

AFRICAN UNION
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UNION AFRICAINE
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ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION
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DECISIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NO.	DECISION NO.	TITLE	PAGES
1	Assembly/AU/Dec.73 (V)	Decision on the Institutionalisation of the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF)	1
2	Assembly/AU/Dec.74 (V)	Decision on the Report of the Commission for Africa	1
3	Assembly/AU/Dec.75 (V)	Decision on Accelerating Action for Child Survival and Development in Africa to meet the MDGs – (Doc. Assembly/AU/3 (V))	2
4	Assembly/AU/Dec.76 (V)	Decision on the World Summit on Information Society – (Doc. EX.CL/173 (VII))	2
5	Assembly/AU/Dec.77 (V)	Decision on the 18 th Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR)- (Doc. EX.CL/199 (VII))	1
6	Assembly/AU/Dec.78 (V)	Decision on the Review of the MDGs - (Doc. EX.CL/180 (VII))	1
7	Assembly/AU/Dec.79 (V)	Decision on the G8 Follow-Up	1
8	Assembly/AU/Dec.80 (V)	Decision on the Multilateral Trade Negotiations – (Doc. EX.CL/188 (VII))	1
9	Assembly/AU/Dec.81 (V)	Decision on the Proposal on Sickle-Cell Anaemia	1
10	Assembly/AU/Dec.82 (V)	Decision on the Return of the Axum Obelisk to its Place of Origin	1
11	Assembly/AU/Dec.83 (V)	Decision on the Merger of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the Court of Justice of the African Union – (Doc. Assembly/AU/5 (V))	1
12	Assembly/AU/Dec.84 (V)	Decision on the Appointment of Members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights - (Doc. EX.CL/201 (VII))	1

NO.	DECISION NO.	TITLE	PAGES
13	Assembly/AU/Dec.85 (V)	Decision on the Appointment of Members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child – Doc. EX.CL/200 (VII)	1
14	Assembly/AU/Dec.86 (V)	Decision on the Danger of Imported Seeds on the African Continent - (Doc. EX.CL/205 (VII) Add.6	2
15	Assembly/AU/Dec.87 (V)	Decision on the Expansion of the Follow-Up Mechanism on the Reform of the United Nations	1
16	Assembly/AU/Dec.88 (V)	Decision on the Scale of Assessment – Doc. EX.CL/192 (VII)	1
17	Assembly/AU/Dec.89 (V)	Decision on the Extra-Budgetary Session of the Executive Council	1
18	Assembly/AU/Dec.90 (V)	Decision on the Report of the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government chaired by the President of the Republic of Uganda on the Proposals of the Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1

**DECISION ON THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE (CAMEF)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **ENDORSES** the Report and the Declaration of the First Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance;
3. **DECIDES** to institutionalize this Conference which will meet once a year;
4. **MANDATES** the Commission, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Commission for Africa (UNECA) and development partners, to ensure the preparation of this Conference and report to it at its annual sessions.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF
THE COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **COMMENDS** the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. Tony Blair, and his Government for pushing for robust global action in support of Africa's efforts towards growth, poverty reduction and prosperity, through the framework proposed by the Commission for Africa;
3. **EMPHASIZES** that the Commission for Africa Report is supplemental to previous initiatives including NEPAD, the Strategic Plan of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the G8 Kananaskis Africa Action Plan;
4. **FULLY SUPPORTS** the recommendations contained in the Commission for Africa Report;
5. **FULLY COMMITS** itself to ownership of Africa's direction and development, including on the basic issues of good governance, and peace and security, regional integration and all key development issues;
6. **STRONGLY URGES** the G8 Summit meeting scheduled for 6th to 8th July 2005 in Gleneagles to fully embrace the comprehensive recommendations of the Commission for Africa and act expeditiously on them;
7. **MANDATES** the African Union Commission to follow-up in collaboration with Member States and stakeholders the implementation of the Commission for Africa Report and report to annual sessions of the Assembly.

