

**DECISION  
ON THE AFRICA UNION THEME OF THE YEAR 2023:  
“ACCELERATION OF AfCFTA IMPLEMENTATION”**

**The Assembly,**

1. **RECALLS** the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), as set out in the African Union (AU) flagship project of the Agenda 2063.
2. **ALSO RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 819 (XXXV) of February 2022 and Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.2 (XVII) of November 2022 requesting for the Concept Note and Road Map for the Theme of the Year 2023 under “Acceleration of the AfCFTA implementation”.
3. **WELCOMES** the Concept Note and Road Map, **ADOPTS** the Theme of the Year as “Acceleration of the AfCFTA Implementation” and emphasises the need for funds that the implementation of the AfCFTA is a critical step towards Africa’s economic integration and **CALLS FOR** the necessary funds to be made available for the Theme of the Year.
4. **UNDERLINES** that the 2023 Theme of the Year will play a critical role to compliment other flagship projects of the Agenda 2063, and to the second 10-year implementation plan of the Agenda;
5. **DIRECTS** the AfCFTA Secretariat and Africa CDC to mainstream the trade and health nexus in the implementation of the 2023 Theme of the Year and the realisation of accelerated implementation of the AfCFTA.
6. **FURTHER DIRECTS** the relevant African Union Organs, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Institutions, Permanent Representations and Specialised Technical Offices to support the implementation of the 2023 Theme of the Year, and the overall AfCFTA Private Sector Engagement Strategy and ensure throughout the continent and beyond.
7. **REQUESTS** the AfCFTA Secretariat, in close collaboration with AUC, AUDA-NEPAD to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the Theme of the Year to the 5<sup>th</sup> Mid-Year Coordination Meeting and the 37<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly.