

DECISION ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE BUDGET
AND MODALITY OF FUNDING
DOC. EX.CL/246 (IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;
2. **DECIDES** that the funding of the Budget shall be as follows:
 - a. Staff costs, operating expenses, statutory meetings and selected top priority programmes/projects shall be assessed on Member States;
 - b. The remaining programme cost shall be financed through donors contributions.
- 3 **ALSO DECIDES** as follows;
 - i) The Union shall have one integrated budget;
 - ii) The Assembly shall determine the budget ceiling for the budget in accordance with the following principles:
 - (1) When preparing the budget, the Commission should present the status of contributions received from Member States;
 - (2) In no case should any change in the structure of the budget entail a budgetary increase that could affect the contributing capacity of Member States;
 - (3) The formula of the integrated budget should not be considered as the mechanical merger of the two parts of the budget (operating cost and programme budget);
 - (4) The principle of ownership and opening up to partners should be taken into consideration during the preparation of the budget;
 - (5) The principle of reinforcing sanctions against defaulting Member States will be further studied after the Banjul Summit;

- (6) Member States should actively contribute to the funding of projects and programmes;
- (7) The budget ceiling will be determined according to objective economic parameters such as average GDP growth rates in Member countries, inflation, etc.;
- (8) The Scale of Assessment adopted in Sirte, Libya in July 2005 makes it possible to take into account the ability of Member States to pay.

4. ENCOURAGES Partners/Donors of the Union to work jointly with the Commission towards realization of budgetary support.

DECISION ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBER STATES
DOC. EX.CL/249 (IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;
2. **APPRECIATES** that some of the Member States are up to date with the payment of their contributions to the Regular Budget;
3. **WELCOMES** the payment by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria of a voluntary contribution of US\$10 million (Ten million) to the Budget of 2006;
4. **URGES** Member States who are in arrears of contribution to take all the necessary measures to pay up their arrears;
5. **DECIDES** that temporary and exceptional exemption from sanctions granted to Sierra Leone be extended so long as it honours the agreed payment schedule.
6. **ALSO DECIDES** to respond favorably to the appeal by the Republic of Somalia, given the special circumstances faced by that country and write off the total arrears of contributions due by Somalia and agrees that Somalia resumes regular payments of its assessed contributions as from 2007;
7. **AFFIRMS** that the following Member States remain under sanctions:
 - (i) Cape Verde
 - (ii) Central African Republic
 - (iii) Democratic Republic of Congo
 - (iv) Eritrea
 - (v) Guinea Bissau
 - (vi) Liberia
 - (vii) Mauritania
 - (viii) Sao Tome & Principe
 - (ix) Seychelles

DECISION ON THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS
DOC. EX.CL/251(IX)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **ADOPTS** the principle of Member States' overseeing the recruitment process and **REQUESTS** that the necessary modalities be worked out between the Commission and the PRC.

DECISION ON THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
EX.CL/291(IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and the Recommendations of the PRC with regard to the upcoming elections of the Members of the Commission scheduled for July 2007;
2. **DECIDES** to establish, in conformity with Article 14 of the Statutes of the Commission, a Ministerial Panel composed of two (2) Member States per Region assisted by a team of consultants to be appointed in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission;
3. **REQUESTS** the various Regions to submit the names of their respective representatives (on the Panel) to the Commission by 31st July 2006;
4. **MANDATES** the Panel to work out the modalities and procedures for the pre-selection, selection and elections of the Members of the Commission and to submit a report and appropriate recommendations thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, in January 2007;
5. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to provide the necessary assistance and support to the Panel.

DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE OAU/AU TREATIES
DOC. EX.CL/252 (IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **WELCOMES** the initiatives and efforts of the Chairperson of the Commission aimed at encouraging Member States to become States Parties to the OAU/AU Treaties;
3. **URGES** all Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify or accede to the OAU/AU treaties expeditiously and implement those to which they are parties as a matter of priority;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary steps to implement the previous decision of the fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, in July 2004 on the review of OAU/AU Treaties, including the convening of meetings of experts to examine the recommendations of the Executive Council and to elaborate the necessary legal instruments as well to take necessary measures towards harmonization of ratification procedure in Member States.

**DECISION ON THE SINGLE LEGAL INSTRUMENT ON THE MERGER OF
THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND THE
COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE AFRICAN UNION**
DOC. EX.CL/253(IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report.
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Recommendations of the joint meeting of the PRC and Legal Experts from Member States held from 15th to 19th May 2006, at the Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
3. **DECIDES**, in conformity with Rule 5(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, to refer the said legal instruments to a meeting for Ministers of Justice and Attorney Generals from Member States for finalisation and submission of a report to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, in January 2007;
4. **AUTHORISES** the expenditure for the meeting and **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to provide the necessary assistance and support to the meeting.

**DECISION ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND
DISPLACED PERSONS
DOC. EX.CL/254 (IX)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the positive developments that continued to take place in relieving forced displacement phenomenon and raised hopes for their return but still **DEEPLY CONCERNED** about the large number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa.;
3. **EXPRESSES GREAT CONCERN** that conflicts, disasters, insecurity and violations of human rights have resulted in the worsening of the situation of victims of forced displacement, and also hampered the implementation of humanitarian programmes and posed serious threats to the lives and physical safety of civilian populations including refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and aid workers;
4. **FURTHER EXPRESSES CONCERN** about the lack of adequate protection and assistance of victims of forced displacement in an environment where limited resources are at the disposal of Member States to meet their obligations under the 1969 OAU Convention governing the specific aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa;
5. **EXPRESSES SERIOUS CONCERN** about the insecurity in the refugee camps in Chad and **ENCOURAGES** any initiative aimed at ensuring the security of these refugees in collaboration with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR);
6. **FURTHER NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the contributions made by the countries of asylum despite their socio-economic difficulties to host refugees and efforts being deployed by Member States to promote voluntary repatriation, resettlement, and rehabilitation of areas of return of refugees and internally displaced persons;
7. **WELCOMES** the coordination efforts of the United Nations in addressing the challenge of internal displacement in Africa, in particular its Mission in Liberia in conjunction with United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Food

