

**DECISION
ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN MINISTERS OF
FINANCE (F15) – Doc. EX.CL/1379(XLI)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the retreat of the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance held on 13-14 June 2022 in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, under the theme “*Beyond COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia Conflict: Enhancing the Resilience of African Economies and Financial Sustainability of the African Union*”, including the Communiqué therein;
2. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.578(XXV), which adopted the Union’s self-financing targets of 100% for the operational budget, 75% for the program budget and 25% for the peace support operations budget and **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.605(XXVII), whereby the Assembly reaffirmed its determination to ensure that the Union is financed in a predictable, sustainable, equitable and accountable manner with the full ownership by its Member States;
3. **ALSO RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.687(XXX), which endorsed the budget oversight role and functions of the F15 and adopted the Golden Rules that provide a framework for financial management and accountability principles at the Union;
4. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.733(XXXII), which mandated the Commission to provide technical support to Member States in accelerating the implementation of the 0.2% import levy and further reaffirmed that Member States, while implementing the decision, will be availed flexibility in fulfilling their obligations, as per their constitutional provisions and national laws, in accordance with Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly;
5. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.819(XXXV), which urged Members States to accelerate implementation of the 0.2% levy on eligible imports, determined in July 2016, with a view to reaching at least thirty-five (35) Member States fully implementing the levy;
6. **ALSO RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.821(XXXV) adopting the Revised AU Financial Rules and **TAKES NOTE** of Rule 94(2) on the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15), which stipulates that the F15 shall develop its rules of procedure which shall be adopted by the Assembly;
7. **URGES** Member States to promptly pay their assessed contributions in adherence to Rule 23(1) of the AU Financial Rules, with the objective to address program implementation challenges directly associated with cash-flow constraints;

8. **APPRECIATES** the determination by the F15 to support the ongoing budget and financial reforms of the African Union and **ENDORSES** the commitment to reinforce the processes with a robust tri-annual review of the Union's financial management, budgetary and accountability principles, and to recommend periodic improvements including through a budget performance assessment mechanism to be set in place by the F15;
9. **DIRECTS** the Commission, upon the request of Member States, to intensify technical and advisory support to address the pending concerns of the alignment and harmonization of the 0.2% import levy mechanism with their national laws, including alignment with the various bilateral and multilateral trading systems, bearing in mind the flexibility stipulated in Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.733(XXXII);
10. **REQUESTS** the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15) to continue and finalize consultations on its draft rules of procedure for presentation to the Policy Organs in February 2023, and **STRESSES** that the membership of the F15 shall comprise three (3) Member States per region to be constituted on the basis of the principles of equal sovereignty, rotation and solidarity as per the established practice;
11. **TAKES NOTE** of the concern of the F15 in relation to the proliferation of new institutions that carry significant financial implications and **ACKNOWLEDGES** the need for a systematic approach that considers the financial implications of new institutions and potential duplications;
12. **DECIDES**, in the context of the ongoing reform, to institute a moratorium on establishing new structures and **FURTHER REQUESTS** the F15 to provide technical inputs for the upcoming restructuring and rationalization of AU Organs and Offices outside the Headquarters, in an exercise that is intended to achieve a Union that is better aligned, efficient and effective;
13. **TAKES NOTE** of the Declaration on the Financial Sustainability of the African Union and **ENDORSES** it for consideration and adoption by the Assembly in February 2023.