

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 5517 700

Fax: 5517844

Website: www.Africa-union.org

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Fourteenth Ordinary Session
26 – 30 January 2009
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

**EX.CL/Dec.454 - 488(XIV)
EX.CL/Decl.1 (XIV)**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

No.	DECISION NO.	TITLE	PAGES
1	EX.CL/Dec.454(XIV)	Decision on the Budget for the African Union for the 2009 Financial Year – Doc.EX.CL/455(XIV)	3
2	EX.CL/Dec.455(XIV)	Decision on the Use of Surplus	1
3	EX.CL/Dec.456(XIV)	Decision on Other Financial Matters	1
4	EX.CL/Dec.457(XIV)	Decision on the Contributions of Member States – Doc. EX.CL/453(XIV)	1
5	EX.CL/Dec.458(XIV)	Decision on the AU 2009 Calendar of Meetings – Doc. EX.CL/453(XIV)	2
6	EX.CL/Dec.459(XIV)	Decision on the Status of Signature and Ratification of OAU/AU Treaties and the Harmonization of Ratification procedures – Doc.EX.CL/458(XIV)	1
7	EX.CL/Dec.459(XIV)	Decision on the Review of the Protocol Relating to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) – Doc.EX.CL/459(XIV)	1
8	EX.CL/Dec.461(XIV)	Decision on the Implementation of the African Union Border Programme – Doc.EX.CL/459(XIV)	
9	EX.CL/Dec.462(XIV)	Decision on the Report of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa – Doc.EX.CL/460(XIV)	2
10	EX.CL/Dec.463(XIV)	Decision on the Report of the Commission on the Implementation of Decision EX.CL/408(XII) on the Commemoration of the Abolition of Slavery – Doc.EX.CL/461(XIV)	1
11	EX.CL/Dec.464(XIV)	Decision on the Establishment of the Pan-African Stock Exchange – Doc.EX.CL/464(XIV)	2
12	EX.CL/Dec.465(XIV)	Decision on the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative – Doc.EX.CL/465	1
13	EX.CL/Dec.466(XIV)	Decision to Increase Salaries of African Union Elected Officials and Staff – Doc.PRC/Rpt(XVII)	1
14	EX.CL/Dec.467(XIV)	Decision on the Adjustments to the Maputo Structure Part D – Doc.PRC/Rpt/(XVII)	1
15	EX.CL/Dec.468(XIV)	Decision on the Second Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Union Ministers in charge of Youth – Doc.EX.CL/470(XIV)	1

No.	DECISION NO.	TITLE	PAGES
16	EX.CL/Dec.469(XIV)	Decision on the Report of the Twelfth Session of the African Ministerial Council on Environment (AMCEN) – Doc. EX.CL/471(XIV)	3
17	EX.CL/Dec.470(XIV)	Decision on the Report of the Second Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Sport – Doc.EX.CL/472(XIV)	1
18	EX.CL/Dec.471(XIV)	Decision on the Development and Management of Africa's Mineral Resources – Doc.EX.CL/474(XIV)	1
19	EX.CL/Dec.472(XIV)	Decision on the Second Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Culture (CAMC II) – Doc.EX.CL/475(XIV)	2
20	EX.CL/Dec.473(XIV)	Decision on the First Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development – Doc.EX.CL/477(XIV)	1
21	EX.CL/Dec.474(XIV)	Decision on the Draft Statutes of the African Union Commission on International Law – Doc.EX.CL/478(XIV)a	1
22	EX.CL/Dec.475(XIV)	Decision on the Draft African Charter on Statistics – Doc.EX.CL/478(XIV)b	1
23	EX.CL/Dec.476(XIV)	Decision on Afro-Arab Cooperation – Doc.EX.CL/482(XIV)	1
24	EX.CL/Dec.477(XIV)	Decision on the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) – Doc.EX.CL/483(XIV)	2
25	EX.CL/Dec.478(XIV)	Decision on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine – Doc.EX.CL/486(XIV)	1
26	EX.CL/Dec.479(XIV)	Decision on the Strategy for the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa – Doc.EX.CL/476(XIV)	3
27	EX.CL/Dec.480(XIV)	Decision on the Multilateral Cooperation – Doc.EX.CL/462(XIV)	1
28	EX.CL/Dec.481(XIV)	Decision on the African Union Commission Strategic Plan 2009-2012 – Doc.EX.CL/454(XIV)	2
29	EX.CL/Dec.482(XIV)	Decision on the Twenty Fifth Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights – Doc.EX.CL/490(XIV)	1

No.	DECISION NO.	TITLE	PAGES
30	EX.CL/Dec.483(XIV)	Decision on the Activity Report of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights – Doc.EX.CL/489(XIV)	1
31	EX.CL/Dec.484(XIV)	Decision on African Candidatures for Posts within the International System – Doc.EX.CL/Dec.485(XIII)	1
32	EX.CL/Dec.485(XIV)	Decision on the Election of Members of the Advisory Board on Corruption within the African Union – Doc.EX.CL/492(XIV)	2
33	EX.CL/Dec.486(XIV)	Decision on the Establishment of the Trust Fund for African Women – Doc.EX.CL/Dec.445(XIII)	1
34	EX.CL/Dec.487(XIV)	Decision on the African Union Gender Policy	1
35	EX.CL/Dec.488(XIV)	Decision on the Comorian Island of Mayotte	1
DECLARATION			
1	EX.CL/Decl.1(XIV)	Declaration on Palestine	1

**DECISION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE AFRICAN UNION
FOR THE 2009 FINANCIAL YEAR
Doc. EX.CL/455 (XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **APPROVES** the Budget of the African Union (AU) for the Financial Year 2009 amounting to US\$164,256,817 to be distributed as follows:
 - i) A total amount of US\$ 93,804,243 assessed to Member States on the basis of the approved Scale of Assessment;
 - ii) A total amount of US\$57,412,574 earmarked for the programmes secured from International Partners;
 - iii) An amount of 13,040,000 to be financed from forty percent (40%) of the Surpluses from the Year 2004 to 2007 Budgets;

2. **APPROVES** the Budget breakdown between the AU Organs as follows:

	Operational Budget in (US\$)	Programs Budget in (US\$)	Total in (US\$)
Pan African Parliament (PAP)	9,535,477	3,943,447	13,478,924
African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR)	2,376,639	1,295,127	3,671,766
African Court on Human and Peoples Rights (AfCHPR)	6,892,269	750,000	7,642,269
Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)	1,606,500	-	1,606,500
African Union Commission(AUC)	75,164,886	62,692,472	137,857,358
Total	95,575,771	68,681,046	164,256,817

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to develop templates for budget formulation and presentation, and submit them to the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) through its Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters for consideration;

4. **DECIDES** that all AU Organs, namely PAP, ACHPR, AfCHPR and ECOSOCC shall work closely with the Commission in the preparation of their respective budgets to ensure that they comply with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the AU Staff Rules and Regulations, as well as the standardized templates of budget formulation and presentation;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that ledger codes of budgets of all AU Organs are standardised;

6. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Office of the Internal Audit of the Commission to periodically audit the accounts of all other AU Organs;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that the expenses of the Board of External Auditors be centralised under the Commission Budget;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to monitor the budget preparation by all AU Organs in order to ensure compliance with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the AU Staff Rules and Regulations;
9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** all AU Organs to submit monthly returns to the Commission for the purpose of monitoring budget execution and compliance with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations;
10. **DECIDES** that all AU Organs shall submit their requests for virement in conformity with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations to the PRC through its Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters for consideration;
11. **REQUESTS** the Commission to verify the recruitment process of staff members within all the AU Organs and ensure that the recruitment contracts are standardized;
12. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to discuss future draft budgets with the Bureau of the Sub-Committee on Administration, Budgetary and Financial Matters before submitting them to the Sub-Committee for consideration.
13. **REQUESTS** PAP:
 - i) to stop applying fifty-eight percent (58%) Post Adjustment Allowance to its staff members as and when their contracts expire, and apply the forty percent (40%) rate as per the AU Staff Rules and Regulations;
 - ii) to send to the Commission copies of contracts for the members of staff who will be affected by this Decision;
 - iii) to calculate Post Adjustment Allowance on basic salary only without including the housing allowance;
 - iv) to stop implementing any decisions of the Bureau of PAP which have financial implications until approved by the AU Policy Organs;
 - v) to submit the Organizational Structure of PAP to the Sub-Committee on Structures for consideration prior to the July 2009 Summit;
 - vi) to adhere strictly to the AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the Staff Rules and Regulations in the preparation and execution of the Budget, as well as the provisions of Article 15 of PAP's Protocol dealing with budget preparation;

