

REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECs)

(RECOMMENDATION NO. PAP- REC. 002/2006)

The Pan-African Parliament, (PAP):

REAFFIRMING the key role of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as building blocks for the integration, social–political and economic development for the African Continent;

CONCERNED at the proliferation of Regional Economic Communities and their overlapping mandates;

FURTHER CONCERNED that, the proliferation of RECs has resulted into multiple membership, thus, negating the capacity to meet several financial obligations to the RECs;

APPRECIATIVE of the on going efforts led by the African Union (AU) to rationalize and harmonize the mandates, roles and objectives of the RECs;

RECALLING the obligation of Pan African Parliament pursuant to **Article 3(9)** of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament which state that, **“PAP should facilitate cooperation among Regional Economic Communities and**

their Parliamentary Fora”, to establish a working relationship with RECs and the need for PAP to contribute to the rationalization and harmonization of the RECs;

THEREFORE RECOMMENDS, THAT:

1. The efforts so far undertaken by the African Union(AU) in the rationalisation and the harmonisation of the RECs be sustained;
2. The participants in the efforts to rationalise and harmonise RECs should include the in-put of parliamentarians, civil society , private sector and the appropriate organs of the AU; and
3. All reports on the processes to harmonise and rationalise RECs should be submitted to PAP at the end of every Financial Year of the African Union.