

AFRICAN UNION  
الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE  
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COMAI/MIN/DECL. (II)

DECLARATION



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## Declaration

We, the African Ministers in charge of Integration, meeting in our Second Ordinary Conference in Kigali, Rwanda, from 26 to 27 July 2007,

**Recalling** the Declaration of our First Conference held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 30 to 31 March 2006,

**Considering** Assembly Decisions (/Assembly/AU/Dec.112(VII) and Assembly/AU/Dec.113(VII) of the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union relating respectively to the moratorium on the recognition of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the institutionalization of our Conference,

**Recalling** the determination of the Assembly of the Union to accelerate the economic and political integration of the African Continent, to rationalize and strengthen Regional Economic Communities, as contained in the Accra Declaration adopted by its 9<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session,

**Recognizing** the important role of Regional Economic Communities as pillars of the African Economic Community, as well as the imperative need to proceed with their harmonization and rationalization of policies and programmes with a view to accelerating the economic integration of the Continent,

**Having had** a fruitful exchange of views and a deeper reflection on pertinent issues related to the Continental integration agenda, including: possible lessons to be learnt from the European integration experience; a Case Study of COMESA; and the Impact of mobility of factors of production on the regional and continental integration agenda;

**Having also taken note** of the experts' report and its recommendations relating to the Study on the Rationalization of the RECs: the Review of the Abuja Treaty and the Minimum Integration Programme, conducted by the AU Commission, in consultation with the RECs,

**Gratified** by the frank and cordial atmosphere which marked our deliberations

**HEREBY AGREE TO:**

**URGE** the AUC and RECs, in the spirit of the Ouagadougou Declaration and Banjul Decision to continue to harmonize and coordinate policies and programmes of RECs as important strategies for integration.;

**ENCOURAGE** the RECs to develop partnerships among themselves;

**REQUEST** the AU Commission to co-ordinate the activities of RECs and ensure that Decisions taken at the continental level on integration are effectively implemented;

**CALL UPON** Member States and RECs to focus on the development of infrastructure on the continent to accelerate and deepen regional and continental integration in collaboration with the AfDB and NEPAD; and support the development of appropriate financing mechanisms such as the Pan African Infrastructure Development Fund;

**INVITE** Member States and RECs to strengthen regional and continental integration through concrete measures including: addressing the challenges of supply-side constraints, diversification of production, free movement of persons, rights of residency and establishment, free movement of goods, services, and financial capital as well as ensuring human security while putting in place mechanisms to deal with criminal activities;

**FURTHER REQUEST** the AUC to accelerate the establishment of the African Financial Institutions as provided for in the Constitutive Act of the AU;

**ALSO CALL UPON** the AUC to harmonise and coordinate policies and programmes of the RECs on the basis of the Abuja Treaty, taking into account the need for conducive political, economic and social governance as well as peace and security;

**EMPHASIZE** the need for the Member States, ECA and AfDB to strengthen the capacity of regional and continental bodies in charge of integration;

**INVITE** the AUC, RECs and Member States to draw inspiration from existing successful integration models, in the implementation of the regional and continental integration agenda while taking into consideration African realities;

**ENCOURAGE** the AUC, with the support of the ECA and the AfDB, to expedite the process of establishing the pan-African stock exchange to enhance the mobilization of financial resources within the continent;

**FURTHER ENCOURAGE** RECs to develop a self-financing mechanisms, where they do not exist with a view to enhancing self-reliance;

**REITERATE** that the on-going EPA negotiations should continue under the coordination of the AUC taking into consideration the regional and continental integration agenda;

**REQUEST** the AU Commission to make further consultations with Member States, the RECs, private sector, and civil society on the study on the rationalisation of the RECs with the view to finalising it by end October, 2008; and

Commend and thank His Excellency Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, the Government and the People of Rwanda for hosting the Conference and for their traditional warm hospitality accorded to all the delegations.

Done in Kigali, Rwanda on 27 July 2007