

## DECISION ON THE REPORTS OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEES (STCs) AND OTHER MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

### The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Reports of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) and other Ministerial Meetings;
2. **RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.1032(XXXIV), adopted at the 34th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2019, regarding the moratorium on the creation of new bodies and offices;
3. **STRESSES** that the following Decisions should not bear any financial, legal and structural implications to the AU and **FURTHER CALLS UPON** the STCs and all technical ministerial councils and meetings to refrain from adopting any structures or budgets that were not considered by the AU policy Organs through due process.
4. **REQUESTS** that all STCs adopt their Reports at the end of their meetings.
- I. **THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (STC ON GEWE)**
  - A. **Outcome of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Girls**
  5. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Girls and **RECOMMENDS** it to the Assembly for adoption;
  6. **COMMENDS** H.E Macky Sall and the Government of Senegal, for the successful organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AU Conference on Positive Masculinity held in November 2022, in Dakar, Senegal;
  7. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to expedite the implementation of the outcomes and recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Positive Masculinity, including mainstreaming in current GEWE work, while providing financing support for interventions, where possible;
  8. **TAKES NOTE** of the adoption of the outcomes and recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Positive Masculinity, "with the reservations expressed by Egypt and Algeria".<sup>1</sup>

### B. 2021 Reports on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa

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22. <sup>1</sup> Reservations expressed by Egypt and Algeria, who were not invited to the Conference, have to do with their non-participation.

9. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in implementing the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.
10. **RECOGNISES** the 43 Member States that have ratified the Maputo Protocol and **ENCOURAGES** the 12 Member States that have not yet ratified to take appropriate action at the national level and submit their instruments of ratification to the African Union Commission.
11. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** Member States that have not yet submitted their initial SDGEA reports to do so to the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate.

### **C. AU Women and Youth Financial Mechanisms**

12. **TAKES NOTE** with concern the unfinished business of the Fund for African Women related to the outstanding reports and the backlog of disbursement for beneficiaries;
13. **RECALLS** Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1073(XXXVI) on the establishment, by the African Union Commission, of a “mechanism to properly manage the African Women Fund and submit credible Financial Report in February, 2021”;
14. **APPROVES** the additional accountability, governance and management mechanisms established to facilitate the disbursement of the FAW to 101 beneficiaries for the 2014 to 2020 African Women’s Decade themes, in line with existing AU Grant Management Procedures through AU Grant Manual and Sub-delegation Manual;
15. **ADOPTS** a decision to disburse grants to the 101 beneficiaries for the 2014 to 2020 African Women’s Decade themes, in line with existing AU Grant Management Procedures through AU Grant Manual and Sub-delegation Manual;
16. **ADOPTS** a decision to write off unaccounted funds and blacklist the 23 non-reporting beneficiaries for the 2011 to 2013 African Women’s Decade themes;
17. **ADOPTS** a decision to set aside two percent (2%) of the existing FAW funds as operational costs to support implementation of these decisions;
18. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take appropriate action to implement the decisions including, among others, engaging and submitting relevant documents to the PRC and other AU Policy Organs to facilitate decision-making.

### **Trust Fund for African Women (TFAW) and the AU Youth Fund**

19. **RECALLS** the decision of this STC to transform the Fund for African Women, into a Trust Fund for African Women and align it to Agenda 2063;
20. **ALSO RECALLS** Executive Council Decision no EX.CL/Dec.921 on the establishment of the Youth Fund;
21. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in developing the Strategy for the new Trust Fund as well as achievements made thus far in developing the Africa Youth Fund;
22. **REQUESTS** the PRC and the Commission to consider the financial, Legal and structural implications of establishing the Trust Fund for African Women and Youth (TFAW);
23. **ADOPTS** a decision to harmonize the TFAW and AYF accountability, governance, management and operational mechanisms, while keeping the two funds separate

#### **D. African Women's Decade on Financial and Economic Inclusion's Roadmap**

24. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in implementing the Assembly decision of February 2020 declaring the period 2020-2030 as the 2nd African Women's Decade (AWD) on Financial and Economic Inclusion (FEI)
25. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to be involved in the implementation of the AWD Roadmap

#### **E. Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion 2030 Initiative**

26. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in implementing and operationalizing the Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion (WYFEI) 2030 Initiative.
27. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to be involved in the implementation of the WYFEI 2030 Initiative
28. **PROVIDES SUPPORT** towards the implementation of the WYFEI 2030 Initiative Country Acceleration Strategy (CAS).

#### **F. AU Gender Observatory**

29. **TAKES NOTE** of the development of the AU Gender Observatory
30. **RECOMMENDS** the extension of capacity building and training to all Member States on the usage of the AU Gender Observatory
31. **ADOPTS** the AU Gender Observatory as a reporting mechanism in implementing gender related instruments starting in 2023.

