the PSC and the Commission to facilitate the resolution of this crisis, including the dispatching by the Commission of a mission to Djibouti, from 5 to 9 June 2008, and **EXPRESSES ITS SINCERE APPRECIATION** to the Djiboutian authorities for cooperating with the mission and their constant willingness to enter into dialogue in order to find a peaceful solution to the crisis;
13. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** at the refusal of the Eritrean authorities to receive the mission from the Commission and **URGENTLY APPEALS** to them to extend their full cooperation to the efforts deployed by the AU towards a

¹ Reservation entered by the State of Eritrea

peaceful solution to the crisis. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the support provided by the United Nations Security Council to the AU efforts, as expressed in its Presidential Statement of 12 June 2008;

14. **WELCOMES AND EXPRESSES SUPPORT** to the decision of the 12th IGAD Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 14 June 2008 on the Eritrea and Djibouti conflict. The Assembly **NOTES** the decision taken by the IGAD Summit by recognizing the implications of Eritrea's absence from IGAD for regional peace, security and development, and the consequent designation of a Ministerial Committee to engage Eritrea on the possibility of reconsidering her decision to suspend IGAD membership;
15. **WELCOMES** the agreement reached by the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), on 8 June 2008, on a "Roadmap for the return of IDPs and Implementation of the Abeyi Protocol", which will pave the way towards the resolution of the Abeyi impasse, and **URGES** the parties to intensify their efforts with a view to addressing all the outstanding issues in the implementation of the CPA. The Assembly **NOTES** the steps taken by the Commission in support of the implementation of the CPA, and **REQUESTS** that immediate steps be taken for the full operationalization of the Liaison Office in Khartoum with an Office in Juba. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the AU Ministerial Committee for Post-Conflict Reconstruction in the Sudan to pursue and intensify its efforts;
16. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** at the continued lack of progress in the political process in Darfur, and **URGES** the parties to extend full cooperation to the joint AU-UN Mediation so that substantive negotiations can begin in earnest. The Assembly **ALSO EXPRESSES CONCERN** at the continued violence in Darfur and its impact on the civilian population. The Assembly **STRESSES** the need for continued efforts towards the full deployment of UNAMID;
17. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** at the continued tensions between Chad and the Sudan and **CALLS** for renewed efforts to implement the Dakar agreement and previous agreements between the two countries;
18. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the efforts deployed by the Central African Government in the promotion of the Inclusive Political Dialogue. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the conclusion of the preparatory work for the said Dialogue and **URGES** all the parties concerned to participate in it in a constructive manner. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the signing in Libreville on 21 June 2008, of the Comprehensive Ceasefire and Peace Agreement between the Government and the People's Army for the Restoration of Democracy (APRD) and the Union for Rally of Democratic Forces (UFDR). The Assembly **URGES** the Democratic Front for the People of Central Africa (FDPC) to sign the said Agreement, and **TAKES NOTE** of the decision of the ECCAS Summit to transfer the management of the FOMUC from CEMAC to ECCAS, and **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to all the development partners for their constant support and their commitment alongside the Central African authorities and **ENCOURAGES** them to continue and strengthen their support to the consolidation of peace and stability in the CAR;

19. **WELCOMES** the efforts deployed towards the implementation of the Joint Communiqué signed in Nairobi, on 9 November 2007 by the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwandan Governments, as well as the work achieved by the Joint Monitoring Group established by the Tripartite+ Summit held in Addis Ababa on 5 December 2007. Furthermore, the Assembly **URGES** the Congolese parties to comply with the Goma Statements of Commitment, to strictly implement them with a view to accelerating the re-establishment of State authority in the Kivus, and promote the socio-economic development of the two provinces;
20. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the conclusion, in Bujumbura on 26 May 2008, by the Government of Burundi and the Palipehutu/FNL, of a Joint Declaration on the Cessations of Hostilities, which re-launches the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement of 7 September 2006. The Assembly **APPEALS** to Member States and AU partners to provide all the necessary support to the ongoing efforts, thus contributing to the consolidation of peace in Burundi;
21. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the progress being made in the post-conflict reconstruction and peace building efforts in Liberia, and **ENCOURAGES** the larger international community to continue to support the efforts of the Liberian Government;
22. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the progress made in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire and **WELCOMES**, in particular, the measures taken, on a consensual basis, to hold the presidential elections on 30 November 2008. The Assembly **PAYS TRIBUTE** to President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, the current Chairperson of ECOWAS, and Facilitator of the Inter-Ivorian Direct Dialogue. The Assembly **URGES** all the Ivorian parties to maintain and consolidate the dynamics of peace prevailing in the country since the signing of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement on 4 March 2007. The Assembly **CALLS ON** the international community to continue to accompany and support the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire;
23. **WELCOMES** the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations of 7 April 2008 on the relationship between the UN and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security. The Assembly **COMMENDS** the Republic of South Africa for the sustained efforts that it has made in following up on the Assembly's decision of January 2007 for the funding of AU-led peace support operations through UN assessed contributions. The Assembly **ALSO EXPRESSES** appreciation to the other African Members of the Security Council for their support and efforts;
24. **ALSO WELCOMES** the Secretary-General's proposal, endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1809(2008) of 16 April 2008, to set up an African Union-United Nations panel consisting of distinguished persons to consider in-depth the modalities of how to support, including financing, peacekeeping operations undertaken by regional organizations, in particular as related to start-up funding, equipment and logistics, and make concrete recommendations. The Assembly **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to follow up the implementation of this resolution.