Programme (WFP), International Organization for Migration (IOM), African and Liberian, Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) and other partners and donor countries in ensuring the successful return of over 321,000 Liberian IDPs to their countries of return over the last eighteen months;

8. **APPEALS ONCE MORE** to all donor countries to recognize the precarious refugee situation in Africa in view of the urgency, magnitude and complexity of the situation and make substantial and generous contributions to meet the protection and assistance needs of victims of forced displacement, including through supporting African Union efforts to make provision for increased access to post-primary education;
9. **NOTES** the progress made by the Commission of the African Union in developing a legal framework for the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons in Africa in accordance with the decision EX.CL/Dec.127 (V) and **REQUESTS** the Commission to expedite such efforts in collaboration with the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons and with the participation of relevant partners at the appropriate instance;
10. **CALLS UPON** the Commission to explore new avenues for raising extra-budgetary resources to supplement Member States efforts and the international community's contributions to assisting refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in Africa;
11. **WELCOMES** the efforts of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, the Commission and cooperating partners such as UNHCR, WFP and IOM among others in furthering the protection of refugees through guiding the process of preparation of the Ministerial Conference on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, which was successfully concluded in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 2 June, 2006 and **STRESSES** the need for the Sub-Committee partners and African NGOs and civil society to remain engaged in monitoring the implementation of the outcome of the Ministerial Conference.

DECISION ON THE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FINANCING THE AU
DOC. EX.CL/255 (IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **MANDATES** the Commission in consultation with Member States to undertake further analytical work to evaluate the impact of the various proposals on various economies, particularly on national budgets, trade, investment (including legal implications of agreements) and business environment and how they would provide sustainable revenue to the Union;
3. **DECIDES** that the reports on the analytical work be submitted to the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance for consideration and appropriate recommendations to the Executive Council in July 2007.

DECISION ON SPECIAL PURPOSE AUDIT
DOC. EX.CL/247 (IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the special purpose audit report;
2. **DECIDES THAT:**
 - a. The report be resubmitted to the Chairperson of the Commission for further consideration who, working in collaboration with the PRC through its Sub-Committee on Advisory, Financial and Budgetary Matters, and Ernst & Young, shall determine any wrong doing and apply the appropriate provisions of the Financial Rules and Regulations for any wrong doing detected;
 - b. The Chairperson of the Commission shall submit a report to the Executive Council in January 2007.

DECISION ON THE NEW FINANCIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
DOC. EX.CL/250 (IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;
2. **RECOMMENDS** for adoption by the Assembly of the new Financial Rules and Regulations of the African Union;
3. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to take the necessary measures to implement scrupulously the provisions of the said rules and regulations.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE
AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE
DOC. EX.CL/258 (IX)**

The Executive Council;

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the positive results achieved by the Ministerial Conference on the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance which have consolidated the collective commitments of Member States to the promotion of Democracy and Good Governance in the Continent;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to review the legal form of the Draft Charter including the content of Article 25 (5) in the light of comments and observations made on that article and resubmit it to the next session of the Executive Council for its consideration and approval.

**DECISION ON THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON REFUGEES,
RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS**
DOC. EX.CL/259 (IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the successful convening of the Ministerial Conference on Refugees, Returnees and Internally displaced Persons in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 29 May to 2 June, 2006;
3. **ALSO EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the adoption of the Ouagadougou Declaration of the Ministerial conference on refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons;
4. **ENDORSES** the Ouagadougou Declaration of the Ministerial Conference on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons and its recommendations and **INVITES** Members States to ensure its effective implementation;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to work in close collaboration with the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons to follow up on the effective implementation of the Ouagadougou Declaration and Recommendations, in close consultation with other Policy Organs of the Union and relevant partners including United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Organization for Migration (IOM), African Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs), civil society and private sector among others;
6. **APPROVES** the institutionalisation of the Ministerial Conference on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons biannually without prejudice to the process of establishing the Specialized Technical Committees;
7. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to initiate preparations for the holding of a Special Summit of Heads of State and Government on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in 2008, in consultation with key partners in the Coordinating Committee on Assistance and Protection to Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons;

8. **APPROVES** the principle of the establishment of a mechanism to monitor the situation of victims of forced displacement by the Commission, and the submission of Annual Reports on the Protection and Assistance Situation of Victims of Forced Displacement in Africa as recommended at Ouagadougou;
9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to carry out an in-depth study with a view to determining the practical modalities and financial implications of such an exercise and report to Council in January 2007;

**DECISION ON THE FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
DOC. EX.CL/260 (IX)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;
2. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained in the Report of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission held in Cairo, Egypt, from 22 to 27 April 2006;
3. **TAKES NOTE** of the First Biennial Report on the follow-up on the decisions of the Ouagadougou Extraordinary Summit on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation in Africa;
4. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the reports of Member States on the follow-up of the Ouagadougou Summit on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation;
5. **REQUESTS** Member States to actively participate in the regional consultations organized by the Commission at regional level on the development of regional frameworks on the integration of policies and programmes for the promotion of employment and poverty reduction in line with the Ouagadougou Summit;
6. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to organize a meeting of Social Development Ministers to finalize the Draft Social Policy Framework in Africa prior to its submission to the Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2007;
7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to work out the financial implications for the establishment of the Advisory Council for Ageing and **CALLS ON** Member States to establish National Advisory Councils to address the plight of elderly people;
8. **WELCOMES** the common position adopted by the African members of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Governing Board during their deliberation at the sessions of the Governing Board,;
9. **ALSO WELCOMES** Algeria's offer to host the Ninth All-Africa Games in July 2007 and **INVITES** Member States to participate massively in the Ninth All-Africa Games in Algiers, and mobilize top-level sports men and women in line with the resolutions of relevant African policy organs with a view to the Olympic Games due to take place in Beijing in 2008;