**DECISION ON ACCELERATING ACTION FOR CHILD SURVIVAL AND
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA TO MEET THE MDGs
DOC. ASSEMBLY AU/3 (V)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained therein;
2. **RECALLS** the various blue-prints adopted in favour of improving the well-being of children in Africa, in particular, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990) and the African Common Position on the Future of Children – Africa Fit for Children (2001);
3. **DEEPLY REGRETS** that to-date only 35 Member States have ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and **APPEALS** to Member States which have not yet done so to expedite the ratification process;
4. **AWARE** of the fact that all the MDGs are, directly or indirectly relevant to children **CALLS UPON** Member States to scale up the process of attaining the goals, in particular the fourth goal on Reducing by two-thirds the mortality of under-fives, which can be achieved by low cost, and high impact interventions;
5. **COMMENDS** UNICEF for its Accelerated Child Survival and Development (ACSD) Programme and **REQUESTS** UNICEF and other partners to extend the programme to the whole continent and Member States to mainstream the programme into their national health policies, the Poverty Reduction Strategies and Health Sector Reforms;
6. **URGES** Member States to:
 - a) Reaffirm their commitment to implement pledges made to African children with renewed determination and set up mechanism at national level to ensure integrated child-centered, community-driven implementation of the package consisting: Integrated management of childhood illnesses(IMCI), ante-natal care for mothers and immunization-plus;
 - (b) collaborate with AU, UNICEF and other partners, to elaborate a road-map on MDG 4 for reduction of child mortality and morbidity to be considered at the Mid-term review of the African Common Position at the 2006 Pan-African Forum on Children;

- (c) within the framework of the Child Survival Partnership and other partnerships, commit national resources and mobilize additional resources to significantly reduce child deaths and suffering.
7. **REQUESTS** the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to lead the child survival agenda in their regions in collaboration with development partners and collaborate with AU Commission to coordinate and harmonize the programmes and strategies.
8. **ALSO URGES** the UN Agencies, International Organisations and Development partners to technically support Member States in the process of strategic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of child policies; mobilize financial resources to be used at national level; and collaborate with the African Union and RECs in playing their roles
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to:
- (a) Convene the Mid-term review of the African Common Position on Children in 2006;
 - (b) Advocate for necessary investments and mobilize international support with partners in order to monitor and review progress on meeting MDG 4;
 - (c) Bring to the attention of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, AU Peace and Security Council, Pan-African Parliament, and ECOSOCC those countries that are violating children's rights and endangering their well-being, through conflict, poor governance, abuse, neglect, marginalisation and other forms of exclusion;
 - (d) Strengthen and support the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in ensuring that the Committee fulfils its responsibility to monitor the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
 - (e) place commitments made by governments regarding children at the heart of the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and report

regularly to African Leaders on progress achieved in efforts to advance child survival and well-being including new lessons learnt.

**DECISION ON THE WORLD SUMMIT ON
INFORMATION SOCIETY- DOC. EX.CL/173 (VII)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report presented in this regard;
2. **RECALLS** the various decisions of the African Union on the World Summit on Information Society, particularly the decisions of its 2nd and 3rd sessions held, respectively in Maputo in July 2003 and Addis Ababa in July 2004;
3. **RECALLS ALSO** the UN General Assembly resolutions Nos. 183/56, 238/57 and 220/59;
4. **RECOGNIZES** the growing importance the international community in particular attaches to the 2nd phase of the World Summit on Information Society to be held in Tunis to bridge the digital gap into digital prospects and modern Information and communications technologies as a strategic tool for development;
5. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in preparing for the Tunis phase and the results achieved during the meetings of the Preparatory Committee in June 2004 and February 2005, respectively as well as Africa's impressive participation in them. In this respect, African countries are called upon to continue their effective participation in future meetings of the Committee, particularly the 3rd meeting scheduled in Geneva in September 2005 in order to achieve the internationally desired results and to reflect Africa's interests in the recommendations and conclusions of the Tunis Summit appropriately;
6. **COMMENDS** the effective role played by Africa in the preparatory phases of the Tunis Summit at the continental level through the Bamako 2003, Accra 2005 and Cairo 2005 meetings. And **URGES** African countries are invited to continue their coordination and exchange of views at the continental level to ensure fruitful and more effective participation in the preparations for the Summit, particularly in the meeting slated for Dakar in July 2005 to finalise the African common position document on world good governance of the internet;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to consider the organization of a meeting of Ministers of Information and Communication Technology to examine and adopt an African Plan of Action for the culmination of the preparations for the Tunis Summit into results that reflects the aspirations of the African Peoples and the establishment of the best mechanisms for the follow-up and implementation of the African Plan of