**DECISION ON THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
COMMITMENTS OF THE MAY 2006 ABUJA SPECIAL SUMMIT ON HIV/AIDS,
TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA (ATM)
DOC.ASSEMBLY/AU/4 (XI)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Commitments of the May 2006 Abuja Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria (ATM);
2. **WELCOMES** the Malaria Initiative launched by the United Nations (UN) Secretary General and the appointment of a UN Special Envoy on Malaria; and **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to work closely with the Envoy in the implementation of the Malaria Elimination Campaign launched by the African Union;
3. **CONCERNED** that HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria remain major development challenges and thus require sustained political will and commitment in order to reverse their impact;
4. **DEPLORES** the high costs of medicines for these diseases, and **NOTES WITH CONCERN** the increasing challenges associated with resistance to the medicines and insecticides;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the particular susceptibility of women, children and other vulnerable groups to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria;
6. **URGES** Member States to implement their pledge to devote at least fifteen percent (15%) of their national budget to health in order to adequately address health and development, especially HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria;
7. **ALSO URGES** Member States to strengthen health systems in the framework of the Africa Health Strategy (2007-2015) as the best approach to promote universal access to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria services by 2010;
8. **FURTHER URGES** Member States to strengthen their respective disease surveillance capacities for effective monitoring and evaluation and to prepare progress reports to the AU organs and other constituencies;
9. **CALLS UPON** Regional and International partners to sustain efforts to support Member states in the implementation of the various commitments on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria (ATM);
10. **REQUESTS** the Commission to promote regional cooperation whilst coordinating and harmonizing follow-up on the response to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria;

11. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with development partners to monitor the implementation of this Decision and to prepare a review report in 2010 as requested by the Special Summit on ATM.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE PROMOTION OF MATERNAL, INFANT AND CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA
DOC.ASSEMBLY/AU/6 (XI)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Promotion of Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa;
2. **REAFFIRMS** the need to implement the Decision adopted by the Banjul Summit in 2006 on a legislation that regulates and respects social life in Africa, and **URGES** Member States to make contributions in this regard;
3. **REAFFIRMS** its commitment to intensify its leadership role and keep the Promotion of Maternal, Infant and Child Health high on the Continental agenda;
4. **URGES** Member States to take action to institutionalize enquiries into Maternal, Infant and Child deaths in Member States; to this effect periodic reports should be submitted to the Commission, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and relevant partners for assessment and analysis of progress and sharing of best practices;
5. **ENDORSES** the nomination by the Special Session of the AU Conference of African Ministers of Health, on 17 May 2008 of Dr M. Tshabalala-Msimang, Minister of Health of the Republic of South Africa as Goodwill Ambassador to champion the Promotion of Maternal, Infant and Child Health in Africa;
6. **CALLS UPON** the United Nations (UN) Agencies and other International Partners to accelerate actions to improve maternal, infant and child health in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to speed up action for capacity building with the view to strengthening advocacy, resource mobilization, coordination and harmonization, monitoring and evaluation of progress made in the promotion of maternal, infant and child health in Africa;
8. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to develop and disseminate a format to guide Member States with reporting, to enable it to update its statistical data;
9. **REITERATES** its previous Decision, requesting the Commission in collaboration with relevant Partners, to intensify advocacy and coordination efforts towards the attainment of MDGs 4, 5, and 6 in Africa and to submit progress reports to the next ordinary session of the Assembly, in January 2009.

**DECISION ON THE SINGLE LEGAL INSTRUMENT ON THE MERGER OF
THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
AND THE AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE
DOC. ASSEMBLY/AU/13 (XI)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council;
2. **ADOPTS** the Draft Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights;
3. **CALLS** on Member States to sign and ratify the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights as expeditiously as possible so as to enable the Protocol enter into force and ensure the speedy operationalization of the merged Court.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS OF ECONOMIC
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (EPAs)
DOC. EX.CL/422(XIII)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress report of the Commission on the Negotiations of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs);
2. **ENDORSES** the Declaration on the EPA Negotiations adopted by the Joint Conference of AU Ministers of Trade and Finance in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April 2008;
3. **REQUESTS** Member States that have had to initial individual Interim EPAs to avoid disruption of their trade with the European Union (EU) after the 31st of December 2007 deadline, to pursue and finalize within their Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Groupings the negotiation and conclusion of full and comprehensive EPAs;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Member States concerned to ensure that the contentious issues in the Interim EPAs that have been identified by the AU Ministers of Trade and Finance are adequately addressed in the negotiations of full and comprehensive EPAs;
5. **URGES** the European Commission not to put pressure on African Governments to ratify the Interim Agreements without taking into account the concerns raised on the contentious issues;

