

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE AfCFTA ON  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU THEME OF THE YEAR 2023  
“ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL  
FREE TRADE AREA”**

**The Executive Council,**

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the Report of the AfCFTA Secretariat on the Theme of the Year of 2023 “Acceleration of AfCFTA implementation” which highlights milestones and results achieved and provides the recommendations and follow up actions.
2. **WELCOMES** the launch of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative comprised of thirty-four State Parties, namely: Angola, Algeria, Burundi, Botswana, Chad, Central African Republic, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Congo, Comoros, Cote d’Ivoire, DRC, Eswatini, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, Tanzania, Tunisia, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe.
3. **CONGRAGULATES** the Republic of Zambia, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania for setting an exemplary role and taking practical steps towards implementation of the AfCFTA through the successful hosting of the 1<sup>st</sup> AfCFTA Youth Symposium, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intra-Africa Trade (IATF), launch of the inaugural shipment and engaging in preferential trade under the AfCFTA; and the hosting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Women in Trade respectively.
4. **RECALLS** decision no Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.2(XVII) that directed the Secretariat to support state parties in the establishment of the Trade Aggregating Companies and welcomes the establishment of the trading companies by the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Ghana and the ongoing process of establishment of similar companies in Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Cote d’Ivoire.
5. **FURTHER RECALLS** decision EX.CL/Dec.1-9(XLIII) that directed the AfCFTA Secretariat to engage in revenue- generating activities and resources mobilisation to facilitate the full implementation of the AfCFTA and **DIRECTS** the AfCFTA Secretariat to partner with the African financial institutions and private sector to establish a continental Trade aggregating company and to submit an update report, including its self-sustained sources of funding, equity sharing and proposed structure to the next meeting of the Executive Council.
6. **WELCOMES** the conclusion of the negotiations of the AfCFTA Protocols under Phase I and II and the operationalisation of 22 AfCFTA National Implementation

Committee's (NICs),<sup>3</sup> **CONGRATULATES** the 27 AU Member States<sup>4</sup> that adopted AfCFTA Implementation Strategies and the validated Regional AfCFTA Implementation Strategies of ECOWAS, EAC, IGAD and ECCAS.

7. **WELCOMES** with appreciation the progress made in the operationalization of the AfCFTA Adjustment Fund to support State Parties in addressing potential revenue losses, in the implementation of the AfCFTA and **DIRECTS** the AfCFTA Secretariat and the Afreximbank to fast track the finalisation of the operational guidelines;
8. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that as a flagship project of Agenda 2063, the implementation of the AfCFTA goes beyond the celebration of the Theme of the Year and **DIRECTS** the AfCFTA Secretariat to continue on the fast lane coordinating the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement.
9. **EMPHASISES** the need for a continued collaboration between Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and the private sector for the continent's economic development and integration and **CALLS UPON** all AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AU Organs, and the Private Sector to continue supporting the implementation of activities and programmes in line with the AfCFTA.
10. **DIRECTS** the AfCFTA Secretariat to comprehensively report on the significant achievements, challenges faced towards the full implementation of the AfCFTA.

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<sup>3</sup> Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, and Tunisia.

<sup>4</sup> Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eswatini, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe