



KEY DECISIONS OF THE 32nd ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION (JANUARY 2019)

DECISION ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)

Assembly:

- Endorsed the recommendations of African Union Ministers of Trade on: Template on Tariff Liberalization which will be used by Member States in preparing the AfCFTA Schedules of Tariff Concessions; and the designation of Sensitive Products and Exclusion List on the basis of the following criteria: food security, national security, fiscal revenue, livelihood and industrialization.
- Decided that Member States wishing to enter into partnerships with third parties should inform the Assembly with assurance that those efforts will not undermine the African Union vision of creating one African market
- Requested the African Union Commission, with the assistance of technical partners, to undertake an assessment of the requirements for the establishment of a future common market including steps to be taken as well as their implications and challenges, for consideration by the African Union Ministers of Trade.
- Requested the African Union Ministers responsible for trade to: submit the Schedules of Tariff Concessions, and Schedules of Specific Commitments on Trade in Services in line with agreed modalities to the July 2019 and January 2020 Sessions of the Assembly, respectively, for adoption; and conclude the negotiations on Investment, Competition Policy and Intellectual Property Rights, and submit the draft legal texts to the January 2021 Session of the Assembly for adoption through the Specialised Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

ON THE INSTITUTIONAL REFORM OF THE AFRICAN UNION

- The Assembly delegated to the Executive Council its authority to consider and approve the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Governance Structures of the African Union Development Agency, AUDANEPAD, during its 35th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Niamey, Niger, June/July 2019

ON POST-2020 PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

Assembly

- Recalled the decision which stressed the need to ensure that Africa speaks with one voice in the various platforms of partnership with the EU, and requested the

Commission to ensure cohesion between the Post-Cotonou Agreement and the Post-2020 Continent-to-Continent Partnership, so that continental priorities, as articulated in Agenda 2063 and other related instruments, are consistently reflected in both tracks.

DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF THE BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION FOR 2019

Assembly elected the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union for 2019 as follows:

- Chairperson: Arab Republic of Egypt;
- 1st Vice-Chairperson: Republic of South Africa;
- 2nd Vice-Chairperson: Democratic Republic of Congo;
- 3rd Vice-Chairperson: Republic of Niger;
- Rapporteur: Republic of Rwanda

DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION FOR 2020

- **Assembly** decided that the Chair of the African Union for 2020 will be the Republic of South Africa.

DECISION ON THE REPORTS ON PEACE AND SECURITY

Assembly

- Requested the Chairperson of the Commission to expedite efforts aimed at convening in Addis Ababa, in 2019, an international conference on reconciliation in Libya under the auspices of the AU and UN.
- Reaffirmed its commitment to peace and stability in The Comoros.
- Commended the Federal Government of Somalia for the continued progress made in implementing the Somali Transition Plan (STP).
- Commended the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for its critical role in degrading the capacities of Al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups in Somalia, as well as in the implementation of the STP.
- Paid tribute to the AMISOM Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs), for the immense sacrifices made in the promotion of peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Somalia.
- Commended the South Sudanese stakeholders for the leadership demonstrated since the signing of the R-ARCSS and called on the opposition groups that have not yet done so to join the Agreement without any preconditions.
- Commended the Presidents of Djibouti and Eritrea for their efforts and commitments to normalize the relations between the two countries, in the framework of relevant PSC Communiqués and UN Resolution 2446 (2018).
- Welcomed the peaceful organisation of the elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and commended the people and the leadership of the DRC for a landmark peaceful transition.
- Encouraged all Congolese stakeholders to uphold their country's supreme interests above all other considerations and work together.
- Welcomed the signing on 6 February 2019 of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic between the Government and

the armed groups of the Central African Republic, under the auspices of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR.

- Urged all CAR stakeholders to place the interests of their country above all other consideration and uphold their commitment and work together, in good faith, in the implementation of the agreement.
- Congratulated the Government of Burundi on initiating the preparatory process for the elections, especially the establishment, on 31 August 2018 of an Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), according to the Burundian Electoral Code, as well as a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), in line with the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, signed on 28 August 2000. In this regard, the Assembly, welcomed the statement made by President Pierre Nkurunziza not to stand as candidate for the presidential election in 2020, and urged the Government and the political parties to work together for the smooth conduct of the next elections.
- Took note of continued efforts by the countries of the Lake Chad Basin to neutralize the Boko Haram terrorist group, through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and called on the Commission to continue and intensify AU's support to the countries of the region in their fight against Boko Haram.
- Reaffirmed its determination to reinforce efforts towards better and more effective conflict prevention action in Africa. In this respect, the Assembly ENCOURAGES Member States to take full advantage of the structural conflict prevention tools developed by the Commission, including the Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) and the Country Structural Vulnerability Mitigation Strategy (CSVMS), and to enhance the capacities of youth to meaningfully participate in peace and security issues at the national, regional and continental levels.
- Expressed deep concern at the increasing terrorist attacks in parts of the continent and reiterated its condemnation of all acts of terrorism committed on the continent by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes and also reiterated the AU's determination to rid Africa of the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, which cannot be justified under any circumstances.