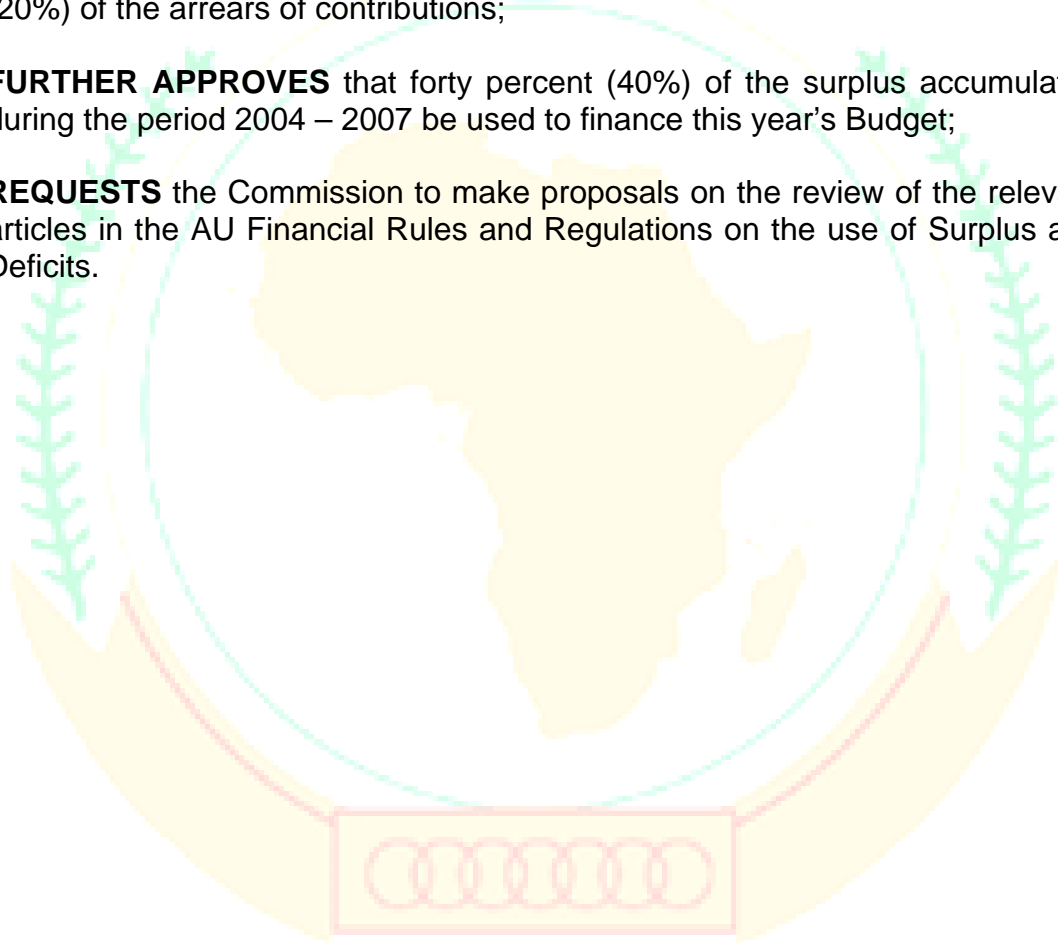
- vii) not to include any unauthorized budget lines in the 2009 Budget in particular the Sitting, Advocacy and Communication, Coordination and Responsibility Allowances.
- viii) to apply the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) rates as per the AU Financial Rules and Regulations;
- ix) to stop paying higher housing allowance rates and apply the AU approved rates.



DECISION ON THE USE OF SURPLUS

The Executive Council:

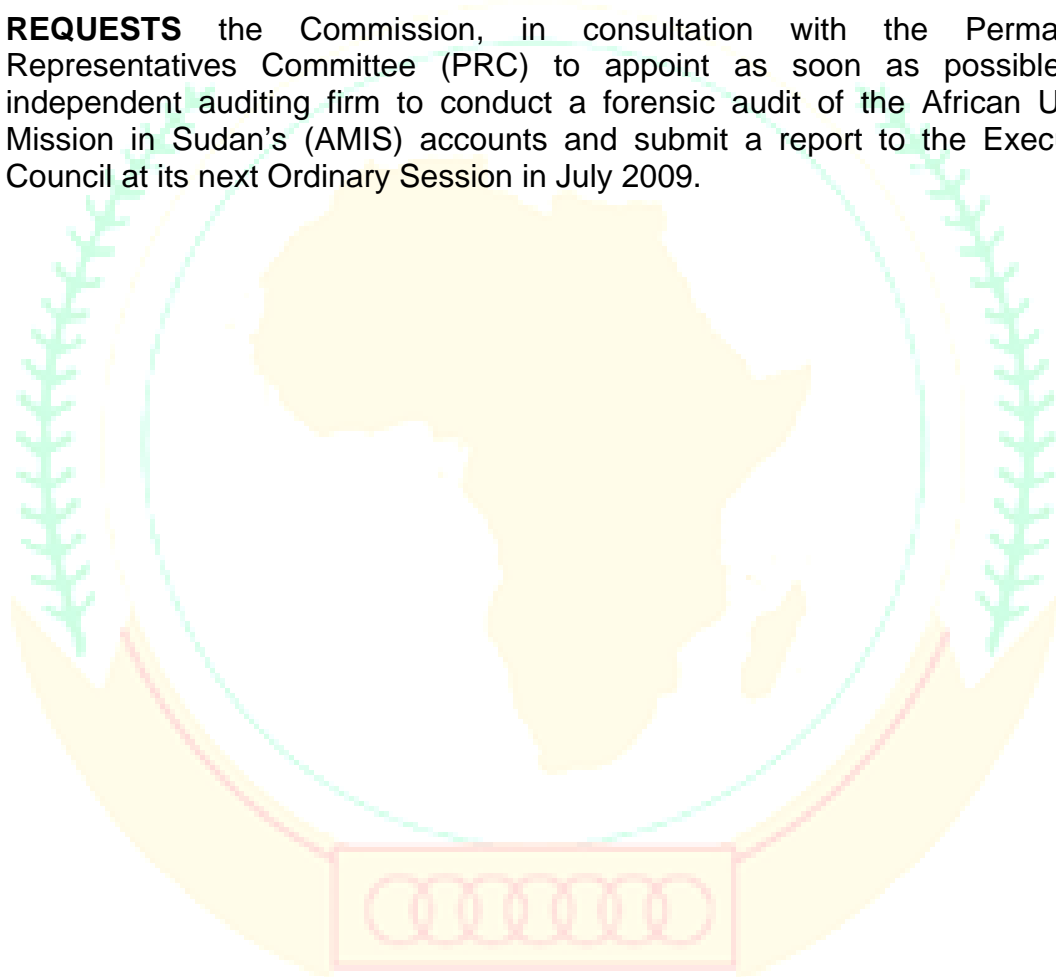
1. **APPROVES** the use of ten percent (10%) of surplus to replenish the Working Capital with an amount of US\$3,260,000 from the surplus of the period 2004 to 2007;
2. **ALSO APPROVES** the review and increase of the amount allocated to the acquisition of AU Properties from fifteen percent (15%) to twenty percent (20%) of the arrears of contributions;
3. **FURTHER APPROVES** that forty percent (40%) of the surplus accumulated during the period 2004 – 2007 be used to finance this year's Budget;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to make proposals on the review of the relevant articles in the AU Financial Rules and Regulations on the use of Surplus and Deficits.



DECISION ON OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Executive Council:

1. **APPROVES** the payment of an honorarium of two hundred United States Dollars (US\$200.00) per day to the Members of the Board of External Auditors (Board) plus twenty percent (20%) for the Chairperson of the Board;
2. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in consultation with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) to appoint as soon as possible an independent auditing firm to conduct a forensic audit of the African Union Mission in Sudan's (AMIS) accounts and submit a report to the Executive Council at its next Ordinary Session in July 2009.



DECISION ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER STATES
Doc. EX.CL/453 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the contributions of Member States;
2. **APPRECIATES** that the following Member States are up to date with the payment of their contributions to the Regular Budget: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Namibia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Democratic Arab Saharawi Republic, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, and Zambia and **ENCOURAGES** other Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time;
3. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** at the late payment of contributions by some Member States;
4. **URGES** Member States in arrears of their contributions to urgently pay up their arrears;
5. **DECIDES** that the temporary exemptions granted to Burundi and Sierra Leone from sanctions be maintained so long as they honour their agreed payment schedule and **URGES** these Member States to continue to comply with the agreed rescheduling plan;
6. **DECIDES** to maintain the sanctions on the following Member States:
 - i) Cape Verde
 - ii) Democratic Republic of Congo
 - iii) Eritrea
 - iv) Sao Tomé & Principe
 - v) Seychelles
7. **CONSIDERS FAVOURABLY** the request by Seychelles to reschedule its arrears and **REQUESTS** the Commission to convey this position to the Government of Seychelles;
8. **TAKES NOTE** of the statement by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and does not accept the proposal of DRC to offer buildings to cover its arrears;
9. **DECIDES** on the non-exemption from exceptional measures for post-conflict countries until conclusion by the Commission of the study on the matter and appropriate recommendations thereon considered and adopted;
10. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to explore the possibility of opening a dialogue with the five (5) countries under sanctions in order to convince them to pay up their arrears and be up-to-date in respect of their status as members of the African Union.

DECISION ON THE AU 2009 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS
Doc. EX.CL/453(XIV)d

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on the Draft 2009 African Union (AU) Calendar of Meetings;
2. **REAFFIRMS** the provisions of its previous Decision EX.CL/Dec.419 (XIII) adopted by its Thirteenth Ordinary Session held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from 27 to 28 June 2008;
3. **COMMENDS** the Commission, in particular the Conference Services Directorate for the tremendous efforts it has exerted in improving the quality and timely delivery of services to facilitate the smooth conduct of meetings;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to avoid, in the planning and organization of its future meetings, the overlapping and congestion of such meetings within specific months;
5. **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to rationalize all its meetings and also reduce the number of summits and ministerial meetings held in one single year;
6. **EMPHASISES** the need to align meetings to the approved budgetary allocations without allowing it to negatively affect the effective and smooth servicing of such meetings;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure proper coordination and consultation between its various Departments when organizing meetings on the same themes involving the same stakeholders;
8. **DECIDES** that meetings not reflected in the approved Calendar of Meetings shall not be organized by the Commission;
9. **REITERATES** the need for the Commission to ensure that religious events and national holidays are taken into account when preparing its Calendar of Meetings;
10. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that working documents including reports of meetings, particularly those of ministerial nature are prepared timely, and delivered to Member States;
11. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to discourage Departments from preparing meetings through direct contacts with capitals of Member States and without the knowledge or involvement of their Permanent Representatives to the AU;

12. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the PRC in collaboration with the Commission to finalize the 2009 Calendar of Meetings as soon as possible after the January 2009 Summit;
13. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Commission to monitor the implementation of this Decision and submit a report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council in July 2009.