- 10. TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Seventeenth Governing Board of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI);
- 11. REQUESTS** ARI to undertake advocacy and lobbying missions to Member States to inform them of the Institute's activities, lobby for membership and ensure that people with disabilities are integrated in the national development programmes of Member States;
- 12. 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;
- 13. 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 1st AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE
FOR COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
DOC. EX.CL/261 (IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **RECALLS** the various decisions of the Union on the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) held in Tunis, Tunisia in 2005, particularly the decisions of its 5th and 6th, sessions held, respectively in Sirte in July 2005 and Khartoum in January 2006;
3. **WELCOMES** the convening, by the Union, of the First African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Communication and Information Technology hosted by the Government of Arab Republic of Egypt from 18 to 20 April 2006 and **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Conference;
4. **ENDORSES** the Implementation Framework of the Declaration on Communication and Information technology in Africa and the Guidelines for Monitoring and Reporting on the Declaration on Communication and Information Technology;
5. **CALLS UPON** Member States to implement all the commitments made in the Declaration and in particular the African Regional Action Plan on Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE).
6. **FURTHER ENDORSES** the recommendation that the Conference of AU Ministers responsible for Communication and Information technology be held regularly and that the Institutionalization of the Conference be carried out in line with the process of establishing the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs);
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure active participation in the Forthcoming Events, Conferences and Activities emergent from the World Summit on Information Society and also **URGES** the member states, civil society and the private sector to participate in the events;
8. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the existing collaboration between the Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and **URGES** for a stronger collaboration for the promotion of Communication and Information Technology in the Continent.

**DECISION ON THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF AFRICAN MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF YOUTH
DOC. EX.CL/262 (IX)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;
2. **ADOPTS** the conclusions and recommendations of the Ministers in charge of Youth;
3. **ENDORSES** the establishment of the Ordinary Session of the Conference of the Ministers in charge of Youth of the African Union, to be held every two (2) years,;
4. **WELCOMES** efforts by Member States and Youth Organizations in the development and finalization of the African Youth Charter;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the role that youth have played in the political liberation of different countries in the continent and the present challenges facing them today;
6. **RECOGNIZES** the existence of many development initiatives by youth organizations in many countries and call for a better coordination between these initiatives to facilitate appropriation of the African Youth Charter;
7. **ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES** the urgent need to promote African Youth development and to enhance youth involvement in the African development agenda and expand provision of qualitative action for their benefit;
8. **ENDORSES** the African Youth Charter and its popularization process;
9. **PROCLAIMS** the African Youth Charter as the Legal Framework for all African youth organizations and associations;
10. **ALSO PROCLAIMS** the 1st November as the African Youth Day and **DECLARES** 2008 as the Year of the African Youth;
11. **CALLS ON** Member States to ratify the African Youth Charter as the legal framework for all Youth Organizations;

- 12. ENDORSES** the revitalization of the Pan African Youth Union as a continental youth structure to coordinate the popularization and the appropriation of the Charter by all African youth organizations.
- 13. ALSO CALLS UPON** Member States to mobilize the necessary resources for the popularization of the Charter and the development of national programmes of action for the Youth;
- 14. FURTHER CALLS UPON** the Commission, the Regional Economic Communities and the Member States to strengthen cooperation as well as support coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the Charter;
- 15. APPEALS** to International Agencies, as well as Non-Government Organization (NGOs), Civil Society, Diaspora Youth organizations and Development partners to lend their technical and financial support to Youth initiatives promoting development in Africa at national, regional and continental levels.

**DECISION ON THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR ELECTRICAL ENERGY
DOC. EX.CL/263 (IX)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;
2. **WELCOMES** the adoption of a comprehensive Action Plan on the revival of the electricity sub-sector in Africa by the African Ministers responsible for electrical energy;
3. **ENDORSES** the Addis Ababa Declaration of Africa Ministers responsible for electrical energy;
4. **APPEALS** to Member States to honour their commitments to give the energy sector enough priority in their development policies with particular regard to poverty reduction strategies;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take all the necessary measures, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (ADB), the African Energy Commission (AFREC) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as other partners towards the implementation of the Action Plan; and
6. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit periodic reports on the implementation of these recommendations to the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR RAILWAY TRANSPORT
DOC. EX.CL/264 (IX)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;
2. **WELCOMES** the adoption of a comprehensive Plan of Action for the effective restoration and strengthening of railway transport in Africa by the Ministers responsible for railway transport;
3. **ENDORSES** the Brazzaville Declaration and Plan of action of the African Ministers responsible for Railway Transport;
4. **APPEALS** to Member States to honour their commitments to accord greater priority to transport matters in their development policies especially as they related to poverty reduction strategies;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (ADB), the Union of African Railways (UAR), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as development partners to take all the necessary measures to support the implementation of the Action Plan for the improvement of railway transport in Africa;
6. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit periodic reports on the implementation of these recommendations to the Executive Council.

