**DECISION ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN  
DOC. EX.CL/117 (V)**

The Executive Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;
2. **URGES** Member States to formulate and implement a national policy for the economic empowerment of women which offers them real business opportunities on the national, regional and international markets;
3. **DECIDES** that this policy be included among the criteria for under the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM);
4. **CALLS ON** Member States to establish specific and relevant programmes for the development of women’s entrepreneurships which will facilitate the access of women to land, micro-credits, loans, technological innovations and research results in terms of business opportunities;
5. **RECOMMENDS** that the AU Commission invite officially women entrepreneurs to participate in the Third Ordinary Session of the AU Conference of African Ministers of Trade in 2005.