**DECISION ON THE STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND
RATIFICATION OF OAU/AU TREATIES AND THE HARMONIZATION OF
RATIFICATION PROCEDURES
Doc. EX.CL/458(XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Status of Signature and Ratification of OAU/AU Treaties;
2. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Conference of Ministers of Justice and/or Attorneys General held in Kigali, Rwanda from 27 October to 4 November 2008;
3. **REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to Member States to urgently sign and ratify/accede to all OAU/AU Treaties and in any event to commence the process of ratification within the next one year for existing treaties not yet ratified or acceded to; and within one year of adoption of future treaties;
4. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Conference of Ministers of Justice and/or Attorneys General relating to the Procedures for Ratification of Treaties in Member States, and Measures to Speed up the Ratification of OAU/AU Treaties including those intended to:
 - (i) encourage ratification of OAU/AU treaties;
 - (ii) harmonize ratification procedures and speed up ratification of OAU/AU treaties;
 - (iii) address the problem of inconsistency between different linguistic texts; and
 - (iv) ensure speedy implementation of treaties.
5. **REQUESTS** Member States and the Commission to implement the respective recommendations relating to the Procedures for Ratification and Measures to Speed up the Ratification of OAU/AU Treaties addressed to them;
6. **URGES** Member States to commence the process of ratification of AU treaties within one (1) year of their adoption;
7. **REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to the Pan-African Parliament to assist with advocacy and sensitization of Member States to expedite the process of ratification/accession to OAU/AU Treaties;
8. **DECIDES** to institutionalize the AU Treaty Signing Week in December of each year;
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary steps to expedite the implementation of the previous decisions of the Executive Council on the review of OAU/AU Treaties and to report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for July 2009;

10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up on the implementation of this Decision and to report regularly to the Executive Council on progress made.



**DECISION ON THE REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL RELATING
TO THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP)
DOC. EX.CL/459 (XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Review of the Protocol relating to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP);
2. **AUTHORIZES** the Commission to initiate the review process of the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to draft and finalize the Terms of Reference for the review in consultation with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), taking into account the views of PAP;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to carry out a comprehensive study on the review of the Protocol based on the Terms of Reference, taking into account the views of PAP and make appropriate recommendations thereon to the African Union (AU) Policy Organs, through the PRC, for consideration at their next Ordinary Sessions in July 2009;
5. **ALSO REQUESTS PAP** to amend its Rules of Procedure to conform to the legal instruments of the AU;
6. **FINALLY REQUESTS PAP** to urgently fix a term limit for its Bureau, drawing inspiration from other AU organs and to immediately hold new elections to renew the mandate of the current Bureau or elect a new one.

**DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
AFRICAN UNION BORDER PROGRAMME
(DOC. EX. CL/459 (XIV))**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Implementation of the African Union Border Programme (AUBP);
2. **RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.370 (XI) adopted at its Eleventh Ordinary Session held in Accra, Ghana, from 28 to 29 June 2007, through which Council endorsed the AUBP;
3. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the implementation of the AUBP;
4. **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to persevere in its efforts, in particular through the pursuit of the enhancement of its capacities, notably in terms of human resources, the sensitization campaign on the AUBP, the launching of consultancies on the key components of the AUBP, the elaboration of a legal instrument on cross-border cooperation, the initiation of a programme of exchange of experiences and best practices and the convening of the Second Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues;
5. **INVITES** Member States to take all the necessary measures to fully play their role in the implementation of the AUBP, and **FURTHER INVITES** those countries that have not yet done so to respond as soon as possible to the questionnaire on the state of African borders, to accelerate the delimitation and demarcation process of African borders where such an exercise has not yet taken place, through dialogue, and to take all the necessary steps to strengthen local initiative on cross-border cooperation;
6. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for its assistance to the implementation of the AUBP, and **URGES** the other African Union (AU) partners to support the implementation of the AUBP and, where relevant, honour the commitments made;
7. **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to take initiatives to develop cross-border cooperation, both as an indispensable complement of delimitation and demarcation of African borders, where this has not yet been done;
8. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** the Commission to take all the necessary steps to ensure that the 2012 deadline set by the Memorandum of Understanding on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA) for the delineation and demarcation of all borders is achieved as much as possible;
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that the AUBP is implemented on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity, taking into account the respective roles incumbent on the Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the AU;

10. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to work actively towards the establishment of partnerships with organizations that have experience in the management of border issues, in particular the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization of American States;
11. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of the AUBP.



**DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES,
RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA
Doc. EX.CL/460 (XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;
2. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** over the recurrent challenging problems of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in some regions of the African continent;
3. **WELCOMES** the holding and positive outcome of the meetings of AU Member States Experts in-charge of Forced Displacement issues, the Legal Experts on the Draft AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa and the Second Ministerial Conference on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, which took place in November 2008, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, towards the preparations of the AU Special Summit of Heads of State and Government on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, scheduled for April 2009, in Kampala, Uganda;
4. **CONGRATULATES** Member States on their assistance programmes to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and **REQUESTS** countries of asylum to reinforce their assistance machineries in order to make them more effective;
5. **STRESSES** the need for more assistance to the countries of asylum to enable them to properly shoulder their increased responsibilities and assume the additional burden caused by the presence of refugees on their economies;
6. **CALLS UPON** the International Community to honour its pledges and extend assistance to countries of origin for the repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation of returnees to ensure their sustainable integration;
7. **REQUESTS** Member States to provide the Commission with up-to-date statistics on refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in order to enable the Commission to reflect the true picture of the humanitarian situation in their countries; and
8. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Republic of Uganda to host the first ever AU Special Summit of Heads of State and Government on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION EX.CL/Dec. 408(XII) ON THE
COMMEMORATION OF THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY
Doc. EX.CL/461(XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Implementation of Decision EX.CL/Dec.408(XII) on the Commemoration of the Abolition of Slavery;
2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the success of the Experts Group Meeting on Slavery and the follow up to the World Conference Against Racism held in Banjul, The Gambia, pursuant to Decision EX.CL/Dec. 408(XII) on the “Commemoration of the Abolition of Slavery”;
3. **EXPRESSES GRATITUDE** to the Government of the Republic of The Gambia for hosting the Meeting;
4. **WELCOMES** the hosting by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria of the African Regional Conference preparatory to the Durban Review Conference;
5. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the organization of the first ever Annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade by the United Nations, the African Union and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 March 2008;
6. **FURTHER EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the organization of the seminar for the African Group in Geneva on preparations for the Durban Review Conference, on 5 April 2008 by the African Union (AU) Permanent Mission in Geneva;
7. **APPEALS** to Member States and the International Community to get fully engaged with the Durban Review Process, by expressing their political will in that connection and providing support towards the financing of the process;
8. **CALLS UPON** Member States to provide the Commission with information on national efforts to end contemporary forms of slavery;
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to make use of the outcomes of the Experts Group Meeting on Slavery and the follow up to the World Conference Against Racism; inputs for the Durban Review Conference, a follow up to the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances scheduled for Geneva, Switzerland from 20 to 24 April 2009, and to submit a report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2009;
10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the African Diaspora to undertake further study on slavery and its contemporary forms with special emphasis on issues related to reparations covering the colonial

period, taking into account the work undertaken by the Committee on Reparations established in conformity with OAU Resolution CM/Res.1339(LIV) adopted in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, in June 1991, and report to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2009;

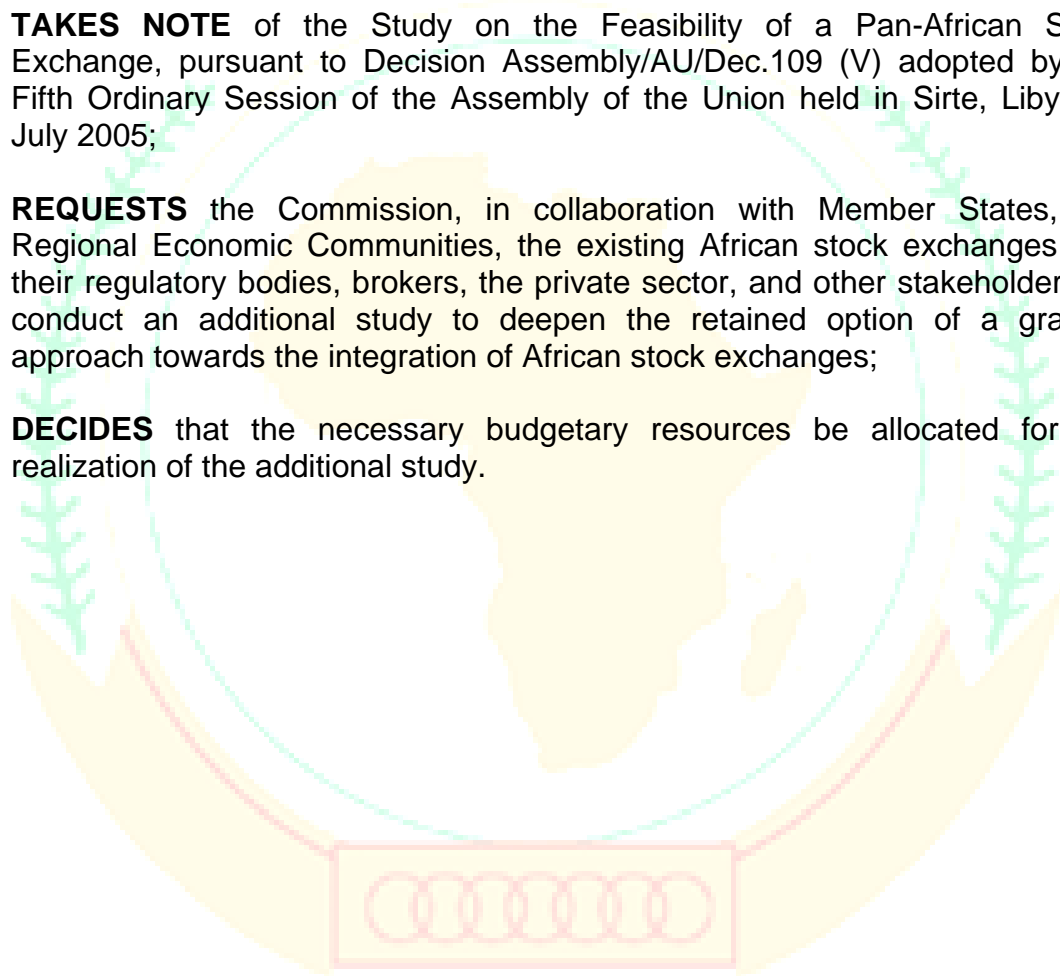
11. **CALLS UPON** the Commission to react to racist and other attacks on African migrants, whenever they occur.



**DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
PAN-AFRICAN STOCK EXCHANGE
(Doc. EX.CL/464 (XIV))**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Extraordinary Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 14 January 2009;
2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Extraordinary Conference on the Feasibility of a Pan-African Stock Exchange;
3. **TAKES NOTE** of the Study on the Feasibility of a Pan-African Stock Exchange, pursuant to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.109 (V) adopted by the Fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Sirte, Libya, in July 2005;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with Member States, the Regional Economic Communities, the existing African stock exchanges and their regulatory bodies, brokers, the private sector, and other stakeholders, to conduct an additional study to deepen the retained option of a gradual approach towards the integration of African stock exchanges;
5. **DECIDES** that the necessary budgetary resources be allocated for the realization of the additional study.



**DECISION ON THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL FOR THE SAHARA AND SAHEL INITIATIVE
Doc. EX.CL/465(XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative;
2. **ENDORSES** the Plan of Action including the indicative budget for the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative in collaboration with the concerned Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
4. **CALLS UPON** the concerned Member States and their respective RECs to put in place the necessary financial and institutional arrangements, when necessary, that are required at national, sub-regional and regional levels to guide the programme implementation process;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission while implementing the Plan of Action, to avoid duplication and make use of the existing initiatives and instruments at sub-regional, regional and continental levels;
6. **CALLS UPON** development partners to support the concerned Member States, RECs and the Commission to ensure the effective implementation of the Plan of Action at national, regional and continental levels.

**DECISION TO INCREASE SALARIES OF AFRICAN UNION
ELECTED OFFICIALS AND STAFF
Doc. PRC/Rpt(XVII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on the revision of salaries and allowances of staff of the Commission;
2. **DECIDES**, based on the review, to increase the basic salaries of all elected officials and staff members of the Commission in the following manner:
 - a. Staff in the General Service (GS) category: 25%
 - b. Staff in the Professional category: 20%
 - c. Elected officials: 15%
3. **ALSO DECIDES** that the increase shall take effect from 1 January 2009.
4. **FURTHER DECIDES** on the payment of a Non-Resident Allowance for internationally recruited GS staff at the rate of US\$3000 and US\$2400 per year for staff with dependants and those without dependants respectively.
5. **DECIDES** that the proposed revision of staff allowances (Post Adjustment, Housing and Education) be examined after the January 2009 Summit and that the financial implications thereon be implemented with effect from January 2009, from arrears of contributions;
6. **REQUESTS** the PRC to revisit the five-yearly periodicity of the review of salaries and make appropriate recommendations to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2009.

**DECISION ON THE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE
MAPUTO STRUCTURE PART D
Doc. PRC/Rpt(XVII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on adjustments to the Maputo Structure - Doc.PRC/Rpt(XVII);
2. **ENDORSES** the PRC's recommendations that all requests for structural changes:
 - i) be supported by relevant decisions of the policy organs;
 - ii) comply with the principles of cost effectiveness and the Commission's benchmarks; and
 - iii) that recruitment be made in a gradual and phased manner in order to better plan, control and manage the financial implications;
3. **DECIDES** that the recruitment for the thirty-three (33) new positions approved for the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) be done over a period of five (5) years beginning January 2010;
4. **ADOPTS** the adjustments to the Maputo Structure as set out in the PRC's Report - Document PRC/Rpt(XVII) - and **APPROVES** that its financial implications be incorporated into the 2010 budget.

**DECISION ON THE SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF AFRICAN UNION MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF YOUTH
Doc. EX.CL/470(XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Second Conference of the African Union (AU) Ministers in charge of Youth (COMY II) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 12 to 15 February 2008;
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Year of the African Youth 2008;
3. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Second Conference of the AU Ministers in charge of Youth;
4. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the deposit of instruments of ratification of the African Youth Charter by Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda and Uganda and **COMMENDS** the efforts by Member States and Youth Organizations in the popularization and the ratification of the African Youth Charter;
5. **URGES** the Member States that have not yet ratified the Charter to do so as expeditiously as possible;
6. **RECOGNIZES** and **COMMENDS** the contributions by youth organizations to development processes in many Member States and **CALLS FOR** a stronger involvement in actions to facilitate progress towards achieving the objectives of the African Youth Charter;
7. **ALSO RECOGNIZES** and **COMMENDS** the efforts made and support provided by the Government of Algeria for more than FORTY (40) years while hosting the Headquarters of the Pan African Youth Union (PYU);
8. **ALSO COMMENDS** the African youth for their active involvement in the revitalization of the Pan-African Youth Union, by strongly addressing the provisions of the African Youth Charter, as the legally adopted framework;
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to coordinate the handing over process and activities between the outgoing Secretariat General and the new Bureau of PYU, elected during the Brazzaville Congress held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo on 1 August 2008;
10. **CALLS UPON** Member States to consider the possibilities of offering to host the Pan African Youth Union's Headquarters;
11. **FURTHER RECOGNIZES** the Pan African Youth Union as the continental coordinating body for youth organizations and as the focal agency of the African Union on youth matters;

12. **COMMENDS** Member States and the Commission for the successful celebration of the African Youth Day 2008 and the Year of the African Youth 2008, and the implementation of related initiatives such as the creation of the African Youth Anthem; as well as the organization of the First Great African March for Peace and Solidarity;
13. **TAKES NOTE** of the implementation by the Commission of the non formal Technical and Vocational Training and Education (TVET) pilot projects for post conflict areas in Burundi, Republic of Congo and Liberia as well as the establishment of the first AU/Member States Centre for Youth Capacity Building in those countries;
14. **RECOMMENDS** that the Assembly proclaims the years 2009 – 2019 as the “Decade for Youth Development in Africa” and **REQUESTS** the Commission to develop a ten-year plan of action for youth development to be implemented during the Decade, in collaboration with Member States and RECs through the organization at national, regional and continental levels of consultations on topical African issues so as to make recommendations for youth participation in decision-making, thus facilitating the strengthening of unity, peace, security, solidarity and sustainable development of continental integration in all African Union domains;
15. **FURTHER RECOMMENDS** that the Assembly includes in the agenda of the Summit of its July 2010 Session issues related to “African youth development and empowerment”;
16. **CALLS ON** all Member States to allocate adequate resources for youth leadership and empowerment and for the implementation of the African Youth Charter and all national programmes of action for the youth;
17. **REQUESTS** the Commission, the Member States, the Pan African Youth Union and all relevant partners to cooperate closely for the dissemination and enlargement in all Member States of the innovative programmes initiated during the Year of the African Youth 2008 such as the Creation of AU/Member States Centre for Youth Capacity building and the Youth Mobility and Communication, Multimedia and Sustainable Development Training;
18. **ALSO CALLS UPON** the Commission, the Regional Economic Communities, the Pan African Youth Union and Member States to strengthen mutual cooperation as well as develop effective mechanisms for the implementation of the youth policies and national plan of action on youth;
19. **APPEALS** to International Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society, Diaspora Youth Organizations and Development Partners to pursue, in accordance with the African Youth Charter, their national, regional and continental support to youth development in Africa;
20. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host a Youth Seminar in August 2009;

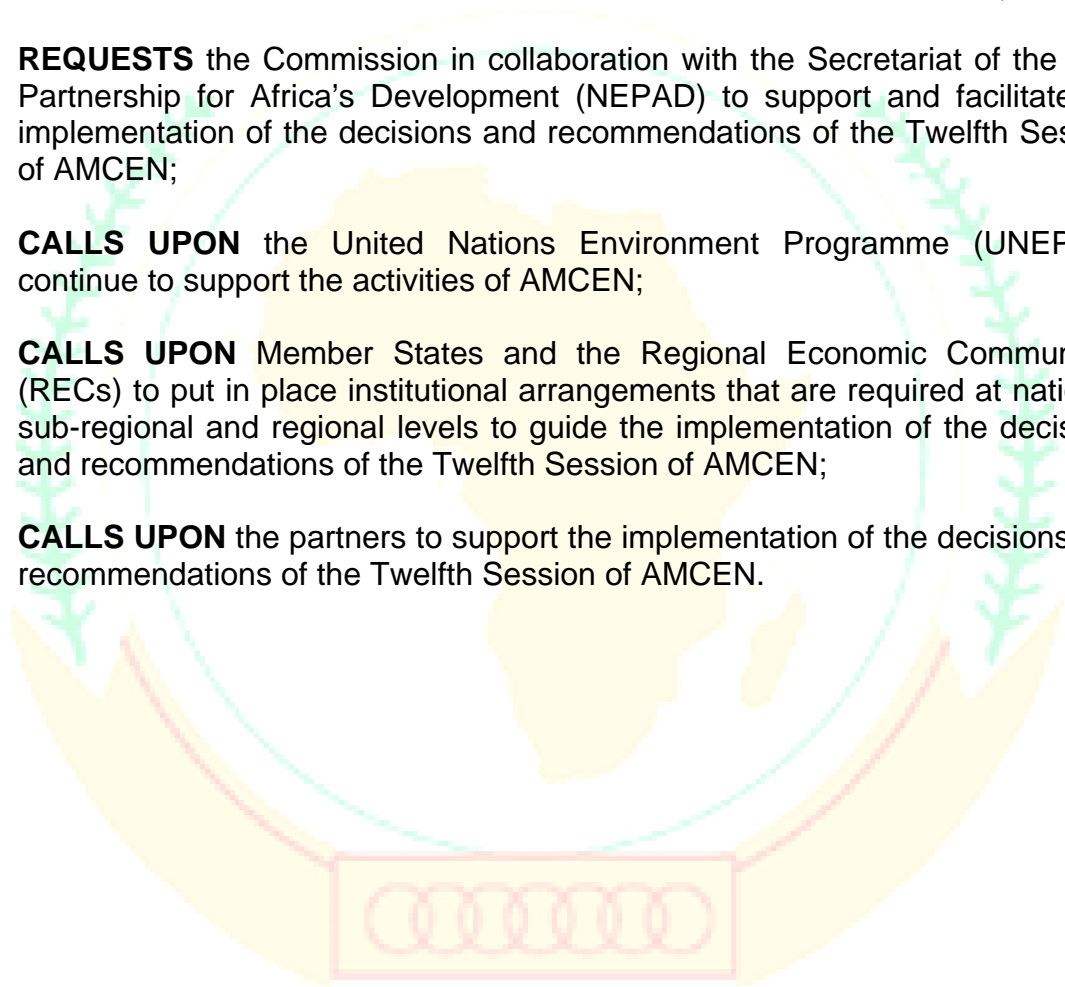
21. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2009.