DECISION ON THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR AIR TRANSPORT
DOC. EX.CL/265 (IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;
2. **WELCOMES** the adoption by the African Ministers responsible for air transport of an overall Action Plan to strengthen aviation safety in Africa;
3. **ENDORSES** the two Libreville Resolutions respectively on improvement of Aviation Safety in Africa and on a Common External Air Transport Policy for Africa;
4. **CALLS ON** Member States to honour their international obligations on civil aviation safety especially those related to standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO);
5. **URGES** African airlines to strengthen operational cooperation through commercial agreements and harmonization of tariffs with a view to enhancing connectivity of intra-African route networks and minimization of the cost of air travel in the continent;
6. **WELCOMES** all initiatives to create regional airlines such as Air CEMAC and the Regional Airline Promotion Company (SPCAR) and, in that connection, **URGES** Member States to create conducive environment for cross-border investments aimed at the commercial formation of African multinational/regional airlines;
7. **APPEALS** to member States to acknowledge the need to strengthen the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) whose interim arrangement with ICAO ends on 31 December 2006 and, hence, ensure full and timely payment of contributions and arrears owed to the organization;
8. **REQUESTS** the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development bank (ADB), as well as development partners to support the implementation of the Action Plan for the improvement of civil aviation in Africa;
9. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to speed up the harmonization of competition rules in the field of Air Transport; and

- 10. FURTHER REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit periodic reports on the implementation of these recommendations to the Executive Council

**DECISION ON THE AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF INFORMATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS “TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
PAN-AFRICAN RADIO AND TELEVISION CHANNEL”**
DOC. EX.CL/266 (IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **RECALLS** the decision of the 5th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in July 2005, in Sirte on the establishment of a Pan-African Television Channel – Doc. EX.CL/205(VII) ADD.3;
3. **ALSO RECALLS** that at the January 2006 Khartoum Summit the Executive Council adopted the Report of the Expert’s Meeting held in Cairo, Egypt from 21 to 23 November 2005;
4. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the follow-up committee on the Establishment of the Pan-African Radio and Television Channel held in Cairo from 15 to 17 February 2006;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the importance of establishing a Pan-African Radio and Television Channel which is an expression of the common aspirations of the people of Africa to a balanced information that gives a true image of the content and facilitates exchanges with a view to popularizing a project which is of priority to African integration.
6. **WELCOMES** the offer by Egypt to bear 10% of the project budget;
7. **INVITES** Member States to redouble efforts towards the establishment of a Pan-African Radio and Television channel to transmit general information under the auspices of the African Union. The Channel shall be the property of its Member States which will have the responsibility to decide on the partnerships to be contracted, in terms of technical knowledge and financing;
8. **URGES** Member States to commit themselves to support and speed up the process for the implementation of the Radio and Television channel designed essentially to provide the African public with information, sports, culture, documentaries and African films, likely to expand possibilities of communication among the peoples;

- 9. REQUESTS** the Commission to organize a meeting of high ranking officials from Member States and experts to examine the various aspects relating to the legal framework, the financing as well as the technological and technical components of the project and submit a comprehensive report on all these aspects;
- 10. FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to conduct a comprehensive study on the issue and submit it for consideration, first by the high ranking officials from Member States and thereafter by African Ministers of Information and Communication who will submit their conclusions and recommendations to the Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2007.

DECISION ON THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE
DOC. EX.CL/267 (IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **ENDORSES** the decisions adopted by the Ministerial Conference
3. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the concerns of the Ministers of Agriculture on the prevailing high level of food and nutrition insecurity situation in many parts of the continent.
4. **RECOGNIZES WITH APPRECIATION** the strategic initiatives that are being undertaken at national and regional levels to enhance food production, nutrition, and access;
5. **RECOMMENDS** strengthening the capacity of the Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in order to improve coordination of initiatives in food and nutrition security; and **ENCOURAGES** member states and RECs to develop intra and inter regional trade in food products;
6. **CALLS UPON** the Commission, RECs and Member States to strengthen and develop early warning systems for food and nutrition security;
7. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** Development Partners to provide technical and financial support to the implementation of the CAADP-Sirte integrated implementation Plan;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission, NEPAD and the RECs to assist Member States in advocating and mobilizing resources for implementing the national programmes as well as monitoring the progress;
9. **NOTES** the FAO support to the Commission and NEPAD in the implementation of the CAADP-Sirte joint plan of action, the development of National Medium Term Investment Programmes and preparation of Bankable Investment Projects Profiles (BIPPs) as an entry point for implementation of CAADP-Sirte plan and **APPEAL** to member states and development partners to integrate these initiatives in national budget and the development assistance, respectively;

10. **URGES** Regional Economic Communities and Member States to realign their regional and national research priorities to the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity with the support of the Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA);
11. **TAKES NOTE** of the development of an Agriculture Expenditure Tracking System (AETS) for the 10% budgetary allocation to agriculture and **RECOMMENDS** the adoption of the AETS as the basis for annual collection of data on allocations for agriculture by Member States;
12. **CALLS UPON** Member States to speed up the implement of the Maputo Declaration on the 10% budget allocation for agriculture.

DECISION ON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATIONS
DOC. EX.CL/283(IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **REQUESTS** the concerned Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Negotiating Groups to participate actively in the comprehensive review of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) negotiations as provided for under Article 37.4 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;
3. **CALLS ON** the African Regions/Groups that are negotiating EPAs with the European Union (EU) to facilitate the coordination role of the Commission as mandated by the Heads of State and Government by inviting it to their negotiation sessions with the EU and by submitting to the Commission regular progress reports on their EPA negotiations;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to coordinate the RECs/Negotiating Groups in the evaluation of the comprehensive review process;
5. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to continue its technical support to Member States to enable them to formulate informed positions;
6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to coordinate the results of the review of EPA negotiations by African Regions/Groups and to submit a report to the AU Trade Ministers for consideration and policy guidance.