6. **INVITES** the European Commission to honour the commitment made by the Council in Brussels on 27 May 2008 to make EPAs an instrument for the promotion of development, support to regional integration, and gradual integration of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of States in the world economy, and **URGES** the European Commission to fully reflect this commitment in the negotiation and conclusion of full and comprehensive EPAs;
7. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission , in collaboration with the United Nations Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the RECs, to accelerate the elaboration of a full EPA template to be used as a guideline by all African countries / groups negotiating full EPAs;
8. **URGES** the European Union to consider providing an alternative trading arrangement, that is World Trade Organisation (WTO) – compatible but not less favourable than the Lome/Cotonou trading regime, to African countries/groups that have not initialled Interim EPAs and may not be in a position to conclude full EPAs;
9. **CALLS ON** the AU Commission and the European Union Commission to facilitate an early convening of the high–level Africa–Europe consultations on EPAs, as agreed in Lisbon during the Second Europe – Africa Summit, held in Portugal, in December 2007;
10. **REQUESTS** African negotiating countries and groups to remain united in their engagement with the European Union Commission on EPAs;
11. **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to strengthen its coordination and harmonization of the positions of the countries and groups in the negotiations of full EPAs;
12. **URGES** Member States and the RECs to take full advantage of the European Union Aid for Trade resources.

DECISION ON THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** that at its Inaugural Summit, in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa, it had adopted a Declaration on the Implementation of the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* [Assembly/AU/Decl. 1 (I) endorsing the Progress Report and Initial Action Plan [AHG/235 (XXXVIII)], encouraging Member States to adopt the *NEPAD* Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance [AHG/235 (XXXVIII) Annex I] and accede to the *African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)* [AHG/235 (XXXVIII) Annex II];
2. **RECALLS** that the mandate of the APRM is to encourage Participating States in ensuring that the policies and practices of Participating States conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards, and to achieve mutually agreed objectives in socio-economic development contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance;
3. **NOTES** that twenty-eight (28) Member States have voluntarily acceded to APRM and **INVITES** all Member States that have not yet done so to join the Mechanism;
4. **WELCOMES** the important role being played by the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government in the APRM ("APRM Forum") and the Panel of Eminent Persons of the APRM ("APRM Panel");
5. **CALLS UPON** the government of the Republic of South Africa to grant all facilities to APRM for the discharge of its mandate;
6. **DECIDES** that APRM Structures, namely the APRM Forum, the APRM Panel and the APRM Secretariat shall be part of the processes and structures of the African Union;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to negotiate and conclude a host agreement, with the Government of the Republic of South Africa, for APRM with a view to facilitating the discharge of its mandate.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE ABUSE
OF THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION
Doc. Assembly/AU/14 (XI)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction pursuant to the recommendation of the Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 18 April 2008;
2. **RECALLS** the Johannesburg Declaration of the Pan-African Parliament dated 15 May 2008;
3. **RECOGNIZING** that universal jurisdiction is a principle of International Law whose purpose is to ensure that individuals who commit grave offences such as war crimes and crimes against humanity do not do so with impunity and are brought to justice, which is in line with Article 4(h) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
4. **NOTING** the Brazzaville statement by the Inter-ministerial Committee of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region dated 22 May 2008;
5. **RESOLVE** as follows:
 - (i) The abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction is a development that could endanger International law, order and security;
 - (ii) The political nature and abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by judges from some non-African States against African leaders, particularly Rwanda, is a clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of these States;
 - (iii) The abuse and misuse of indictments against African leaders have a destabilizing effect that will negatively impact on the political, social and economic development of States and their ability to conduct international relations;
 - (iv) Those warrants shall not be executed in African Union Member States;
 - (v) There is need for establishment of an international regulatory body with competence to review and/or handle complaints or appeals arising out of abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by individual States.
6. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the African Union to table the matter before the United Nations (UN) Security Council and the UN General Assembly for consideration;
7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to urgently cause a meeting between the AU and European Union (EU) to discuss the matter with a view to finding a lasting solution to this problem and in particular to ensure that those warrants are withdrawn and are not executable in any country;

8. ALSO REQUESTS all UN Member States, in particular the EU States, to impose a moratorium on the execution of those warrants until all the legal and political issues have been exhaustively discussed between the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN
COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
DOC. EX.CL/446 (XIII)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR);
2. **ADOPTS** and **AUTHORIZES** in accordance with Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Charter), the publication of the 23rd and 24th Activity Reports of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and their Annexes;
3. **COMMENDS** ACHPR for the work accomplished and **URGES** it to pursue and intensify its efforts in this regard;
4. **REITERATES** the need for ACHPR to be provided with adequate resources to remove donor dependence and enable the ACHPR discharge its mandate effectively and independently;
5. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the Government of the Republic of The Gambia for the efforts deployed in hosting ACHPR for the past 20 years, and **URGES** the Government to provide a permanent headquarter for ACHPR, in line with the Criteria for Hosting AU Organs adopted in July 2005;
6. **REQUESTS** the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) to expedite its consideration of the proposed Structure of the Secretariat of ACHPR, with a view to providing it with adequate staff for the effective discharge of its mandate;
7. **URGES** ACHPR to expedite consideration and finalisation of its revised Rules of Procedure, ensuring that these Rules are consistent with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;
8. **ENCOURAGES** ACHPR, in collaboration with the AU Commission, to take the necessary steps to have the status of the ACHPR as an Organ of the AU regularized;
9. **REQUESTS** ACHPR to prepare proposals on the honorarium, per diem and other allowances to be paid to the Members of ACHPR, for consideration by the AU Policy Organs;
10. **ALSO REQUESTS** the ACHPR to prepare a Paper on how the African Commission works, with a view to enhancing stakeholders' understanding of its working methods and operational modalities;

11. **TAKES NOTE** of the observations and reservations made by the Arab Republic of Egypt, regarding the shortcomings of the ACHPR in the translation of documents, in interpretation, and in transmitting documents to Member States, due to human and financial resource constraints, which can result in procedural and substantial shortcomings.
12. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the ACHPR to report on the same to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in 2009.

**DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE
AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS
AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD
DOC. EX.CL/450(XIII)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. **DECIDES** to appoint the following persons as members of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as elected by the 13th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:
 - i) Mrs. Agnès KABORE Burkina Faso
 - ii) Mr. Adrianirainy RASAMOELY Madagascar
 - iii) Mrs. Maryam UWAIS Nigeria
 - iv) Mr. Cyprien Adébayo YANCLO Benin

**DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF JUDGES OF THE AFRICAN COURT
ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
DOC. EX.CL/451(XIII)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the results of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. **DECIDES** to appoint, for a six-year term the following Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights as elected by the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:
 - i) Mrs. Sophia A.B. AKUFFO Ghana 6-year term
 - ii) Mr. Githu MUIGAI Kenya 6-year term
 - iii) Mr. Joseph Nyamihana MULENGA Uganda 6-year term
 - iv) Mr. Bernard Makgabo NGOEPE South Africa 6-year term

DECISION ON THE AFRICAN DIASPORA SUMMIT

The Executive Council:

1. **RECALLS** the Decision on the First African Union Ministerial Diaspora Conference held in Midrand, South Africa from 16 to 18 November 2007;
2. **COMMENDS** the efforts of the Commission and the Republic of South Africa in implementing this Decision, and the progress made so far in organizing the African Diaspora Summit scheduled to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 7 to 11 October 2008;
3. **URGES** the Republic of South Africa and the Commission to continue to collaborate closely in this regard;
4. **WELCOMES** the organization of a Technical Workshop to be held in South Africa from 28 to 30 July 2008, in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministerial Conference, and within the framework of efforts to promote consensus-building in the finalization of the Declaration, Programme of Action and its implementation plan to be adopted at the Diaspora Summit;
5. **REQUESTS** Member States, leaders of the Caribbean Community and the African Diaspora to continue to support and participate actively in the process leading up to the Summit, and the implementation of the Programme of Action to be adopted thereafter;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that the process of organizing Regional Consultative Conferences (RCCs) continues as part of the Implementation Plan, to include the African Diaspora in the Gulf, the Middle East, Oceania and other parts of the world where they have not been held;
7. **CALLS ON** Member States to provide adequate and necessary resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action arising out of this Summit and the wider Diaspora initiative.

**DECISION ON THE REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
DOC. ASSEMBLY/AU/8 (XI)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State on the Reform of the Security Council;
2. **REAFFIRMS** the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration on the Reform of the United Nations as the basis of any inter-governmental negotiations;
3. **REQUESTS** the Committee of Ten to address other Reform issues of the United Nations System, and to present a progress Report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly;
4. **DECIDES TO RENEW** the directive to the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, as stated in the Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.184 (X) of January 2008, relating to their participation in inter-governmental negotiations in New York;
5. **ENDORSES** the decision of the Committee of Ten to meet regularly and requests the African Union Commission to facilitate the meetings.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE ON NEPAD
DOC. ASSEMBLY/AU/11 (XI)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the report by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC), H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
2. **ENDORSES** the conclusions of the 18th NEPAD HSGIC Summit;
3. **URGES** the African Union Commission to complete the process of the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer for the NEPAD Secretariat by the next African Union Summit in January 2009 along the lines of the January 2008 AU Assembly decision and **CALLS ON** Member States to encourage their citizens to submit applications for the post;
4. **COMMENDS** the hosting of the NEPAD Review Summit by President Abdoulaye Wade in Dakar, Senegal on 15 April 2008 as well as the initiatives presented by Senegal on the revitalization of the NEPAD programme and **URGES** all Member States to contribute viewpoints on the structure and profile of the new NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Authority;
5. **WELCOMES** the ongoing work of the AU/NEPAD Coordinating Unit on the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union, particularly the inauguration of the Unit and **DIRECTS** that the Unit should remain guided by the 2003 Maputo AU Assembly Declaration, the conclusions of the Algiers NEPAD Brainstorming Summit of March 2007 and the Addis Ababa January 2008 AU Assembly's decision, which continue to form the basis for the integration of NEPAD into AU structures and processes;

- 6. REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary measures to speed up the conclusion of the Host Agreement for the NEPAD Secretariat with the Government of South Africa and **WELCOMES** the assurance by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa that all efforts would be made to conclude the Host Agreement before the end of July 2008;
- 7. AGREES AND URGES** the completion of the process of the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union by the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2009;
- 8. ACCEPTS** the recommendation of HSGIC to take three key messages of importance for Africa to the G7 Summit scheduled for Hokkaido, Japan, from 7 – 9 July 2008, as follows:
- That the Africa Action Plan remains the basis for Africa’s engagement with the G8;
 - Reactivation of the G8/NEPAD follow-up mechanism as agreed upon at the G8 Heiligendamm Summit of 2007 to ensure prompt and effective fulfillment of all G8 commitments and pledges to Africa;
 - Facilitate better access to concessional loans by African countries for the purpose of economic growth within the context of prudent macro-economic management as part of the process of reviewing the issues of Financing for Development. This is all the more important in view of the burden of the hike in prices of oil and inflation in food prices faced by oil importing countries;
- 9. EMPHASIZES** that the Japanese “Cool Earth” Initiative should not compromise or undermine Africa’s positions and strategies on Climate Change being canvassed at the international level through the United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC’s) Kyoto and post-Kyoto processes;
- 10. UNDERScores** the need for early preparations by Africa for the 2009 G8 Summit in Italy and the 2010 G8 Summit in Canada, and the appropriate engagements at various levels by Africa with the leadership of the two countries for the necessary sensitization towards African priorities, interests and concerns;
- 11. APPROVES** the new membership of the NEPAD HSGIC for the next two (2) years as follows:

Central Africa	East Africa	North Africa	Southern Africa	West Africa
Cameroon	Ethiopia	Egypt	South Africa	Nigeria
Congo	Madagascar*	Algeria	Namibia*	Senegal
DRC	Sudan*	Libya	Malawi*	Mali
Gabon	Rwanda	Tunisia	Lesotho*	Benin*

***New members**

- 12. DECIDES** that the country chairing the African Union during its term of office, shall automatically be a member of HSGIC, if not already a member and **FURTHER DECIDES** that the Republic of Tanzania shall be a member of HSGIC.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF TWELVE HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT ON THE UNION GOVERNMENT**

DOC. ASSEMBLY/AU/11 (XI)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Committee of Twelve Heads of State and Government which met in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 22 to 23 May 2008 and **ENDORSES** its recommendations;
2. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the Members of the Committee and **COMMENDS** them for the work done;
3. **REAFFIRMS** its decision in the Accra Declaration to “accelerate the economic and political integration of the African continent, including the formation of a Union Government for Africa with the ultimate objective of creating the United States of Africa and **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee of Twelve in this regard;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to work out, the modalities and details for the implementation of the recommendations on the Union Government of the Committee of Twelve, including a road map and the issues that require clarity, and submit proposals thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled for January 2009;
5. **DECIDES** to devote a full day of its January 2009 Session to consider the Report of the Commission on this matter with a view to bringing the debate to a final conclusion.

**DECISION ON STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
UNITED NATIONS AND THE AFRICAN UNION IN COMBATING
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

The Assembly:

- 1. RECOGNIZES** that trafficking in human beings is increasingly becoming a global scourge affecting all countries around the world, especially in Africa;
- 2. STRESSES** the importance of the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as the first comprehensive international instrument dealing with this important issue and calling for achieving its universality as soon as possible;
- 3. WELCOMES** the increased efforts to intensify dealing with this issue in the United Nations General Assembly as well as in other regional organizations, as manifested in the 2004 ASEAN declaration against trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, the 2005 Convention of the Council of Europe on action against trafficking in human beings, 2006 AU/EU Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, especially women and children as well as the ECOWAS Declaration to combat Trafficking in Persons (2001) and the ECOWAS Initial Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons (2001) and the AU Migration Framework for Africa;
- 4. FURTHER WELCOMES** the establishment in 2007 of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT) to coordinate actions among governments, United Nations Organs, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organizations and the Private Sector in order to fully ensure protection, prosecution and prevention in dealing with human trafficking;
- 5. EXPRESSES** its appreciation to the “Suzan Mubarak Women’s International Peace Movement” for all its efforts in raising public awareness for this important issue and for all its work to further develop public/private partnership to help African countries in combating human trafficking through ensuring protection, prevention and prosecution, in full cooperation with the United Nations and the African Union and through her global ambitious initiative “End Human Trafficking Now”;
- 6. COMMENDS** the efforts exerted by various African Union organs and United Nations dealing with the issue of trafficking in human beings, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Organization on Migration (IOM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and **STRESSES** the need for enhancing

cooperation and coordination between the Commission and all other organs and stakeholders dealing with this important issue;

7. **DIRECTS** the Permanent Representatives of the Member States of the African Union to the United Nations in New York to propose and start negotiations on a Global Action Plan for combating trafficking in human beings under the auspices of the President of the United Nations General Assembly, taking the 2006 Ouagadougou Action Plan and other regional Action Plans, in particular the ECOWAS Initial Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons as a basis for the African position, and to coordinate with other interested Member States with similar action plans or similar positions towards achieving our objectives;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to provide all necessary support to the Permanent Representatives in New York throughout the negotiation process and to intensify its interaction with all organs and stakeholders dealing with this issue with a view to ensuring the early adoption of the proposed Global Action Plan, and to present a Progress Report, to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2009.