**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENT (AMCEN)
Doc. EX.CL/471(XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Twelfth Session of the African Ministerial Council on Environment (AMCEN) in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 9 to 12 June 2008;
2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Twelfth Session of AMCEN;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to support and facilitate the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Twelfth Session of AMCEN;
4. **CALLS UPON** the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to continue to support the activities of AMCEN;
5. **CALLS UPON** Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to put in place institutional arrangements that are required at national, sub-regional and regional levels to guide the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Twelfth Session of AMCEN;
6. **CALLS UPON** the partners to support the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Twelfth Session of AMCEN.



**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE AFRICAN
UNION CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF SPORT
Doc. EX.CL/472 (XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Second Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Sport (CAMS II), held in Accra, Ghana, from 10 to 14 October 2008;
2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference, in particular, the following:
 - i) dissolution of the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa (SCSA);
 - ii) implementation of the Code on the Relations between Governments, National and International Sports Organisations;
 - iii) dissemination and popularization of the Policy Framework for the Sustainable Development of Sports in Africa.
3. **CALLS ON** Member States to support the Republic of South Africa in the 2010 FIFA World Cup event, and to take full advantage of the promotional and socio-economic opportunities that the event would offer to Member States and the Continent;
4. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the Third Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Sport in 2009;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up on the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference and report thereon to the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF AFRICA'S MINERAL RESOURCES
Doc. EX.CL/474(XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Development and Management of Africa's Mineral Resources;
2. **ENDORSES** the Declaration on Development and Management of Africa's Mineral Resources that was adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 17 October 2008 by the First African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers in charge of Mineral Resources Development;
3. **AGREES** that the African Mining Partnership (AMP) be merged with the AU Conference of Ministers in charge of Mineral Resources Development, which shall henceforth be the only AU Ministerial Organ responsible for Mineral Resources Development and Management;
4. **WELCOMES** the African Mining Vision and **REQUESTS** the AU Ministers in charge of Mineral Resources Development to develop a concrete Action Plan for its realization;
5. **UNDERSCORES** the importance of efficiency and transparency in the exploitation and management of Africa's abundant mineral resources for the realization of the objective of a strong, united and prosperous Continent;
6. **AGREES** on the urgent need to enhance Africa's industrial base through greater local beneficiation and value addition of its mineral resources;
7. **REQUESTS** Member States to improve their mineral resources policies, establish appropriate institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks, and invest in human skills, research and development, and geological and geophysical data, that are critical for efficient and effective management of mineral resources;
8. **ALSO REQUESTS** Member States producing mineral resources, that have not yet done so, to establish associations and networks for the purpose of advancing the interest of their industry and exchanging best practices and experiences;
9. **FURTHER CALLS ON** the Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, as well as the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to accelerate the establishment, across Africa, of major integrated corridors for the development and optimal exploitation of the Continent's natural resources;
10. **AFFIRMS** its commitment to public private partnerships in the development of Africa's mineral resources;
11. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank

(AfDB) and stakeholders, to assist Member States in building their capacity for improved management of mineral resources for the attainment of broad based socio-economic development;

12. **CALLS ON** the international community and Africa's development partners to support the efforts of Member States towards enhancing the contributions of their mineral resources sector to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the eradication of poverty and the promotion of sustainable economic growth and development;
13. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up on the implementation of this Decision and to report regularly to the Executive Council.



**DECISION ON THE SECOND SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE (CAMC II)
Doc. EX.CL/475 (XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Second Session of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Culture (CAMC II) held in Algiers, Algeria, from 17 to 23 October 2008;
2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Conference, including the Algiers Declaration of CAMC II on “Harmonization and Coordination of Cultural Policies, Programmes and Activities” and the Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries;
3. **CALLS UPON** the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), other relevant United Nations (UN) Agencies and Africa’s development partners to support the implementation of the recommendations of CAMC II, including the Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries;
4. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the Third Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Culture in 2010;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on the implementation of the outcomes of CAMC II and to coordinate the various cultural events and activities on the Continent and report regularly to the Executive Council.



**DECISION ON THE FIRST SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Doc. EX.CL/477(XIV)**

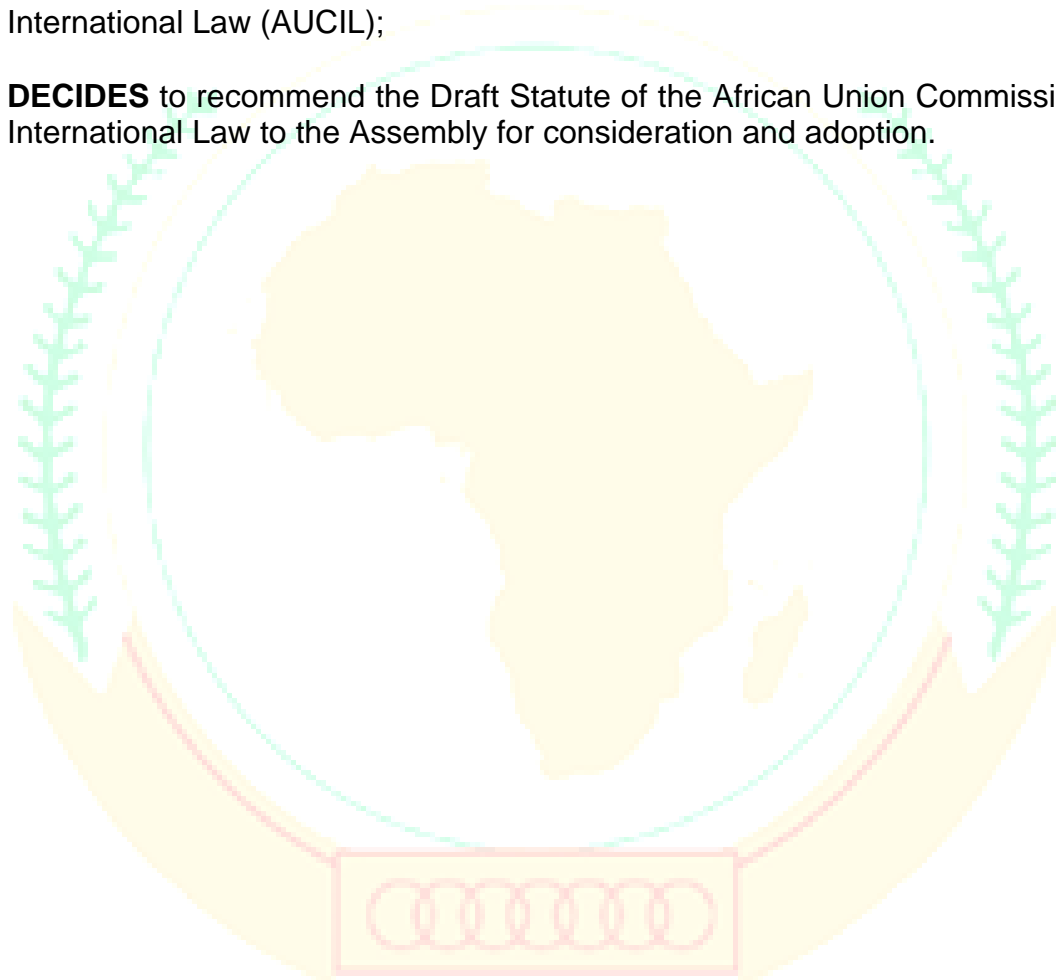
The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the First Session of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 27 to 31 October 2008;
2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Conference, and in particular:
 - (i) the Social Policy Framework for Africa;
 - (ii) the Windhoek Declaration on Social Development; and
 - (iii) the African Common Position on Social Integration;
3. **ALSO ENDORSES** the recommendation to institutionalize the Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development and that the Conference be convened every two (2) years;
4. **REAFFIRMS** previous commitments to human and social development, in particular, the African Social Charter, the African Common Position on Human and Social Development, the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Copenhagen World Summit on Social Development, the outcome of the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, the Banjul Decision on the Enactment of Legislation for Organizing and Ensuring Respect for Social Life in Africa, and other AU decisions on promoting the family in Africa and improving the standard of living, human rights, peace, security and good governance;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to expedite the presentation of these Decisions and Declarations to the next Session of the AU Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development;
6. **MANDATES** the Chairperson of the First Session of the AU Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development to present the African Common Position on Social Integration to the Forty-Seventh Session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development to be held in February 2009;
7. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Republic of The Sudan to host the Second Session of the AU Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development in 2010;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up on the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference and to report thereon to the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE DRAFT STATUTE OF THE AFRICAN
UNION COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW
Doc. EX.CL/478(XIV)a**

The Executive Council:

