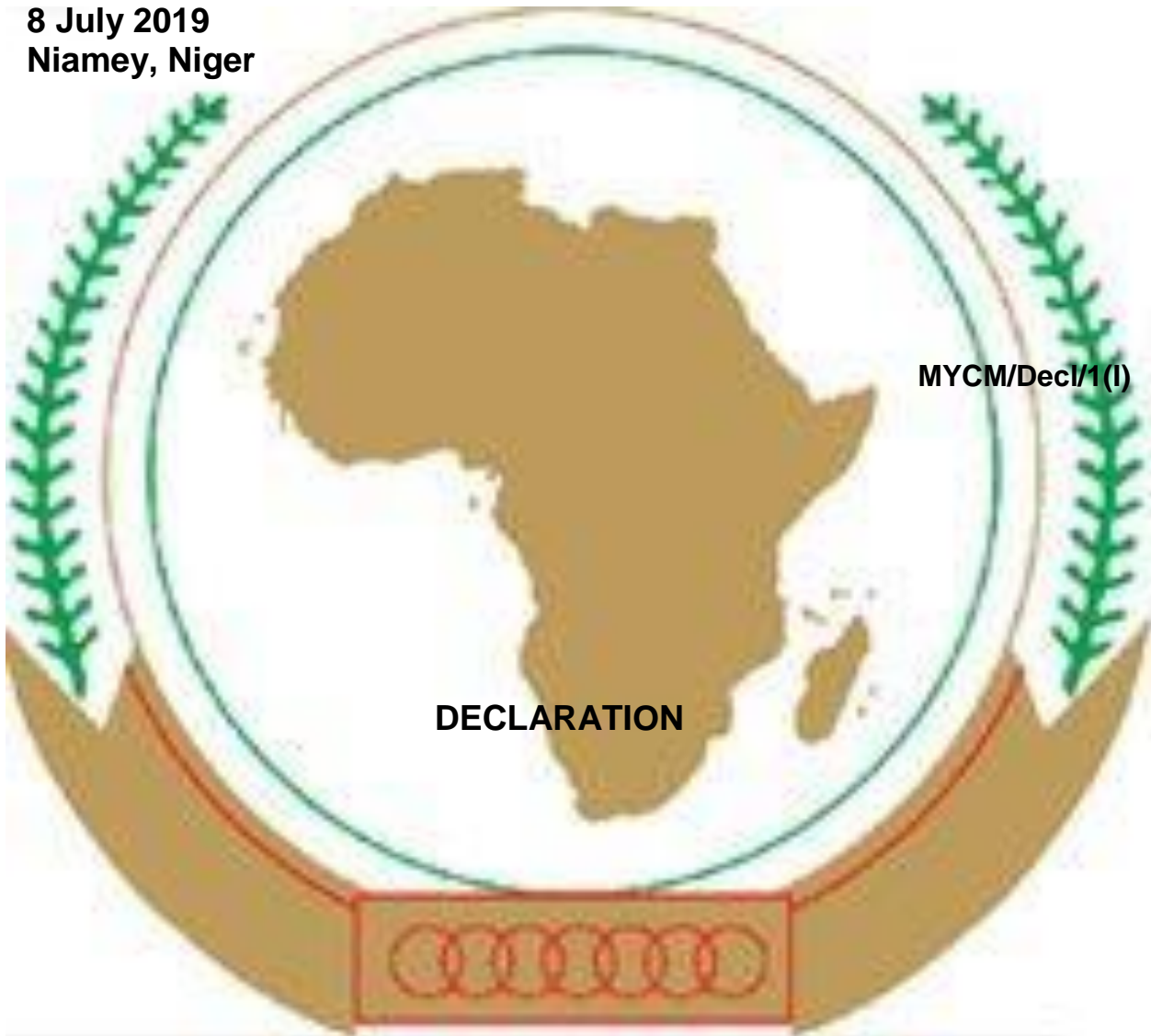




**FIRST MID-YEAR COORDINATION MEETING  
BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION, THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC  
COMMUNITIES AND THE REGIONAL MECHANISMS**

**8 July 2019  
Niamey, Niger**



**NIAMEY DECLARATION OF THE FIRST MID-YEAR COORDINATION MEETING BETWEEN THE AU AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECs) ON THE PURSUIT OF THE AFRICAN INTEGRATION AGENDA**

1. **WE**, the Heads of State and Governments representing the Bureau of the Assembly of the AU and Chairpersons of the Eight (8) RECs, as well as Regional Mechanisms (RMs) meeting in Niamey, Niger on 8 July 2019 on the occasion of the first Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, chaired by H.E. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Current Chairperson of the AU;
2. **RECALLING** the commitment of AU Heads of State and Government to the development and integration of our continent, as articulated in Article 3 of the Constitutive Act of the AU, which sets out the key objectives, including, accelerating the political and socio-economic integration of the continent and promoting sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies;
3. **ALSO RECALLING:**
  - i. The Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) of 1991, Article 4 of the objectives “to promote economic, social and cultural development and the integration of African economies in order to increase economic self-reliance and promote an endogenous and self-sustained development”;
  - ii. Article 4 (2) (i) of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, to gradually remove obstacles to the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital and the right of residence and establishment among Member States;
  - iii. The Sirte Declaration of 9 September 1999 which calls for “accelerating the process of implementing the Treaty establishing the AEC, in particular: Shortening the implementation periods of the Abuja Treaty, and strengthening and consolidating the Regional Economic Communities as the pillars for achieving the objectives of the AEC and realizing the envisaged Union”;
  - iv. The Accra Declaration of July 2007; “*to accelerate the economic and political integration of the African continent*”;
  - v. All other relevant AU instruments relating to the acceleration of the regional and continental integration agenda;