## II. THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC ON EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (STC-EST 4)

32. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology (STC-EST 4) held from 1<sup>st</sup> to September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022;
33. **COMMENDS** the outcomes of the STC-EST 4 on the need to rebuild more resilient and responsive education, science technology and innovation systems on the continent including on lessons learnt from the burden and disruptions caused by COVID-19;
34. **ENDORSES** the Ministerial Declaration on Education, Science, Technology and Innovation as a key milestone on revitalization of education, science, technology and innovation systems on the continent and calls upon all stakeholders to implement this declaration;
35. **UNDERScores** the importance of investing in education, science, technology and innovation and **WELCOMES** the progress made on the African Education Science Technology and Innovation Fund<sup>2</sup> and calls on Member States and Development Partners to commit to the Fund as a continental enabling mechanism for the advancement of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation;
36. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcomes of the Transforming Education Summit held at the margins of the UN General Assembly on September 19<sup>th</sup> 2022, and the September 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 Declaration of the African Heads of States and Governments on Transforming Education in Africa, and **REQUESTS** for the consideration by the Assembly to designate 'Education' as the theme of the year for 2024;
37. **CALLS UPON** Member States, RECs and Development Partners to implement the Declaration on Transforming Education in Africa.

## III. THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS AND CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

38. **RECALLS** its Decision EX.CL/Dec.1137(XXXIX) of October 2021 on the Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs (STC-JLA) held via videoconference from 27 May to 14 June 2021.
39. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the STC-JLA held in a hybrid format (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and video conference), from 05 to 11 December 2022; and the Report of the 7<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the STC-JLA

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23. <sup>2</sup> EX.CL/DEC.1074(XXXVI), February 2020,

held in a hybrid format (Accra, Ghana and video conference), from 16 to 23 January 2023.

40. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the following Draft Legal Instruments and **DECIDES** to recommend the same to the Assembly for consideration and adoption:
- i. *Draft Statute of the African Training Center for Statistics (PANSTAT);*
  - ii. *Draft Statute of the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC);*
  - iii. *Draft Statute of the African Humanitarian Agency;*
  - iv. *Draft Protocol to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Competition Policy;*
  - v. *Draft Protocol to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Investment;*
  - vi. *Draft Protocol to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR); and*
  - vii. *The Draft Revised AU Staff Regulations and Rules (SRR).*
41. **STRESSES** the challenges associated with the multiplicity of IPR institutions on the continent and **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly the rationalization of the institutional governance of the IPR on the continent in line with the Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.2(XVII) adopted by the Seventeenth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly held in Niamey, Niger, in November 2022;
42. **FURTHER STRESSES** that the Draft Revised SRR are recommended to the Assembly for consideration as adopted by the 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the STC-JLA;
43. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly to request the Commission and the PRC to continue working on the proposals of the Commission relating to salary and benefits review, education allowance, accrued leave days as well as retirement age, and to report to the 43rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2023.
44. **APPROVES** the *Draft Revised Rules of Procedure of the AU Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System;*
45. **FURTHER APPROVES** the proposal of the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs to hold an Extraordinary Session to consider the *Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights relating to the Specific Aspects of the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa;*
46. **AUTHORISES** the PRC, assisted by its relevant Sub-Committee, to consider a request for supplementary budget for convening of the extraordinary session of the STC and to identify the required budget;
47. **RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.1169(XLI) adopted during its 41<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session held in July 2022, in Lusaka, Zambia, and **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly the

consideration and adoption of the Draft Statute of the African Inclusive Markets Excellence Centre (AIMEC).

#### IV. THE 14<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

48. **WELCOMES** the convening of the 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security (STCDSS) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 12 May 2022;
49. **ENDORSES** the Declaration of the 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security and the outcomes contained therein, as well as the Policy on Child Protection in African Union Peace Support Operations **AND** the African Union Policy on Mainstreaming Child Protection into the African Peace and Security Architecture, as annexed. In this connection, requests the Commission to facilitate their implementation, including by AU-Led Peace Support Operations, and **ENCOURAGES** RECs/RMs and Member States to domesticate these adopted policies.
50. **REQUESTS** the Commission, working with Member States and with the Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Mechanisms, to follow up on the activities outlined in the Declaration.

#### V. THE 5<sup>TH</sup> STC ON FINANCE, MONETARY AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC PLANNING AND INTEGRATION, 21-22 JULY 2022

51. **TAKES NOTE** of the Reports and the Declarations of the Fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration held on 21 and 22 July 2022 in Lusaka, Zambia, in a hybrid format;
52. **COMMENDS** the STC for the recommendations endorsed on the critical theme of “Improving Africa’s access to capital: debt management and the rising influence of credit rating agencies” in light of the current global economic environment and the urgent need to secure adequate financing for Africa’s inclusive growth and sustainable development;
53. **ADOPTS** the Reports and the Declarations of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning, and Integration;
54. **ALSO ADOPTS** the African Union Tax Strategy and the Strategy on curbing IFFs and **URGES** the African Union Commission and all relevant stakeholders to immediately commence implementing the two Strategies;
55. **FURTHER ADOPTS** the African Principles and Guidelines on the Corporate Governance and requests the African Peer Review Mechanism Secretariat and the African Union Commission to assist the Member States in their implementation;

56. **ENCOURAGES** the African Union Commission and African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA) to expedite the work toward integration of African stock Exchanges through the implementation of phase II of the African Exchanges Linkage Project (AELP);
57. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposals of the African Export Import Bank (Afreximbank) and the African Trade Insurance Agency (ATI) to be granted the status of Specialized Agencies of the AU and **REQUESTS** the Commission to provide clear criteria and framework for admitting institutions and specialized agencies of the Union and report back to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council
58. **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a report on the establishment of an African Credit Rating Agency and other mechanisms mentioned in the report following due processes of the Union and report 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Executive Council;