**SHARM EL-SHEIKH COMMITMENTS FOR ACCELERATING THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION GOALS IN AFRICA**

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 11th Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Sharm El-Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008,

Recognizing the importance of water and sanitation for social, economic and environmental development of our countries and Continent;

Reaffirming our commitment to the principles and objectives, stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union aimed at promoting cooperation and integration between our countries in all fields with a view to raising the living standards of our peoples and the wellbeing of future generations;

Recognizing that water is and must remain a key to sustainable development in Africa, and that water supply and sanitation are prerequisites for Africa's human capital development;

Concerned that there is an underutilization and uneven sharing of water resources in Africa, and that remains a growing challenge in the achievement of food and energy securities;

Reaffirming our commitment to the African Water Vision 2025, the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water in Africa; the Declaration on Climate Change in Africa; and the Millennium Development Goal on water supply and sanitation;

Mindful that our Summit is taking place mid way to the 2015 water, sanitation and other MDGs targets and aware that not much progress has been made in Africa compared to the rest of the world to achieve the MDGs target, and that based on current trends, Africa needs to accelerate its efforts;

Welcoming the Declaration by the international community of 2008 as the year of action on the MDGs, and the Declaration by the United Nations of 2008 as the "International Year of Sanitation" which, for Africa, provides an opportunity for accelerating its regional action plans and implementation strategies by adopting concrete decisions at our Heads of State and Government Summit;

Aware of the need to make progress on the challenges of water and sanitation infrastructure financing, water conservation and equitable distribution, closing the sanitation gap, breaking the silence on sanitation and hygiene, adapting to climate change, integrated management of national and transboundary surface and ground water, investing in information, knowledge and monitoring and institutional development as well capacity building;

Aware also of the urgent need to develop our water and sanitation infrastructure and institutions in order to provide sufficient and sustainable quantity and quality for all types of services and provide acceptable level of protection from risks of water related disasters and impact of climate change as key for the transformation and socio-economic development, and for public health in Africa;

Recognizing the progress that the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and other institutions and organizations and their development partners have made in the area of water resource management and in the provision of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation to the urban and rural populations of our countries albeit the inadequacies;

Welcoming the Ministerial Declaration and outcomes of the first Africa Water Week convened by AMCOW and hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Tunis, Tunisia from 26 to 28 March 2008; and further welcoming the eThekweni Declaration on Sanitation and its accompanying actions adopted in South Africa in February 2008, and the Africa-EU Statement on Sanitation of March 2008;

Acknowledging the work done by AMCOW in mobilizing action towards sustainable and integrated water resource management and in providing policy guidance for coordination of water resources management and for water supply and sanitation initiatives as well as the funding mechanisms put in place for these initiatives;

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

- (a) **Increase** our efforts to implement our past declarations related to water and sanitation.
- (b) **Raise** the profile of sanitation by addressing the gaps in the context of the 2008 eThekweni Ministerial Declaration on sanitation in Africa adopted by AMCOW.
- (c) **Address** issues pertaining to agricultural water use for food security as provided for in the Ministerial Declaration and outcomes of the first African Water Week.

And particularly;

- (d) **Develop and/or update** national water management policies, regulatory frameworks, and programmes, and prepare national strategies and action plans for achieving the MDG targets for water and sanitation over the next seven (7) years;
- (e) **Create** conducive environment to enhance the effective engagement of local authorities and the private sector;
- (f) **Ensure** the equitable and sustainable use, as well as promote integrated management and development, of national and shared water resources in Africa;
- (g) **Build** institutional and human resources capacity at all levels including the decentralized local government level for programme implementation, enhance information and knowledge management as well as strengthen monitoring and evaluation;

- (h) **Put in place** adaptation measures to improve the resilience of our countries to the increasing threat of climate change and variability to our water resources and our capacity to meet the water and sanitation targets;
- (i) **Significantly increase** domestic financial resources allocated for implementing national and regional water and sanitation development activities and **Call upon** Ministers of water and finance to develop appropriate investment plans;
- (j) **Develop** local financial instruments and markets for investments in the water and sanitation sectors;
- (k) **Mobilize** increased donor and other financing for the water and sanitation initiatives including national projects and Rural Water and Sanitation Initiatives, the African Water Facility; Water for African Cities programme and the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility, as committed in the G8 Initiatives on water and sanitation;
- (l) **Promote** effective engagement of African civil society and public participation in water and sanitation activities and programmes;
- (m) **Promote** programming that addresses the role and interests of youth and women, given that the burden of poor water and sanitation falls disproportionately on women and children;
- (n) **Strengthen** AMCOW as a key regional mechanism, and other regional stakeholders, as relevant, for promoting cooperation on water and sanitation;
- (o) **Strengthen** AMCOW's initiative on sustainable management of water resources, to implement its roadmap for the African Groundwater Commission;
- (p) **Strengthen** partnership at all levels in our countries and between Regional Economic Communities as well as with the international development agencies and promote public-private partnerships with the view to fast tracking actions towards meeting the MDG on water and sanitation in our continent;
- (q) **Request** AMCOW to annually report on progress made in the implementation of our commitment on water and sanitation with support from regional partners, and to submit these reports for our consideration;
- (r) **Call on** African Ministers in charge of water and finance in collaboration with the African Development Bank and development partners, to hold a meeting of Ministers of Water and Finance to develop appropriate financing policies;
- (s) **Request** the Regional Economic Communities and the Rivers and Lake Basin Organizations to initiate regional dialogues on climate change and its impacts on the water sector with the aim of designing appropriate adaptation measures;
- (t) **Call upon** the G8 to reaffirm at its next Summit in Japan its commitment to fully implement the G8 initiatives on water in Africa, notably the 2003 Evian Plan on Water, to step up their engagement in the sanitation sector and to enter into a strengthened partnership with the AU Member States, through AMCOW, for achieving the Water and Sanitation MDGs.

Done in Sharm El-Sheikh on 1 July, 2008

DECLARATION ON
RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES OF HIGH FOOD PRICES
AND AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 11th Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Sharm El-Sheikh in the Arab Republic of Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008:

Recalling our decision to adopt the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) at the Maputo Summit in July 2003 as a framework for accelerating agricultural development; the Sirte Declaration on Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development in Agriculture and Water in Africa in February 2004; the outcomes of the Abuja Summit on Fertilizer;

Recalling further the Declaration of the Food Security Summit held in Abuja in December 2006 that called for a Green Revolution in Africa;

Welcoming the Declaration of the High Level Conference on World food Security convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its Headquarters in Rome, from 3 to 5 June 2008, and in particular the recognition of the need to increase food production in the world; the outcome of the 25th FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held in Nairobi in June 2008;

Concerned by the current crisis caused by the high food prices and its adverse impact on African countries, particularly the poor and vulnerable household segments of the population;

Welcoming the establishment by the UN Secretary-General of the High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis;

Recognizing that the high food prices will divert the meagre national resources from development activities to meet urgent food imports needed adequate nutrition;

Mindful that the major causes of the high food prices include rising demand for cereals particularly in rapidly growing economies; grain-based biofuels production and the ensuing competition between food security and energy needs; supply shocks due to the environmental negative impact including climate change, desertification and drought on our capacities to feed a growing global population; low farming productivity as a result of low investment in agriculture especially in Africa; higher energy prices leading to higher input and processing costs, particularly increased prices of fertilizers and transport;

Aware that the crisis can provide an opportunity to build a coalition of responses across the African continent, offering a vehicle for an African agricultural renaissance that raises small scale farmers' incomes, enhances livelihoods, nutrition and ultimately food security for Africa.

DECLARE our firm commitment to:

1. Reduce by half the number of undernourished people in Africa by 2015 and eradicating hunger and malnutrition in the Continent.
2. Take all necessary measures to increase agricultural production and ensure food security in Africa, in particular through the implementation of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of NEPAD and the Maputo Declaration of July 2003.
3. Support the following thematic priority-options:
 - Increase food production and productivity for key commodities by improving access to agricultural inputs for diversified cropping and livestock production systems including targeted SMART subsidies (fertiliser, improved seeds, better access to technologies and innovations);
 - Improve production of fertilizers from existing plants and explore the possibility of establishing new ones based on the availability of raw materials in the region;
 - Support national and regional food initiatives to stabilize prices, and serve as emergency stock ;
 - Strengthen food security and agricultural information and early warning systems that are sustainable with key stakeholder participation;
 - Introduce and support agricultural insurance systems and micro credit;
 - Increase production by improved sustainable soil fertility management including conservation agriculture technologies;
 - Enhance food processing, credit systems, and use of improved storage, and minimize post harvest losses;
 - Promote indigenous crops and technologies for production and processing of nutrient-rich crops;
 - Improve logistics capacity to move emergency supplies and agricultural inputs.
4. Address the challenges posed by the high food prices through the following measures:

(a) Immediate/ short terms responses:

- Immediate assistance to the vulnerable segments of populations through targeted food assistance and safety net measures including cash and/or food transfers to combat hunger and malnutrition;
- Intensify agricultural production and productivity through the use of targeted input subsidies, particularly fertilizer and improved seed, and enhance access to water and small scale irrigation;
- Improve post harvest management to minimize crop storage losses and enhance processing;

(b) Medium to long-term responses:

- Invest in appropriate social safety nets and interventions that include both protective actions to mitigate short-term risks and preventative actions to preclude long-term negative consequences;
- Scale up investments for sustained agricultural growth including expanded public spending for rural infrastructure (roads, markets, irrigation and water harvesting techniques, etc.), services (micro-finance, market information systems, insurance programmes, etc.), agricultural research and technology development and transfer (increased productivity, post-harvest management, extension, etc.);
- Enhance sustainable land management practices including soil and water management and conservation;
- Enhance institutional and human capacities for agricultural development;
- Review bio-fuel policies to make more grains and oilseeds currently used for fuel available for food and feed.

WE CALL FOR:

1. A Global partnership that deals with the causes and repercussions of the current crisis, tackles the issue of food security within the more comprehensive humanitarian scope and its association with the inalienable human right to food and life, so as to support the efforts on the national, regional, and international levels to curtail the rise in food prices.
2. The successful early conclusion of the Doha Round to provide for rules-based, fair and free international trade particularly in food and agriculture commodities is an indispensable part of a long term solution. The substantial lowering of barriers to trade in agriculture products coupled with reductions in overall trade-distorting subsidies, particularly in developed countries will have an impact on food production and investment in agriculture in many developing countries, particularly in Africa.
- 3- The immediate launching of an International High level dialogue between food exporters and importers from developed and developing countries aimed at:
 - a. Concluding an international strategy for the short, medium and long-term handling of the current crisis.
 - b. Examining the speculation risks pertinent to agricultural commodity prices.
 - c. Reinforcing the efforts to promote the development of the agriculture sector in fields of land reclamation, boosting productivity, and encourages the infrastructure needed for transporting and stockpiling crops.
 - d. Energizing scientific research in the field of fertilizers and new seed varieties, one that scrutinizes the effects of genetically modified seeds on sanitary and phyto- sanitary, human, as well as animal health.

- e. Confronting climate change challenges seriously and effectively in its relationship with prevailing consumption and production patterns, and their grave repercussions on drought and land desertification, and their direct consequences on the world's food security.
4. The setting of an international code of conduct that:
- a. Reconsiders the current expansion in the production of biofuel as an alternative source of traditional energy.
 - b. Sets the standards for the responsible utilization of grain based biofuel.
 - c. Reassesses the actual social and environmental costs of biofuel, and restricts its production to agricultural waste and specific designated non food crops.
 - d. Reconsiders the current subsidy offered to ethanol and bio-diesel producers, and subjects it to rules of world trade. This subsidization is creating hazardous distortion to the present international system of agricultural production and trade.

WE FURTHER CALL UPON:

- Multilateral and bilateral development partners, in particular those participating in the next G8 Summit in Hokaido to provide financial and technical support to assist African countries to increase substantially their food and agricultural production and productivity.
- The RECs to take proactive measures on their assistance to countries on the short term, as well as, medium-long term response by identification of the technical assistance required at the regional level.
- African Union Commission and NEPAD Secretariat to establish a taskforce supported by FAO, WFP, IFAD, World Bank, and RECs that can coordinate active and timely follow-up to actions in this declaration including; facilitation the coordination of development partners support for country level programming activities in connection with both immediate and longer term responses to the food price crisis and supporting the dialogue with development partners at national level on responses to the crisis.
- The African Union Commission, NEPAD Secretariat in collaboration with the FAO, WFP, IFAD, AfDB and the World Bank to develop a short term action plan to raise production substantially in the next two planning seasons.

We commit ourselves to mobilize all means to alleviate the suffering caused by the situation of rising food prices and to strengthen agricultural development raising production and productivity as a solution to the challenges facing Africa.

Sharm El-Sheikh, 1 July 2008

**TRIBUTE TO LATE AIME CESAIRE, POET AND HUMANIST
FROM MARTINIQUE**

We, Heads of State and Government, meeting in the 11th Ordinary Session of our Assembly, deeply saddened by the departure of our brother Aimé Césaire on 17 April 2008 at age 94, hereby pay a special tribute to the memory of one of the greatest humanists in modern times, to the memory of the man who devoted his entire life struggling relentlessly and fearlessly against slavery and colonialism, and for the emancipation of black people around the world.

We, recognize with deep appreciation the action and work of Aimé Césaire; his denunciation of the former slave masters seeking to maintain our people in the shackles of psychological bondage, we salute his unswerving show of solidarity towards Africa as well as his valuable contribution to our continent's struggle to free herself from the yoke of colonialism.

Our brother Aimé Césaire, who was a uniquely talented poet turned politician, maintained brotherly relations with the Late Leopold Sedar Senghor, the former President of Senegal with whom he crafted the concept of "Negritude" that will forever remain the hallmark of their action against prejudice and for the defense of the cultural and spiritual values of black people everywhere; a concept that turns into positive all the negative connotation that some people want to associate to the word "Negro" out of sheer prejudice.

We salute the courage and selflessness of late Aimé Césaire who, despite the intimidation, the harassment and the isolation which he was subjected to by those who disliked his ideas, has never given up on his strong desire and determination to uphold the values, the rights and the freedom of black people.

For his action and for his work, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to pay a solemn and well deserved tribute to Aimé Césaire, a brother and a great humanist whose countless writings will, no doubt, inspire future generations in their quest for justice and equality.

RESOLUTION ON ZIMBABWE

The African Union Assembly, meeting in its 11th Ordinary Session held from 30 June to 1 July 2008 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt;

Deeply concerned with the prevailing situation in Zimbabwe,

Deeply concerned the negative reports of SADC, the African Union and the Pan-African Parliament observers on the Zimbabwean President run-off election held on 27 June 2008;

Deeply Concerned about the violence and loss of life that have occurred in Zimbabwe,

Considering the urgent need to prevent further worsening of the situation and in order to avoid the spread of conflict with the consequential negative impact on the country and the sub-region,

Further considering the need to create an environment conducive to democracy, as well as the development of the people of Zimbabwe;

Expressing its appreciation to SADC, and its Organ on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation, as well as to the Facilitator of the intra-Zimbabwe dialogue, His Excellency Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, and His Excellency Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission for the ongoing work aimed at reconciling the political parties,

Recognizing the complexity of the situation in Zimbabwe;

Noting the willingness of the political leaders of Zimbabwe to enter into negotiations to establish a Government of National Unity;

Noting Further that preparatory discussions on this matter has already started, under SADC facilitation;

Hereby decide:

- 1. TO ENCOURAGE** President Robert Mugabe and the leader of the MDC Party Mr. Morgan Tsvangirai to honour their commitments to initiate dialogue with a view to promoting peace, stability, democracy and reconciliation of the Zimbabwean people;
- 2. TO SUPPORT** the call for the creation of a Government of National Unity;
- 3. TO SUPPORT** the SADC Facilitation, and **RECOMMEND** that SADC mediation efforts should be continued in order to assist the people and leadership of Zimbabwe to resolve the problems they are facing. In this regard SADC should establish a mechanism on the ground in order to seize the momentum for a negotiated solution;
- 4. TO APPEAL** to States and parties concerned to refrain from any action that may negatively impact on the climate of dialogue;

In the spirit of all SADC initiatives, the AU remains convinced that the people of Zimbabwe will be able to resolve their differences and work together once again as one Nation, provided they receive undivided support from SADC, the AU and the world at large.