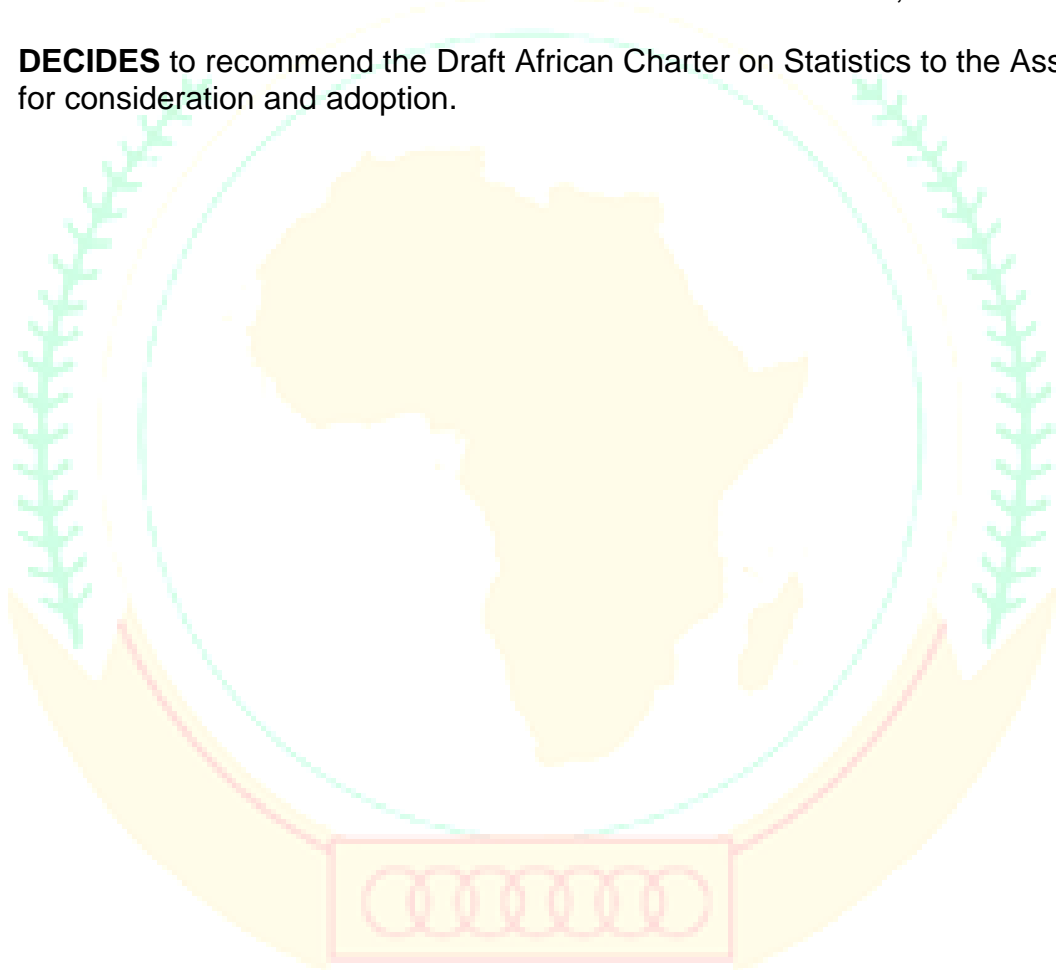
1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and recommendations of the Conference of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General held in Kigali, Rwanda from 27 October to 4 November 2008;
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Draft Statute of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL);
3. **DECIDES** to recommend the Draft Statute of the African Union Commission on International Law to the Assembly for consideration and adoption.



DECISION ON THE DRAFT AFRICAN CHARTER ON STATISTICS
Doc. EX.CL/478(XIII)b

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and recommendations of the Conference of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General held in Kigali, Rwanda from 27 October to 4 November 2008;
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Draft African Charter on Statistics;
3. **DECIDES** to recommend the Draft African Charter on Statistics to the Assembly for consideration and adoption.

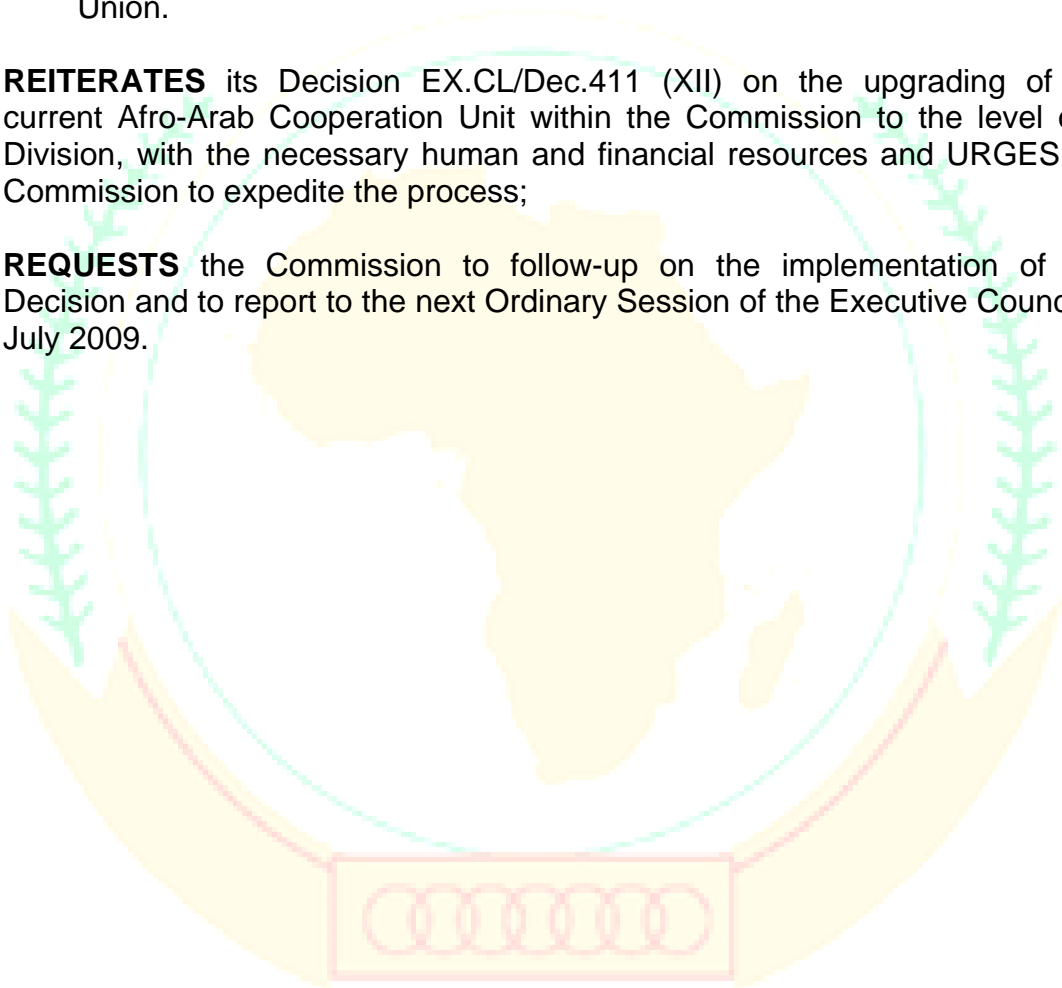


DECISION ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION
Doc. EX.CL/482 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on Afro-Arab Cooperation;
2. **WELCOMES** the efforts of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to upgrade the annual Inter-Secretariat consultative meetings to college-to-college meetings;
3. **ALSO WELCOMES** the ongoing preparations by the Commission and the League of Arab States of the Second Afro-Arab Summit scheduled to be held in 2009 and **REQUESTS** them to continue consultations on the venue of the Summit before the next session of the Executive Council in July 2009;
4. **ONCE AGAIN WELCOMES** the offer of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to host the Thirteenth Session of the Standing Commission of the Afro-Arab Cooperation and **URGES** the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to determine the dates of the Session in consultation with the host country before the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2009;
5. **ENDORSES** the initiative to create direct working relations between African and Arab Peace and Security Councils and **URGES** the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to develop a viable mechanism to ensure proper coordination between the two organs;
6. **CALLS UPON** the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to expedite the establishment of a Joint Afro-Arab Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Professions, as recommended by the Workshop on the Role of Chambers of Commerce in Promoting Afro-Arab Trade held in Cairo, Egypt from 29 to 30 November 2008;
7. **ENDORSES** the organization of the following events and meetings:
 - (i) First edition of the Afro-Arab Development Forum to be held in an Arab country towards the end of 2009 and **CALLS UPON** African and Arab policy makers, civil society organizations, private sectors, intellectuals and prominent individuals to actively participate at the Forum. Council also **CALLS UPON** the African Development Bank, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Islamic Development Bank and other African and Arab financial institutions to support the organization of the Forum;
 - (ii) Joint Afro-Arab Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Food Security to be held in 2009 and **CALLS UPON** all Member States of the African Union and the League of Arab States to actively participate at the meeting;

- (iii) High-level Experts Meeting on the Prospects of Investment in Africa and the Arab Regions to be held in 2009 and **CALLS UPON** the Commission and the League of Arab States to commence preparations for this important meeting;
 - (iv) Afro-Arab Tournaments and Competitions and **CALLS UPON** the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to facilitate the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sport with the relevant organ of the African Union.
8. **REITERATES** its Decision EX.CL/Dec.411 (XII) on the upgrading of the current Afro-Arab Cooperation Unit within the Commission to the level of a Division, with the necessary human and financial resources and **URGES** the Commission to expedite the process;
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up on the implementation of this Decision and to report to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2009.



**DECISION ON THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL COUNCIL (ECOSOCC)
Doc. EX.CL/483(XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Activity Report of the Commission on the Launch of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC);
2. **COMMENDS** the efforts of the Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Commission in ensuring an early and successful launch of ECOSOCC in Dar-es-Salam, Tanzania, in September 2008 ;
3. **TAKES NOTE** of the subsequent meeting of the Permanent Assembly of ECOSOCC in Abuja, Nigeria, from 16 to 19 December 2008 and the ongoing efforts since its inception aimed at elaborating its rules of procedure, strategic plan and work programme for conducting the remaining elections and for providing an appropriate framework for institution building and a platform for effective contribution to the work of the African Union;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take appropriate measures to support this process and to ensure the operationalisation of ECOSOCC;
5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the Bureau of ECOSOCC and its General Assembly, to take the necessary measures to facilitate the completion of the process of election in Member States where such elections have not yet taken place;
6. **APPEALS** to all Member States to provide adequate support and resources for the effective operationalization of ECOSOCC.

**DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE
DOC. EX.CL/486(XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine; and **RECALLS** all resolutions and decisions adopted by the OAU/AU on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East;
2. **REITERATES** its full support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), their sole and legitimate representative, to obtain their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, return to their homeland and to their property, and to live in peace and stability in an Independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital, in accordance with the principle of international law, all pertinent United Nations (UN) Resolutions, particularly resolution 194, which calls for the return of refugees to their homeland and properties, and the resolutions and decisions of the OAU/AU;
3. **REAFFIRMS** its support to end the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully and on the basis of the principles of international law and all relevant resolutions; and **CALLS UPON** Israel to end their occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories;
4. **REQUESTS** the United Nations (UN) Security Council to shoulder its major responsibilities under its charter in maintaining international peace and security in order to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace; and **CALLS UPON** the international community to exert pressure on Israel;
5. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the barbaric attacks launched by the Israeli forces on the Gaza Strip resulting in the death and injuries of thousand of innocent civilians as well as massive destruction of property; and **CALLS ON** the UN Security Council to carry out investigations into the violations of human rights and war crimes perpetrated during these aggressions, including the use of prohibited weapons with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice;
6. **URGES** Israel to immediately and unconditionally withdraw from the occupied areas;
7. **CALLS UPON** Israel to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 1860, which calls for “an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire” and lifting of the siege imposed on Gaza by ensuring “the sustained reopening of the crossing points on the basis of the 2005 agreement”; as well as “the unimpeded provision and distribution throughout Gaza of humanitarian assistance, including food, fuel and medical treatment”;
8. **WELCOMES** the Egyptian initiative as a mechanism for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1860, and which also calls for an immediate ceasefire, the lifting of the siege and to guarantee international protection for civilians;

9. **EXPRESSES** its support for the negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides in order to reach a peaceful, comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, and **CALLS UPON** Israel to accept the International efforts aimed at establishing the independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital, and to respond to the demands of the International Community;
10. **WELCOMES** the Arab Summit's Resolution adopted in Damascus and all the efforts made by sisterly and friendly countries particularly the sustained and sincere efforts deployed by the Arab Republic of Egypt;
11. **EXPRESSES** its profound appreciation for the efforts made by the Palestinian leadership for the achievement of peace;
12. **DEMANDS** that the Israeli Government stops all unilateral measures and decisions aimed and designed to create a new reality in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, particularly the continuous building of illegal settlements as a new geopolitical reality; and **FURTHER DEMANDS** that the Israeli Government immediately ceases all settlement activities in the Palestinian Occupied Territories and to remove the Apartheid Separation Wall that was built on an Occupied Palestinian Territory, as well as to comply with the decision of the International Court of Justice and the UN General Assembly Resolution in this regard; and **URGES** the International Community to exert pressure on Israel to stop all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories;
13. **CONDEMNS** Israel for its continued excavations around and under the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the deliberate destruction of places of archaeological significance and heritage in the city of Al-Quds (Jerusalem); and **DEMANDS** that all countries, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Committee of Global Archaeology take severe sanctions against Israel for its provocative measures that constitute a dangerous threat for the global archaeological treasure;
14. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** regarding the worsening humanitarian situation and increasing sanitary and economic deterioration in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip, due to the constant siege, ongoing daily Israeli invasions, restrictions on the movement of persons and constant closures and blockades of the Palestinian commercial crossing points with neighboring countries; and **DEMANDS** that the Israeli authorities remove them immediately and without delay and to re-open all crossing points;
15. **DENOUNCES** the repressive practices and policies, particularly the continuous invasions, daily assassinations, brutal assaults, the demolitions and arrests committed against civilians, innocent and defenceless people in the Palestinian Occupied Territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) its capital, that claimed hundreds of lives during the past months;
16. **EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** over the deterioration of the living and health conditions of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails;

DENOUNCES and **CONDEMNS** all Israeli inhuman practices against prisoners and detainees;

17. **FINALLY CALLS UPON** the Government of Israel to put an end to its occupation of all Arab lands occupied since 1967, including the Syrian and Lebanese territories, and to abide by the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, the Madrid Declaration, the Land for Peace Principle, and the Road Map, in order to reach a just, comprehensive, lasting and peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli Conflict.



DECISION ON THE STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ACCELERATED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA
Doc. EX.CL/476 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

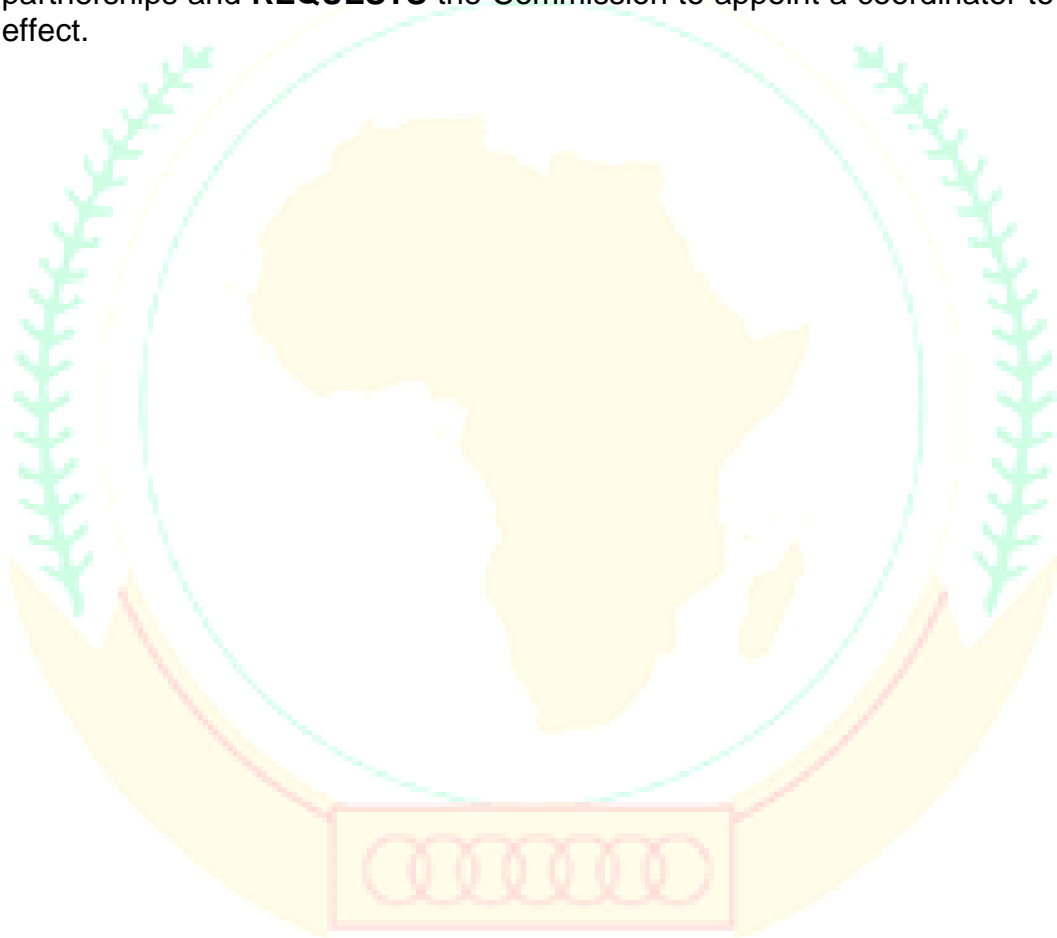
1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the First Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Union (AU) Ministers of Industry/Eighteenth Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI-18);
2. **ENDORSES** the Strategy for the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa;
3. **ALSO ENDORSES** the Declaration adopted by the Conference of AU/African Ministers of Industry held in Durban, South Africa on 28 October 2008;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), to organize regional meetings in Africa for the dissemination of the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa and the Strategy for the Implementation;
5. **REQUESTS** Member States, the RECs, private sector institutions and operators, development partners and other stakeholders, to take necessary measures for the effective implementation of the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa;
6. **UNDERSCORES** the importance of availing the necessary financial resources for the operationalisation of the Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa, and **CALLS** on Member States to dedicate adequate national resources for industrial development;
7. **ALSO CALLS** on the Commission, the RECs and other African and international institutions to assist in the mobilization of resources for Africa's industrial development through, inter alia, the development of appropriate financial instruments and mechanisms;
8. **WELCOMES** the offer made by the Arab Republic of Egypt for five hundred (500) scholarships to other African Countries in the different sectors of industry as well as the launching of the South-South Industrial Cooperation Centre;
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with UNIDO, to submit to the Executive Council, every two years, progress reports on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa.

**DECISION ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION
DOC. EX. CL/462 (XIV)**

The Executive Council;

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the activities relating to multilateral cooperation and various partnerships;
2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in the preparation for the various summits scheduled to take place during the year 2009;
3. **RECALLS** that these partnerships are vital to the process of Africa's development and **URGES** for maximum preparation in order for Africa to fully appropriate the benefits and opportunities of these partnerships;
4. **FURTHER RECALLS** the successful conduct of the Africa-Turkey Partnership Summit that was held in Istanbul, Turkey in August 2008;
5. **CALLS ON** Member States to fully participate in the implementation of the outcomes of the Africa-Turkey Partnership Summit, the Africa-India Forum Summit, and TICAD IV;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to work closely with the relevant AU organs with a view to concluding the joint plan of action of the Africa-India Forum Summit, and to develop that relating to the Africa-Turkey Partnership Summit in order to derive maximum and concrete benefits;
7. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the concrete proposals made by India with ear-marked funding within the framework of the Africa-India Forum Summit;
8. **ALSO NOTES** the proposal by the Venezuelan Government to host the Second Africa-South America Summit in August 2009, in Venezuela and **REQUESTS** the Commission to liaise with the host with the view to proposing specific dates;
9. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the proposal by the Commission and the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Conference to review the draft Agreement between them, approved by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 2000, and **REQUESTS** that the outcome be brought to the attention of this Council in due course;
10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to conclude the global review, study of all the existing partnerships and report to the next Session of the Executive Council in July 2009, and **DIRECTS** that no new partnership be considered until the review has been concluded;
11. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly that the partnership summits scheduled to take place this year be held as follows:
 - i. Africa-South America Summit, during the month of August 2009, with the specific date being agreed through consultation;

- ii. Africa-Diaspora Summit later in the year 2009, in South Africa, at a date to be mutually agreed upon with the host country;
 - iii. The Second Afro-Arab Summit on a date to be agreed upon.
12. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take all necessary measures to participate in the preparation and holding of future meetings of the partnerships with China and Japan, as per previous decisions on this issue;
13. **STRESSES** the need to ensure harmony of strategies within various partnerships and **REQUESTS** the Commission to appoint a coordinator to that effect.