Action, thereby ensuring the achievement of the development goals of the Continent;

8. **INVITES** member States and African Governments to participate in the World Summit on Information Society to be held in Tunis at the highest level and also **URGES** the civil society and the private sector to participate in parallel events during the Summit;
9. **FURTHER INVITES** Member States, Governments and Regional and International Organizations to support and contribute to the financing of the Digital Solidarity Fund.

**DECISION ON THE 18TH ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE
AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES'
RIGHTS (ACHPR)**

The Assembly:

1. **ADOPTS** the 18th Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;
2. **COMMENDS** the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for the work accomplished and **URGES** it to pursue its efforts in this regard;
3. **AUTHORIZES** the publication of this Report as well as its annexures in accordance with the provisions of Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;
4. **REQUESTS** the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to pursue and complete as soon as possible, the brainstorming on the relations with the various organs and institutions of the African Union in accordance with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.7 (II);
5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the African Union Commission to provide adequate resources in its running budget for the ACHPR so as to enable it discharge its mandate;
6. **URGES** Member States which have not yet done so to present their periodic reports in accordance with Article 62 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

DECISION ON THE REVIEW OF THE MDGs

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **COMMENDS** the Commission of the African Union, the ECA, the ADB, NEPAD Secretariat, the RECs and UNDP for the quality of the Report;
3. **ADOPTS** the Common African Position on the evaluation of the MDGs to be presented at the United Nations high level Conference on the MDGs;
4. **MANDATES** the Commission of the African Union, in collaboration with the ECA, the ADB, NEPAD and the RECs to monitor the implementation of the MDGs and continue with the pertinent reflections in order to report to the Assembly at its annual session.

DECISION ON THE G8 FOLLOW-UP

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance on the Common African Position to the next G8 Summit in Gleneagle, Scotland;
2. **MANDATES** the Ministers of Economy and Finance to include on the Agenda of their annual conferences, the follow-up of the G8 commitments to Africa in consultation with the NEPAD Steering Committee;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take all the necessary steps to monitor the implementation and evaluation of the G8 Kananaskis Plan of Action for Africa.

DECISION ON MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS
(DOC/EX/CL/188(VII))

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the meeting of Ministers of Trade held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt from 8 to 9 June, 2005;
2. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** for the efforts deployed by African negotiators in the various bodies of the WTO and by Member States and RECs in the different national and regional fora put up for EPA negotiations;
3. **CALLS ON** developed countries to meet the requirements of developing countries in setting up a credible end date for the elimination of all forms of support to agricultural products;
4. **URGES** all bilateral and multilateral donors to honour their commitment on the development-related aspects of the cotton initiative;
5. **ENDORSES** the Cairo Declaration and Road Map on the Doha Work Programme as well as the AU's Ministerial Declaration on EPA negotiations;
6. **INVITES** Member States, RECs and the Commission to stand guided those Declarations in order to speak with one voice and safeguard Africa's interests in WTO and EPA negotiations.

DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL
ON SICKLE-CELL ANAEMIA

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **COMMENDS** Burkina Faso, Senegal and Congo for their initiative;
3. **RECOGNIZES** that the proper management of Sickle-Cell Anaemia will contribute to an appreciable decrease in mortality from Malaria and the risk of HIV infection;
4. **CALLS ON** the International Community to search for the best treatment for this disease, which necessitates lifelong treatment;
5. **SUPPORTS** the inclusion of Sickle-Cell Anaemia, a genetic disease, in the list of public health priorities, at the next session of the World Health Assembly;
6. **REQUESTS** Burkina Faso, the Republic of Congo and the Republic of Senegal, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission, to take the necessary steps to this end, and submit a report to it at its next session.

**DECISION ON THE RETURN OF THE AXUM OBELISK
TO ITS PLACE OF ORIGIN**

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** its Resolution AHG/Dec.184 (XXXVIII) of July 2002;
2. **COMMENDS** the Government and the people of Ethiopia on the return of the pillaged Axum Obelisk to its place of origin;
3. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the efforts deployed in this regard by the Commission of the African Union to expedite the return of the Axum Obelisk;
4. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** for the efforts deployed by UNESCO and other international partners in the return of this African historical monument to its country of origin;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that the cooperation demonstrated by Italy in the return of the Axum Obelisk is a positive step that should be taken as a landmark in the history of cooperation between Africa and Europe in the cultural area;
6. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the Government of Italy for ensuring the safe return of the Axum Obelisk in conformity with its commitment and in response to the request made by the OAU/AU in its Resolution AHG/Dec.184 (XXXVIII) of July 2002;
7. **DECLARES** that the return of the Axum Obelisk constitutes a victory for all African countries;
8. **CALLS UPON** all concerned countries to follow this exemplary act and make further efforts to return pillaged cultural property to their places of origin.

**DECISION ON THE MERGER OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND
PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE
AFRICAN UNION - ASSEMBLY/AU/5 (V)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the merger of the Court of Justice of the African Union (Court of Justice) and the Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Human Rights Court) ;
2. **DECIDES** that a draft legal instrument relating to the establishment of the merged court comprising the Human Rights Court and the Court of Justice should be completed for consideration by the next ordinary sessions of the Executive Council and the Assembly and **WELCOMES WARMLY AND WITH GRATITUDE** the offer by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Algeria, Mr. Mohamed BEDJAOUI, former President of the International Court of Justice to contribute to the drafting of this instrument;
3. **ALSO DECIDES** that all necessary measures for the functioning of the Human Rights Court be taken, including particularly the election of the judges, the determination of the budget and the operationalization of the Registry;
4. **FURTHER DECIDES** that the Seat of the merged court shall be at a place to be decided upon by the Member States of the Eastern Region, which shall also serve as the seat of the Human Rights Court pending the merger.

**DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN
COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**
(Doc. EX.CL/201 (VII))

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the results of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. **DECIDES** to appoint the following members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights as elected by the 7th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:
 1. Mrs. Reine **ALAPINI-GANSOU** (Benin)
 2. Mr. Musa Ngary **BITAYE**
 3. Mr. Mumba **MALILA** (Zambia); and
 4. Adv. Faith Pansy **TLAKULA** (Ms,) (South Africa)

**DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND
WELFARE OF THE CHILD**
(Doc. EX.CL/202 (VII))

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. **DECIDES** to appoint the following members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as elected by the 7th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:
 1. Mrs. Seynabou Ndiaye **DIAKHATE** (Senegal);
 2. Mrs. **KOFFI** Appoh Marie Chantal (Côte d'Ivoire);
 3. Hon. Lady Justice Martha **KOOME** (Kenya);
 4. Mrs. Mamosebi T. **PHOLO** (Lesotho);
 5. Ms. Boipelo Lucia **SELTLHAMO** (Botswana); and
 6. Mr. Moussa **SISSOKO** (Mali).

**DECISION ON THE DANGER OF IMPORTED
SEEDS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT**
(Doc. EX.CL/205 (VII) – Add.6)