**DECISION ON THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
CONTROL OF AVIAN INFLUENZA
DOC. EX.CL/287 (IX)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;
2. **WELCOMES** the efforts by the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on the implementation of the African Strategy for combating Avian Influenza at national and regional level aimed at strengthening the capacities of the Member States in carrying out effective epidemio-surveillance systems;
3. **ALSO WELCOMES** the important role the African Development Bank (ADB) and other partners are playing in supporting Member States in combating avian influenza;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue mobilizing financial and technical resources for capacity building;
5. **URGES** Member States to put in place appropriate measures to prevent the spread of avian influenza on the continent;
6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to strengthen the capacity of AU/Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) in terms of finances and human capacity, to enable it take up an effective coordinating role in the control of the avian influenza;
7. **TAKES NOTE** of the offer by the Republic of Mali to host the next international conference on avian influenza.

**DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION OF A
DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE UNIT AND FUND
DOC. EX.CL/272 (IX)**

The Executive Council:

- 1. TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
- 2. APPROVES** the recommendations contained therein;
- 3. DECIDES:**
 - i) To set up a “Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit” within the Political Affairs Department of the African Union Commission;
 - ii) That the Unit shall be responsible for coordinating and implementing all African Union Commission actions aimed at promoting democracy and democratic elections in Africa; the duties of the Unit shall include the promotion of democracy in general, observation and monitoring of elections and electoral assistance;
 - iii) That the Unit shall be financed by the African Union ordinary budget and the Democracy and Electoral Assistance Special Fund;
 - iv) That the Commission is hereby authorized to take all the necessary measures to set up and operationalize the Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit as soon as possible.
- 4. ALSO DECIDES:**
 1. To set up a “Democracy and Electoral Assistance Special Fund” within the African Union Commission;
 2. That the purpose of the Fund is to lend support to the activities of the Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit;
 3. That the Fund shall be resourced from the ordinary budget of the Union, voluntary contributions from Member States, including the private sector, civil society and individuals, as well as from other fund-raising activities;
 4. That the Fund shall be managed, administratively by the Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit within the Political Affairs Department and financially by the Finance

Directorate. Fund operations shall be governed by the Financial Rules and Regulations of the Union;

5. That the Fund shall benefit national electoral institutions and the Electoral Assistance Unit;
6. That the Commission shall lay down the procedures for accessing the Fund and also mechanisms for the evaluation and performance of programmes financed by the Fund;
7. That the Commission is hereby authorized to take all the necessary measures to set up and operationalize the Democracy and Electoral Assistance Fund.

DECISION ON PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
DOC. EX.CL/273 (IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **RECALLS** all Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the OAU/AU on the situation in Palestine and the Middle East;
2. **REITERATES** its full solidarity with and support to the Palestinian people, and its legitimate struggle, under the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole and legitimate representative in the exercise of their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, return to their land and recover their property, and to live in peace and dignity in an independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds as its capital;
3. **REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT** for the peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in accordance with the principles of international law, all UN Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions, especially UN Resolution 194, pertinent resolutions of the OAU/AU, the Arab peace initiative as adopted by the Summit of the League of Arab States in 2002, and the Quartet Committee's Road Map;
4. **COMMENDS** the leadership role of the Chairman of the Executive Committee of Palestinian Liberation Organization, aimed at pursuing the democratic process and in the conduct of the Palestinian Parliamentary Election in a peaceful and transparent manner;
5. **URGES** the Israeli government to halt all unilateral measures, especially the Olmert's disengagement Plan that could create new facts on the ground and to react positively to the calls of the Chairman of the Executive Committee of PLO aimed at resuming the final status negotiations as soon as possible;
6. **CALLS UPON** the two parties to refrain from any act of violence and to honour their commitments and the agreements reached between them, and abide by the peace initiatives so as to attain a lasting, just and comprehensive peace in the region;
7. **ALSO CALLS UPON** the international community and the Quartet to continue providing the necessary political and financial support to the Palestinian People and its legitimate leadership, and refrain from using assistance and aid as a pressure tool against the Palestinian people; and **URGES** the

International Community to continue its efforts in the quest for reinvigorating the negotiations and to salvage the peace process;

8. **DEEPLY DEPLORES** the critical humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, due to Israeli policy of incessant border closures and blockades of movement of Palestinians ;
9. **DENOUNCES** the Israeli measures of withholding VAT fees and customs dues intended for the Palestinian Authority which has negative consequences on the PNA's operational capabilities and the increasing unemployment rate and poverty levels in the Palestinian Territories, which has also negatively affected the Palestinian society, security and stability in the region;
10. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the Israeli occupation and denounces its repressive practices and policies perpetrated against defenseless Palestinians, especially the aggression and atrocious assaults committed by the Israeli forces on June 9 and 13, 2006 against innocent Palestinians on the beach and middle of Gaza Strip, which is considered as a criminal massacre against humanity; and **URGES** the Israeli government to immediately cease such activities that are in violation of International law and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;
11. **FURTHER URGES** the government of Israel to stop the continuous settlements activities and the construction of the Apartheid Wall in the occupied Palestinian Territories, around and inside Al-Quds town; and **CALLS UPON** the government of Israel to stop the modifications and measures aimed at altering the status of occupied Jerusalem, which could jeopardize the peace process and any hope of achieving a lasting, just and comprehensive peace in the region;
12. **EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** at the invasion and ongoing detention campaigns against civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the miserable living conditions inside Israeli jails; and **CALLS UPON** the International Community to work towards release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees;
13. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** over the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip as a result of the Israeli incursion into the Southern part of the Strip and the use of force by the Israeli troops. **DEMANDS** an immediate stop to these measures and **CALLS FOR** self-restraint and use of peaceful means and dialogue to give the diplomatic efforts a chance.

14. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** the government of Israel to put an end to its occupation of all Arab lands occupied since 1967, and comply with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including Resolutions 242 and 338, the Madrid Declaration, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Road Map in order to reach a just, comprehensive, peaceful and acceptable solution to the Arab-Israeli Conflict;
15. **APPEALS** to the Palestinian Leadership and all other factions to resolve their differences and close their ranks so as to present a united front in the negotiations and the Quartet Road Map Plan for peace that will usher in an independent and sovereign state of Palestine;
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 **CALLS** for continued efforts in the quest for a lasting, just, comprehensive peace in Palestine and the Middle East.

**DECISION ON THE AU POLICY FRAMEWORK ON POST-CONFLICT
RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
DOC. EX.CL/274 (IX)**

The Executive Council:

1. **RECALLS** its decision EX.CL/Dec.228(VII) adopted at its 7th ordinary session held in Sirte, Libya, from 28 June to 2 July 2006, urging the Commission to develop an AU Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), based on the relevant provisions of the Protocol Establishing the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union and the experience gained so far in the continent;
2. **NOTES** the initiatives taken by the PSC and the Commission to develop such a Policy, including the 4th Brainstorming Retreat of the members of the PSC and other Permanent Representatives of Member States held in Durban, South Africa, from 4 to 5 September 2005, the technical experts meeting on PCRD held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 7 to 8 February 2006, and the AU/Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) meeting, held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 5 to 7 April 2006, as well as the validation meeting within the Commission, on 31 May 2006;
3. **ENDORSES** the Policy Framework on PCRD as reviewed by the meeting of Governmental Experts convened in Addis Ababa, from 8 to 9 June 2006, to review the document prior to its presentation to the 9th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Banjul, The Gambia, in July 2006, as a guideline for effective and comprehensive action to consolidate peace and promote sustainable development;
4. **STRESSES** that the objective of this Policy Framework is to improve timeliness, effectiveness and coordination of activities in post-conflict countries and to lay the foundation for social justice and sustainable peace, in line with Africa's vision of renaissance and growth. The policy is, therefore, conceived as a tool to: a) consolidate peace and prevent relapse of violence; b) help address the root causes of conflict; c) encourage fast-track planning and implementation of reconstruction activities; and d) enhance complementarities and coordination between and among diverse actors engaged in PCRD processes;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), relevant United Nations (UN) and other institutions and African Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), to take all the necessary steps for the effective

implementation of the PCRDR Policy Framework, including the development of operational guidelines for the adaptation of the Policy Framework at regional and national levels, the development of a database of African experts on PCRDR, to be placed at the disposal of countries emerging from conflict, the mobilization of the resources required and the enhancement of African capacity, including the use of AU Volunteers (AUVs) and the strengthening of the capacity of relevant African NGOs to address post-conflict issues.

6. **DECIDES** that an African Union standing multidimensional Committee be established to provide political support and mobilize all the necessary and available resources for the implementation of the Policy Framework.
7. **FURTHER DECIDES** that this Standing Committee shall interface with the United Nations Peace Building Commission and shall be supported by the relevant units within the Commission through its Peace and Security Department.

**DECISION ON THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD
DOC. EX.CL/275 (IX)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report;
2. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the efforts of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Committee) in the popularization of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (African Charter) and **CALLS ON** the Committee to start considering reports received from State Parties;
3. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** about the continued challenges facing children on the continent, in particular, the orphans and vulnerable children;
4. **APPEALS** to Member States, which have not yet done so, to expedite the ratification process of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and implement its provisions;
5. **URGES** Member States to give particular attention to children in their development policies and programmes and commit themselves to attain the Agenda of an “Africa Fit for Children”;
6. **CALLS ON** the Committee to collaborate with the Commission in the convening of the Mid-Term Review Meeting to assess the implementation of the African Common Position on Children scheduled for the last quarter of 2006;
7. **APPEALS** to Member States to provide moral, technical and financial support to the Committee;
8. **URGES** the Commission to continue to support the Committee and strengthen its capacity to enable it function more effectively.

**DECISION ON THE DRAFT MIGRATION POLICY
FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICA
DOC. EX.CL/276 (IX)**

The Executive Council:

1. **RECALLS** its previous decision requesting Member States to submit comments to the AU Commission for the finalizing of the Draft Framework and mandating the AU Commission to submit the final draft to the next session of the Executive Council;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the Draft Migration Policy Framework for Africa;
3. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the comments by Member States as incorporated in the final draft Framework;
4. **AWARE** of the development challenges posed by migration as well as its benefits to Member States;
5. **ADOPTS** the Migration Policy Framework for Africa as a basic guideline and reference document to assist Member States and RECs to develop national and regional migration policies;
6. **URGES** Member States and RECs to utilize the migration framework, in the development of migration policies;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission in consultation with the International Organization for Migration and other relevant partners, to assist Member States with the development and implementation of sound migration policies;
8. **MANDATES** the African Union Commission to develop, in collaboration with partners, a follow-up mechanism;
9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to periodically report on the implementation of the Framework.

**DECISION ON AFRICAN COMMON POSITION ON MIGRATION
AND DEVELOPMENT
DOC. EX.CL/277 (IX)**

The Executive Council:

1. **RECALLS** the decision taken at the 8th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government which mandated the African Union Commission to convene an expert meeting in Algiers, Algeria for the development of an African Common Position on Migration and Development and **COMMENDS** the Government of Algeria for hosting the Experts Meeting;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Experts meeting held in Algiers, Algeria during April 2006;
3. **ADOPTS** the African Common Position on Migration and Development
4. **URGES** Member States to mainstream migration in development strategies and implementation especially in the area of human resource development;
5. **FURTHER URGES** Member States to allocate adequate resources for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the African Common Position on Migration and Development;
6. **APPEALS** to the International Community to continue to collaborate in the implementation of and provide support towards the attainment of the objectives contained in the African Common Position on Migration and Development;
7. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission, in collaboration with International Organization for Migration and other partners, to coordinate and advocate for the implementation of the African Common Position on Migration and Development;
8. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to host the Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development;
9. **MANDATES** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to:
 - (i) Continue engaging the European Union in consultation with the Libyan authorities on the convening of the Africa/Europe Ministerial Conference to be held in Tripoli, Libya before the end of 2006;

- (ii) Present the African Common Position on Migration and Development at the proposed Africa-Europe Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development;
- (iii) Develop the Common Position as a broad African consensus on issues of migration and development and to present it to the African Group of Ambassadors at the UN as Africa's input into the UN High Level dialogue on International Migration and Development scheduled for September 2006.