ON THE REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON LIBYA

Assembly:

- Requested the Commission to take the necessary measures, jointly with the United Nations, with a view to organizing during the first half of July 2019, the Inclusive Libyan National Peace and Reconciliation Forum;
- Also requested the Commission to take, jointly with the United Nations and the Libyan Government, all the necessary measures for the organization of presidential and legislative elections in October 2019.

ON THE STATE OF GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA

Assembly:

- Welcomed the Africa Governance Report developed by the APRM and urged the Member States to consider the recommendations contained in the Report with a

view to enhancing good governance and sharing best practices at both country and continental levels

- Urged the Member States to develop national governance reports as a self-assessment tool for promoting good governance in line with the recommendations of the Report

ON THE REPORT OF THE 28TH SUMMIT OF THE FORUM OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

Assembly:

- Decided that the African peer Review Mechanism (APRM) shall be an Organ of the Africa Union in line with Article 5 (2) of the Constitutive Act;
- Welcomed the peer review Reports of Cote d'Ivoire and Mozambique and encouraged both countries to take into account observations of Member States during the presentation of the review reports to the APR Forum as well as the recommendations contained in reports in the development and implementation of their National Programme of Action, as a necessary step in furthering the goal of the APRM

ON THE KATOWICE CLIMATE CONFERENCE (UNFCCC COP 24) AND AFRICA'S ENGAGEMENTS AT THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE AT COP25/CMP 15

Assembly:

- Urged parties to the Paris Agreement to recognize the special circumstances and needs of African countries, in line with the relevant and previous decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and called upon the incoming presidency of the Conference of the Parties to continue with the consultations, with a view to reaching a decision in that regard by the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties, and requested the AGN to continue pursuing the issue
- Urged developed countries to continue to scale up mobilized climate finance towards achieving the 2020 finance goal through private and public funds to deliver on the US\$100 billion annually, building on the needs of developing countries and enhancing the country ownership of developing countries, and further enhance the provisions of predictable and sustainable finance building on the floor of the 100 billion USD annually
- Encouraged African countries to ratify the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal protocol as a vehicle to strengthen efforts to tackle climate change.

ON THE REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Assembly:

- Welcomed the growing acceptance of the legitimacy of the Common African Position on the reform of the United Nations Security Council; in particular, the full endorsement for the Common African Position as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration by a number of Interest Groups and Member States from across all regions during the Intergovernmental Negotiations at the United Nations in 2018.

- Reiterated that full representation of Africa in the United Nations Security Council means:
 - i) Two (02) Permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of Permanent membership including the right of veto;
 - ii) Five (05) Non-permanent seats;
 - iii) That the African Union reserves the right to select its representatives for election to the UN Security Council to act in its name and on its behalf;

ON THE REPORT ON MALARIA ALLIANCE

Assembly:

- Requested Member States with the support of the AUC, RBM Partnership to End Malaria, ALMA and partners to work towards an enabling environment and ensure the availability of affordable, effective, safe, next-generation malaria commodities through regulatory harmonization and support for local production including innovative initiatives to increase availability and scalability.

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONTINENTAL OPERATIONAL CENTRE IN KHARTOUM FOR COMBATING IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Assembly:

- Endorsed the Executive Council's proposal on the establishment of the Continental Operational Centre in Sudan for combating irregular migration as a specialized technical office of the Union for combating irregular migration with particular focus on human trafficking and migrant smuggling on the continent.

ON THE FOLLOW UP ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN MIGRATION OBSERVATORY IN MOROCCO

Assembly:

- Welcomed the signing, on 10 December 2018 in Marrakech, of the Host Agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and the African Union Commission on the operationalization of the African Migration Observatory, whose role would be, inter alia, the support of existing continental initiatives on migration, through the collection, exchange, analysis and sharing of data with a view to efficiently address migration challenges

ON THE DEBT CANCELLATION AS A MEANS TOWARDS ENHANCING PEACE, SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR DISPLACED SOMALIS

Assembly:

- Recognized that in re-emerging from decades of conflict, the Federal Republic of Somalia must undertake the immense task of reconstruction and development to establish the foundations of lasting peace and stability, thereby establishing favourable conditions for investment and employment creation
- Urged Somalia's external creditors, especially the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) that have pledged financial support, to step up their good faith efforts and accelerate: the normalization of financial relations with Somalia in

fulfilment of their promises; the unlocking of development resources for the country, and the full resolution of the external debt overhang;

Aware that a number of AU Member States are among Somalia's external creditors, Assembly:

- Called upon them to fully cancel Somalia's debt obligations in the spirit of African solidarity, and requested that the Commission facilitate debt cancellation discussions between Somalia and AU Member State creditors, and also called upon the latter to provide additional economic support to Somalia
- Further called upon Somalia's external creditors to fully cancel Somalia's debt obligations as a means of relieving the country of a future debt servicing burden that may hinder its transition from conflict to peace and sustainable development.

ON FINANCING THE UNION

Assembly:

Mandated the Commission to do the following:

- Provide technical support to Member States in accelerating the implementation of the 0.2% levy;
- Facilitate the involvement of the Committee of Fifteen Finance Ministers (F15) in the consideration of the annual audit report of the Union;
- Facilitate a retreat of the F15 to assess mechanisms on its working methods as well as consider modalities on how it can accelerate the implementation of decisions on Financing of the Union;
- Strengthen the Secretariat of the Financing of the Union with a view of providing adequate support to the F15 and Member States.

ON THE DRAFT LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

Assembly:

- Adopted the Legal Instruments as follows:
 - i. Draft Treaty for the Establishment of the African Medicines Agency;
 - ii. Draft Statute of the African Audio Visual and Cinema Commission;
 - iii. Draft Statutes of the African Union International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA);
 - v. Draft African Union Transitional Justice Policy;
 - vi. Amendment to Article 35 of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance.

ON THE DATES AND VENUE OF THE THIRTY-THIRD (33RD) ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN JANUARY 2020

The Assembly,

Decided that the dates of the Thirty-Third (33rd) Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia shall be the following:

- Thirty-Ninth (39th) Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC): 13 to 14 January 2020;
- Thirty-Sixth (36th) Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 27 to 28 January 2020;
- Thirty-Third (33rd) Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 30 and 31 January 2020.

ON THE CHANGE OF DATE OF THE FIRST MID-YEAR COORDINATION MEETING OF THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECS), THE 35TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE 38TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES' COMMITTEE (PRC)

Assembly decided that the date shall be as follows:

- The 38th Ordinary Session of the PRC from 17 to 18 June 2019 at AU Headquarters;
- The 35th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council from 4 to 5 July 2019, in Niamey, Niger;
- The First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union and the RECs from 7 to 8 July 2019 in Niamey, Niger

ON GALVANISING POLITICAL COMMITMENT TOWARDS THE ELIMINATION OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN AFRICA

Assembly:

- Endorsed the continental initiative led by the Commission to be known as Saleema: African Union Initiative on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation and called on Member States to implement the African Union Initiative on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation, with a focus on ending medicalization and addressing cross border practice of female genital mutilation, in addition to implementing strong legislative frameworks, allocating domestic financial resources, promoting use of evidence and data, regular reporting, and the engagement of civil society and community groups in ending female genital mutilation
- Requested the Commission to put in place an accountability framework to hold Member States to account and monitor progress at the regional and national level in line with commitments made

ON THE APPOINTMENT OF ONE (1) MEMBER OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

- **Assembly** appointed Kembo Takam Gatsing Hermine of Cameroon as a member of the ACERWC for a term of five (5) years:

ON THE APPOINTMENT OF ONE (1) MEMBER OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW

- **Assembly** appointed Ela Nchama Tomassa Bisia of Equatorial Guinea for a term of five years.

ON THE APPOINTMENT OF FIVE (5) MEMBERS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION

- Assembly appointed the following five (5) Members States of the Peace and Security Council for a term of three (3) years:
 - i. Algeria Northern
 - ii. Burundi Central
 - iii. Kenya Eastern
 - iv. Lesotho Southern

v. Nigeria Western

**ON THE APPOINTMENT OF SIX (6) MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN UNION
ADVISORY BOARD ON CORRUPTION**

Assembly appointed the following six (6) members of the AUABC for a term of two (2) years:

- Andriamifidy Jean Louis Madagascar- Eastern
- Bamouni Pascal of Burkina Faso- Western
- Begoto Miarom of Chad- Central
- Gnansounou Fourn Elisabeth Afiavi of Benin- Western
- Ng'andu Agness Kayobo of Zambia- Southern
- Seema Sefako Aaron of Lesotho- Southern

The Assembly also adopted a number of declarations, resolutions and one motion. Details of these as well as the full decisions will be available soon on the African Union website. **WZM**

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