The Assembly,

1. **RECOGNISES** the importance of improved seeds as a major input in increasing agricultural productivity quantitatively and qualitatively for the attainment of food security in the Continent;
2. **REALISES** that the seed industry, in its modern integrated sense, is still considered one of the industries dominated by the developed countries when developing countries are so much in need of it for food production and for optimal investment of their natural and human resources;
3. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the recent developments in the seed industry and its monopoly through various legal and technical rights protection that allows for the use of seeds only once;
4. **FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES** that the African farmer is prevented from multiple use of these seeds thus resulting in diminished plant bio-diversity which African countries enjoy;
5. **CALLS** for dealing with the challenges imposed by agricultural development and food production conditions in the Continent for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of reducing the number of people suffering from hunger and poverty. This can only be achieved by tackling the challenge of adequate supply of improved seeds at affordable prices to all farmers;
6. **RECOGNISES** that national governments cannot alone confront these challenges and provide the necessary potential for this strategic industry;
7. **STRESSES** Africa's potential for creating its own seed producing industry given its vast potential and climatic diversity;
8. **CALLS** for the exploitation of Africa's material and human potentials for the establishment of a sophisticated seed industry to break its monopoly and to secure it for the achievement of sustainable agricultural development and food security for the peoples of the Continent;
9. **URGES** Member States for the establishment of genetic resource banks for identification and preservation of indigenous plant genetic resources that can be used for the production of improved seeds that are adaptable to local environmental conditions and to prevent the deterioration of plant bio-diversity that the African Continent enjoys;

- 10. REQUESTS** the Commission to consider all aspects of the issue of seeds, in the light of existing experiments, including the establishment of an African Institution for the production and use of seeds;
- 11. REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to submit a progress report on the implementation of the decision to the 9th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE EXPANSION OF THE FOLLOW-UP
MECHANISM ON THE REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the expansion of the Follow-up Mechanism on the Reform of the United Nations;
2. **DECIDES** that the Follow-up Mechanism comprising the Core Group of three and a Committee of 10 (two representatives per region) be expanded to include an additional 5 new members selected by the Regions (one per Region);
3. **MANDATES** the Follow-up Mechanism as expanded to negotiate with other regions of the world and stakeholders and to take necessary measures that would permit the attainment of Africa's aspirations as enunciated in the Ezulwini Consensus, bearing in mind the necessity for reciprocal support from other interested groups and within the framework of achieving the provisions of the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration;
4. **FURTHER DECIDES** that whenever the negotiations require flexibility, the Follow-up Mechanism shall consult the Chairperson of the Union and the Chairperson of the Commission on how to proceed, including the need for an Extra-Ordinary Session of the Assembly

DECISION ON THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENT

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council;
2. **ADOPTS** the new Scale of Assessment as proposed based on the principle of Capacity to Pay of Member States with the ceiling of 15% and without a floor rate;
3. **COMMENDS** the following Member States that have offered to contribute 15% of the regular budget of the Union each, namely, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Nigeria and South Africa;
4. **DECIDES** that the adopted Scale of Assessment shall be effective from 1st January 2006;
5. **URGES** the Commission to enforce a strict sanctions regime to ensure prompt full payment of contributions;
6. **FURTHER URGES** the Commission to practice prudent financial management and control of its budgetary and financial affairs;
7. **DECIDES** that the Scale of Assessment shall be reviewed every three (3) years;

DECISION ON THE EXTRA-BUDGETARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendation of the Executive Council on the proposed Structure of the Commission and the Budget for the year 2006;
2. **MANDATES** the Executive Council to convene in an Extra-Ordinary Session to consider and adopt:
 - i) the Structure proposed by the Commission;
 - ii) the budget for the year 2006.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT CHAIRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA ON THE PROPOSALS OF THE GREAT SOCIALIST PEOPLES LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **COMMENDS** the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government for the Report;
3. **REAFFIRMS** that the ultimate goal of the African Union is full political and economic integration leading to the United States of Africa;
4. **DECIDES** to establish a Committee of Heads of State and Government to be chaired by President Olusegun Obasanjo, Chairperson of the African Union, and composed of the Heads of State and Government of Algeria, Kenya, Senegal, Gabon, Lesotho and Uganda;
5. **REQUESTS** that the Committee shall consider all the ideas discussed during the Summit and others that may be submitted or arise through consultations and submit a report to the next session of the Assembly, including the steps that need to be taken for the realization of this objective, the structure, the process, the time frame required for its achievement as well as measures that should be undertaken, in the meantime, to strengthen the ability of the Commission to fulfil its mandate effectively.