10. FURTHER REQUESTS the Chairperson of the Commission to report on the outcome of the Africa-Europe Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development and the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to the next ordinary session of the Assembly.

**DECISION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE AFRICAN
COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**
DOC. EX.CL/279(IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the holding in Banjul, The Gambia, in May 2006, of the brainstorming session on the strengthening of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and of the consultations held on this issue between policy organs with competence in the promotion and protection of human rights, and **STRESSES** the need to strengthen the ACHPR;
3. **REAFFIRMS** the primordial role the ACHPR plays in promoting and protecting human rights in the continent, and **INVITES** Member States to continue lending the ACHPR total support in the accomplishment of its mission and **STRESSES** the need for closer collaboration between various policy organs with competence in human rights as well as with national human rights bodies;
4. **REQUESTS** the ACHPR to establish close collaboration ties with the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights;
5. **AVAILS ITSELF** of the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the ACHPR to pay tribute to it and congratulate it on the immense work it has accomplished in fostering respect for human rights in Africa.

DECISION ON THE PAN-AFRICAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT
DOC. EX.CL/271 (IX)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Chairperson on activities of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate;
2. **RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.192 (VII), taken at the Summit in Sirte on the need to revitalize the Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO);
3. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** for the ongoing consultations on the future of PAWO;
4. **DECIDES** that the Commission and Member States continue to be closely associated with and to lend support to those consultations aimed at strengthening PAWO and building a strong and vibrant Pan-African Women's Movement;
5. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to continue in his efforts to strengthen the capacity of the Commission to integrate women and gender issues into all the policies, programmes and activities of the Union.

**DECISION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES IN THE
INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** Report of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures;
2. **ENDORSES** the following candidatures:
 - a) The Federal Republic of Nigeria for the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the period 2006 – 2008 during elections scheduled to take place from 19 to 20 September 2006;
 - b) Mr. Hamadoun I. Touré, of Mali, current Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, for the post of Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) during elections scheduled to take place in Antalya, Turkey, from 6 to 24 November 2006;
 - c) Major (rtd) John Ray Kwabena Tandoh from Ghana, for the post of Deputy Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) during elections scheduled to take place in Antalya, Turkey, from 6 to 24 November 2006;
 - d) Mr. Patrick Masambu, from Uganda, for the post of Director of Telecommunications Development Bureau of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) during elections scheduled to take place in Antalya, Turkey, from 6 to 24 November 2006;
 - e) Mr. Guillaume Pambou Tchivounda, from Gabon, for the renewal of his term of office in the International Law Commission during the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly scheduled to take place in autumn 2006;
 - f) The Republic of Rwanda for election for the membership of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council for the period 2006 to 2010 during elections to be held at the Plenipotentiary Conference of the Union in Turkey, Antalya, from 6 to 24 November 2006;
 - g) Mr. Kingston Papie Rhodes, from Sierra Leone, both for the Chairmanship and member of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) at elections, scheduled to be held in

New York, during the next session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2006;

- h) Arab Republic of Egypt for re-election for the membership of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council for the period 2006 to 2010 during elections to be held at the Plenipotentiary Conference of the Union in Turkey from 6 to 24 November 2006;
- i) Mr. Muhammad Yussuf, from Tanzania, for re-election to the post of Inspector in the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations System during the 61st Session of the UN General Assembly scheduled for September to December 2006 in New York;
- j) Republic of Ghana for re-election for the membership of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council for the period 2006 to 2010 during elections to be held at the Plenipotentiary Conference of the Union in Turkey from 6 to 24 November 2006;
- k) Ambassador Omer Yousif Bireedo, from the Sudan for the membership of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit during the elections scheduled to be conducted in the margin of the 61st General Assembly meetings in New York;
- l) Ambassador Pedro Comissario, from Mozambique for re-election to the International Law Commission, at the elections to be held during the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly;
- m) Professor Abdelfattah Amor, of Tunisia for a third mandate in the Human Rights Committee, during elections scheduled to take place in New York in September 2006;
- n) Doctor Fathi Kemicha, from Tunisia for a new term of office in the International Law Commission during elections scheduled to take place in New York in November 2006;
- o) M. Mohsen Belhaj Amor, from Tunisia for a new term of office for the chairmanship in the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), at elections scheduled to be held in New York in November 2006;
- p) Republic of Cameroon for re-election for the membership of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council for the period 2006 to 2010 during elections to be held at the Plenipotentiary Conference of the Union in Turkey from 6 to 24 November 2006;

- q) Mr. Zourmba Aboubakar, from Cameroon for re-election as a member of the Radio Communication Regulator Committee of the ITU for the period 2006 to 2010 during elections to be held at the Plenipotentiary Conference of the Union in Turkey from 6 to 24 November 2006;
- r) Hon. Amos Wako from Kenya, for Membership of the International Law Commission;
- s) Republic of Zambia, for the UNAIDS/HIV Board;
- t) Prof. (Emeritus) Oti Boateng, from Ghana for re-election to membership of the International Civil Service Commission at elections to be held during the 61st Session of the UN General Assembly;
- u) Republic of South Africa for the United Nations Security Council Non-Permanent seat that will be available to the Africa Group for the period 2007-2008;
- v) Great Jamahiriya, to a non-permanent member seat of the United Nations Security Council for the years 2008-2009 during the elections to held pending the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly;
- w) Burkina Faso for re-election for the membership of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council for the period 2006 to 2010 during elections to be held at the Plenipotentiary Conference of the Union in Turkey, from 6 to 24 November 2006.

3. **DECIDES ALSO** that the Republic of Tunisia has the right to present directly the candidature of Mr Montasser Ouaili to the post of Secretary General of the ITU.

**DECISION ON THE FORMAL REQUEST FOR UTILIZATION OF
ARREARS TO COVER ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE AS
AUTHORIZED BY THE COUNCIL
DOC. EX.CL.245 (IX)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the PRC and **REITERATES** its earlier Decision Ext/EX.CL/Dec.1(VIII);
2. **AUTHORISES** the Commission to utilize the arrears of contributions collected to cover the approved additional expenses;
3. **ALSO AUTHORIZES** disbursement from the collected arrears to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) based on the formula agreed to with the Commission;
4. **URGES** the Commission to implement this decision.

**DECISION ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION
ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (ACHPR)
DOC.EX.CL/279(IX)**

The Executive Council:

1. **ADOPTS** and, in conformity with Article 59 the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), **AUTHORIZES** the publication of the 20th Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the Annexes with the exception of decision 245 on Zimbabwe;
2. **INVITES** Zimbabwe to communicate to the ACHPR, within two (2) months following the adoption of this decision, its observations on the said decision, and ACHPR to submit a report thereon at the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;
3. **ALSO INVITES** Member States to communicate within two (2) months following the reception of ACHPR notification, their observations on the decisions that ACHPR is to submit to the Executive Council and /or the Assembly;
4. **URGES** Member States to ratify, if they have not yet done so, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights Relating to the Rights of Women in Africa which entered into force on 25 November 2005;
5. **EMPHASIZES** the need for the Commission to allocate adequate human and financial resources to the ACHPR as provided for in Article 41 of the African Charter to enable it to successfully carry out its mandate in accordance with the provisions of the African Charter;
6. **ALSO URGES** Member States which have not yet done so, to submit and present their initial/periodic reports to the ACHPR in keeping with Article 62 of the African Charter and **REQUESTS** the ACHPR to complete, as early as possible, the brainstorming it has initiated on its relations with the various organs and institutions of the African Union, including the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights, and submit appropriate recommendations to Council in January 2007;
7. **REQUESTS** the ACHPR to participate actively in the process for the effective establishment of the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights and cooperate fully with this new institution.

**DECISION ON THE ENACTMENT OF A LEGISLATION FOR ORGANIZING
AND ENSURING RESPECT FOR SOCIAL LIFE IN AFRICA**
DOC.EX.CL/290(IX)ADD.4

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal by the Great Socialist Peoples' Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the enactment of a legislation for organizing and ensuring respect for social life in Africa;
2. **DECIDES** to submit same to the attention of the Assembly for consideration;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to carry out a study on the matter and report to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in January 2006.

**DECISION ON THE PAN AFRICAN TSETSE AND TRYPANOSOMOSIS
ERADICATION CAMPAIGN (PATTEC)
DOC. EX.CL/271 (IX)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** and **WELCOMES** the efforts of the Commission and countries affected by the phenomenon of tsetse flies aimed at overcoming the challenge in line with the Assembly Decision on the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) as contained in the report of the Commission;
2. **URGES** Member States and development partners to respond positively to the Special Donors' Conference on PATTEC to be organised by the African Development Bank on behalf of the Commission and scheduled in Tunis, Tunisia, in October 2006:
3. **TAKES NOTE** of the forthcoming Donors' Conference on PATTEC and **REQUESTS** Member States to assist in mobilizing the resources required for the implementation of PATTEC.

DECISION ON SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the information provided by the Commission on the establishment of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) ;
2. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to expedite the study on STCs and submit a report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in January 2007.

**DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN CENTRE
FOR STUDY AND RESEARCH ON MIGRATION
DOC. EX.CL/290 (IX) ADD.2**

The Executive Council,

1. **WELCOMES** the initiative of the Government of Mali on the establishment of Centre for Study and Research on Migration;
2. **APPROVES** the establishment of the Centre;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the Government of Mali, to monitor the implementation of this decision, and oversee the process for the establishment of the African Centre for Study and Research on Migration;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a report on the process at the 10th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

**DECLARATION OF THE 9TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE SITUATION ON THE
SITUATION IN PALESTINE**

The Executive Council of the African Union, meeting in its 9th Ordinary Session in Banjul, The Gambia;

Having considered the situation in Palestine in the light of recent developments;

Expresses its deep concern over the continued deterioration of the situation in Palestinian territories;

Expresses its profound indignation and condemns the Israeli aggressions and incursions into the Gaza Strip and the devastating raids on the infrastructure and public amenities, thereby endangering the lives of the civilian population and increasing tension, dashing any hopes of reactivating the peace process;

Condemns the arrest of members of the Palestinian Government and demands their immediate release;

Demands that the authorities of the Israeli occupation put an immediate halt to their oppressive practices;

Calls upon the international community, and in particular the members of the Quartet to reactivate their plan so as to pave the way for a return to the negotiating table in accordance with the principles of international law and the resolutions of the UN Security Council in order to achieve a lasting and comprehensive solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of two States (Palestine and Israel) living side by side in peace and security;

Renews its solidarity with and support to the Palestinian people in their struggle for liberation from the yoke of Israeli occupation.

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
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EX.CL/Dec.278 - 314 (IX)
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