4. **FURTHER RECALLING** the Protocol on the creation of Peace and Security Council of the African Union, adopted by the first AU Assembly on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, 2002 in Durban, and all the existing legal provisions or Decisions in the area of Peace and Security;
5. **RECALLING** the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, adopted by the eighth Session of the Assembly, held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2007;
6. **RECOGNIZING** Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) which decided to establish a Coordination Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union with the participation of the Chairpersons of RECs, the Commission and RMs. Ahead of this meeting, the Commission shall play a more active coordination and harmonization role with the RECs, in line with the Treaty establishing the AEC (the Abuja Treaty);
7. **ALSO RECOGNIZING** Assembly/AU/ Decl.1(XVI) of 31 January 2011 in which we committed to achieving greater unity and integration through our shared values;
8. **RECALLING** Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1(XI) of November 2018 which mandates the Commission, in collaboration with the RECs, AU organs, relevant continental organizations, to develop a proposal on an effective division of labour among the AU, the RECs, the Member States, and other continental institutions, in line with the principle of subsidiarity, for submission to the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in June/July 2019;
9. **BEARING IN MIND** Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.112 (VII) of 2 July 2006 which placed a moratorium on recognition of additional RECs and urged the RECs to coordinate and harmonize their policies among themselves and with the Commission with a view to accelerating Africa's integration process;
10. **DETERMINED** to build the "Africa We Want" through the implementation of Agenda 2063, which is Africa's blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa;
11. **REAFFIRMING** our commitment and determination to build an "integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena";
12. **RECALLING** Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1(X) of 21 March 2018 on the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA); **COMMENDS** Member States that have ratified the agreement and; **ENCOURAGES** those that have not signed/ratified the agreement to do so;
13. **ALSO RECALLING** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.607 (XXVII) on the Protocol of the Treaty establishing the AEC relating to free movement of persons, right of residence and right of establishment adopted in 29 January 2018 and;



**ENCOURAGES** Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the Protocol to do so;

**14. RECOGNIZING** the role of the RECs in facilitating regional economic integration among their Member States and through the wider AEC, established under the Abuja Treaty (1991).

**HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. **TAKE NOTE** of the presentation on the Regional Integration in the context of the African Union institutional reform;
2. **ALSO TAKE NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Integration in Africa and the regional perspectives as presented by the Chairpersons of the RECs; and **URGES** the Commission and RECs to regularly publish this report on the basis of the multi-dimensional index of African integration;
3. **FURTHER TAKE NOTE** of the Report of the Meeting of AUC Chairperson and Chief Executives of RECs held on 25 April 2019, in Addis Ababa as well as the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;
4. **NOTE THE NEED** to improve the level of integration within the RECs as well as at the continental level and **CALL UPON** the Member States, RECs and the Commission to strengthen their collaboration in the implementation of the African Integration Agenda;
5. **REQUEST** the Commission to prioritize support to the promotion of inter-REC co-operation with a view to scaling up the African integration agenda and **CALL UPON** Member States to allocate adequate domestic resources that contribute to the implementation of the integration agenda;
6. **WELCOME** the preparatory work undertaken by the Commission, RECs and RMs on the proposal of the Division of labour between Member States, RECs and the AU and **TAKE NOTE** with appreciation of this proposal, and **REQUEST** the Commission, RECs and Member States to prepare a more detailed proposals on division of labor for consideration and adoption by the upcoming Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in February 2020 after due consideration by the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in February 2020 ;**WELCOME** the AU Peace and Security Council efforts to deepen its strategic partnership with the RECs and RMs Policy Organs responsible for peace and security and **URGE** the AU, RECs, and RMs to rapidly establish practical modalities to facilitate timely and coordinated responses to continental crises;
7. **MANDATE** the Commission, in collaboration with the Member States, RECs, AU organs, regional mechanisms to operationalize the framework on an effective division of labour, upon its adoption by the Assembly, including through detailed plans of action;

8. **URGE** all RECs to align their programs and action plans with the continental agenda for Integration, which includes the Abuja Treaty, Agenda 2063 and its ten-year implementation plan;
9. **ALSO URGE** Member States to consider the importance of RECs participation in relevant AU statutory meetings to coordinate and harmonize the policies between the Union and RECs for the gradual attainment of the integration agenda of the Union; and clarify the legal status of the RECs in the architecture of African integration;
10. **REQUEST** Member States, RECs, Commission, AUDA-NEPAD and all other stakeholders to mobilize sufficient and sustainable resources to strengthening the regional integration including through utilizing the AU Partnerships towards the attainment of the continental integration Agenda;
11. **TAKE NOTE** of draft Rules of Procedure that govern the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting and submit the same to the Assembly of the Union for consideration and adoption in February 2020 after due consideration by the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in February 2020;
12. **ALSO TAKE NOTE** of the Draft Revised Protocol on Relations between the AU and RECs and **REQUEST** the Commission, RECs to engage Member States in this process prior to its submission, to the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs and its adoption by the upcoming AU Assembly, after due consideration by the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in February 2020, to **AUTHORIZE** the Chairperson of the Commission to sign it on behalf of the AU;
13. **EXPRESS** its full support for capital increase for the African Development Bank with the view to fulfilling its role in furtherance of the African regional and continental integration agenda;
14. **RECOMMEND** to the Assembly the participation of H.E. Issoufou Mouhamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, Leader of the AfCFTA and the Head of the Secretariat of the AfCFTA in the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the AU and RECs;
15. **TAKE NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the interest expressed by H.E. Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in 2021 in Ndjamena, Chad.