

DECISION ON TRADE FACILITATION
DOC.EX.CL/188(VII)

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **RECOGNISES** the importance of trade facilitation in increasing competitiveness as well as in raising the level of intra-African trade and the share of Africa in the global trade;
3. **CALLS UPON** Member States to set up consultative mechanisms between operators, Customs administrations and the national trade negotiators with a view to reaching consensus on national priorities, constraints and opportunities related to trade facilitation;
4. **RECOMMENDS** that Member States carry out studies on the level of trade facilitation and needs assessment in capacity building (including institutional and infrastructural capacity building) and technical assistance;
5. **REQUESTS** Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to set up regional experts groups to carry out in-depth studies on trade facilitation for the effective participation of Member States in the WTO negotiations and for the enhancement of their trade competitiveness;
6. **FURTHER RECOMMENDS** that RECs enhance their involvement in trade facilitation by carrying out stocktaking of all regional initiatives and develop guidelines of best practice for the benefit of all RECs;
7. **APPEALS** to Member States to develop appropriate negotiating positions with regard to obstacles preventing the entry of African exports into developed markets;
8. **URGES** Member States and RECs, under the coordination and leadership of the Commission, to agree on a firm common position on trade facilitation that will take into account the trade-off contained in the July 2004 Package, notably with regards to Technical Assistance and Capacity Building.