

DECISION ON THE 2023 INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE FAIR (IATF)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Brief on the 2023 IATF Event that was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 09 to 15 November 2023;
2. **COMMENDS** H.E Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Government and People of the Arab Republic of Egypt for their hospitality and immense support in making this event a national, regional and global success;
3. **COMMENDS** African Export Import Bank for providing substantial financial contribution and technical support, and leading the coordination and successful organization of the IATF including the recently concluded IATF2023"
4. **CONGRATULATES** the Heads of State and Government of Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe and the Member States who participated at the IATF2023;
5. **ALSO CONGRATULATES** the Heads of State and Government from, Malawi, Nigeria, Peoples United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe who attended the IATF2021;
6. **WELCOMES** the impact of IATF on African Trade and the agreements signed between Member States in various sectors;
7. **ENCOURAGES** the Advisory Council to finalise a feasibility study to ensure IATF self-finances;
8. **ALSO COMMENDS** the stakeholders that have actively participated in making the IATF a success such as Afreximbank, AUC, AfCFTA, African Development Bank (AfDB), International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC), African Association of Automotive Manufacturers (AAAM), Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI), the Afro-Champions Initiative, World Trade Centre Miami (WTCM), AeTrade Group, IATF2021 Host (KwaZulu-Natal), Government of Cote d'Ivoire and Professional Trade Fair Organisers;
9. **CONGRATULATES** The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for having been selected to host the next edition of IATF scheduled to take place in 2025;
10. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to participate in IATF 2025 as well as mobilize their respective private sectors to also participate in IATF 2025;
11. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** Member States to support the creative industries such as fashion, music, film, arts and crafts, sports, gastronomy and culinary arts to accelerate economic growth and job creation;

12. **COMMENDS** the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the facilitation provided in visa issuance to exhibitors and other participants and **CALLS ON** Member States who will be hosting the IATF editions to continue to ease visa issuance to exhibitors and other participants.