**DECISION ON THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION
STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2012
EX.CL/454 (XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the presentation by the Commission of the Draft Strategic Plan 2009-2012 and the comments and observations of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) contained in document PRC/Rpt(XVII);
2. **COMMENDS** the Commission for the work carried out and the quality of the Strategic Plan document and **STRESSES** the need for the Commission to work closely with the PRC in order to finalize this document;
3. **ACCEPTS**, in principle, the missions and objectives of the African Union Commission on which the African Union Strategic Plan for the period 2004-2007 is built;
4. **REAFFIRMS** that, in order to achieve continental integration, the Commission, Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the other AU organs, key partners and stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector must work in synergy, on the basis of shared values of the Union;
5. **AUTHORIZES** the Chairperson of the Commission to take appropriate measures to ensure that support structures, programs, projects and budgets drawn up from the former Strategic Plan 2004 – 2007 are carried out appropriately, pending the adoption of the 2009-2012 Strategic Plan;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the PRC to submit the Plan to the next Ordinary Sessions of the Executive Council and Assembly in July 2009 for final adoption.

**DECISION ON THE TWENTY FIFTH ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN
COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
Doc. EX.CL/490 (XIV)**

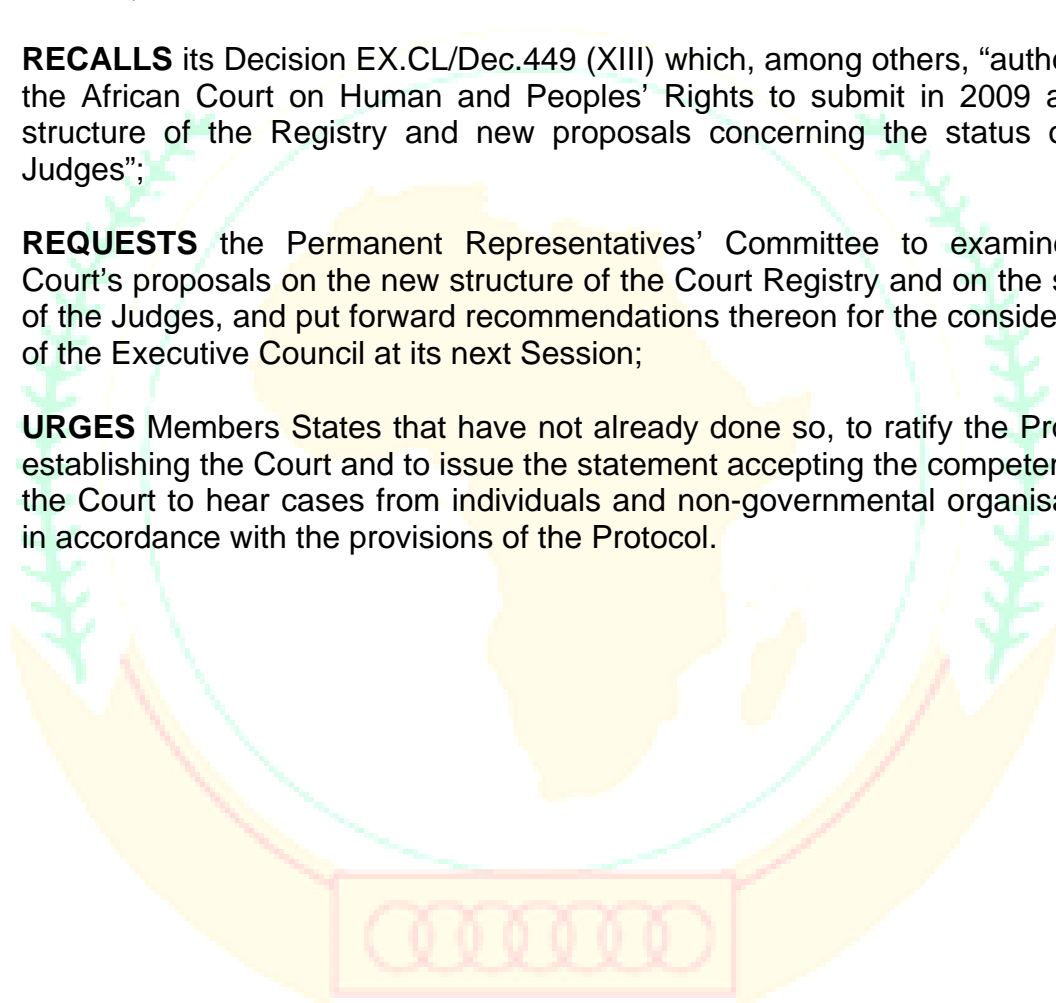
The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Twenty-Fifth Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR);
2. **ADOPTS** and **AUTHORIZES**, in accordance with Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter), the publication of the Twenty-Fifth Activity Report of the ACHPR and its annexes;
3. **COMMENDS** the ACHPR for its accomplishments in the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in 2008 and **URGES** that it continues to pursue and intensify its efforts in this regard;
4. **REQUESTS** the ACHPR to identify possible ways to overcome shortcomings in the functioning of the communications mechanism that might result from, inter alia, human and financial resources constraints, as previously referred to in paragraph eleven (11) of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.200(XI);
5. **REITERATES** its request to the ACHPR to present a report on this issue in accordance with paragraph 12 of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.200(XI) and **FURTHER UNDERSCORES** the importance of addressing effectively and promptly these issues in order to support the ACHPR in discharging its mandate in the most efficient, professional and objective manner;
6. **ADOPTS** the new structure of the Secretariat of the ACHPR proposed by the PRC and **CALLS UPON** the relevant Departments of the African Union Commission (AUC) to ensure the implementation of this structure in accordance with the relevant AU Rules and Regulations;
7. **COMMENDS** the ACHPR for finalising its Interim Rules of Procedure and transmitting the Rules to stakeholders, including States Parties to the African Charter;
8. **CALLS ON** the ACHPR and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to expedite the harmonization of their respective Rules with a view to enhancing the protection of human rights in Africa;
9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the ACHPR to report on the implementation of this decision to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN
COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
Doc. EX.CL/489 (XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Activity Report of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights for the year 2008;
2. **CONGRATULATES** the Court on the progress achieved in the discharge of its mission;
3. **RECALLS** its Decision EX.CL/Dec.449 (XIII) which, among others, "authorizes the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to submit in 2009 a new structure of the Registry and new proposals concerning the status of the Judges";
4. **REQUESTS** the Permanent Representatives' Committee to examine the Court's proposals on the new structure of the Court Registry and on the status of the Judges, and put forward recommendations thereon for the consideration of the Executive Council at its next Session;
5. **URGES** Members States that have not already done so, to ratify the Protocol establishing the Court and to issue the statement accepting the competence of the Court to hear cases from individuals and non-governmental organisations in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol.



**DECISION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES FOR POSTS
WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM
Doc. EX.CL/Dec.485 (XIII)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures;
2. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained therein;
3. **ENDORSES** the following candidatures:
 - (i) The Republic of Cameroon for re-election as member of the United Nations Human Rights Council for the 2009-2012 ;
 - (ii) The Republic of Kenya for election as member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, for the 2009-2012 period;
 - (iii) The Republic of Mauritius for re-election as member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, for the 2009-2012 period;
 - (iv) The Federal Republic of Nigeria for re-election as member of the United Nations Human Rights Council for the 2009-2012 period;
 - (v) The Republic of Senegal for re-election as member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, for the 2009-2012 period;
 - (vi) The Republic of Djibouti for re-election as member of the United Nations Human Rights Council for the 2009 – 2012 period;
 - (vii) The candidature of the Republic of Kenya as member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
 - (viii) The Republic of Cameroon as member of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Industrial Development Council and the Programme and Budget Committee.
4. **DECIDES** that the candidatures of Nigeria, Togo and Sierra Leone for non-permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council, as well as the candidature of Cameroon as member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) be considered at subsequent sessions of the Ministerial Committee prior to the elections;
5. **ENDORSES** the following candidatures:
 - (i) Dr Kandeh Yumkella of Sierra Leone for re-election to the post of Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);
 - (ii) Ambassador Papa Louis Fall of Senegal for re-election as member of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU);

- (iii) Dr. Kanayo F. Nwanze of Nigeria for the post of President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
- (iv) Ambassador Abdul Samad Minty of South Africa for the post of Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

6. **TAKES NOTE** of the Algiers Declaration adopted by the Second Conference of Ministers of Culture held in Algiers, Algeria, from 19 to 23 October 2008, which endorsed the candidature of Dr. Hosni Faruk, Minister of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the post of Director General of the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).



**DECISION ON ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN
UNION ADVISORY BOARD ON CORRUPTION
Doc. EX.CL/492(XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Election for Membership of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption;
2. **ELECTS** the following members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption:

	Names	Country
1.	Mr. Nabil HATTALI	(Algeria)
2.	Ms. Dorothy Nyagoha ANGOTE	(Kenya)
3.	Ms. Frene GINWALA	(South Africa)
4.	Ms. Henriette Tall DIOP	(Senegal)
5.	Mr. Léonidas HAVYARIMANA	(Burundi)
6.	Mr. Costantinos Berhé TESFU	(Ethiopia)
7.	Ms. Jane Mayemu ANSAH	(Malawi)
8.	Mr. Simon-Pierre NZOBABELA	(Congo)
9.	Mr. Mazou Seidou ADAMOU	(Niger)
10.	Mr. James KAHOOZA	(Uganda)
11.	Mr. Paulus Kalonho NOA	(Namibia)

3. **RECOMMENDS** the elected Members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption to the Assembly for appointment.

**DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
TRUST FUND FOR AFRICAN WOMEN
Doc.EX.CL/DEC 445 (XIV)**

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the delay in implementing the Executive Council Decision (Ex.CL/Dec 445 (XIII)) on the Establishment of the Trust Fund for African Women; and
2. **CALLS ON** the African Development Bank, in collaboration with other institutions to take urgent action to implement this decision.



DECISION ON THE AFRICAN UNION GENDER POLICY**The Executive Council:**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers in charge of Gender and Women's Affairs held in Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho from 15 to 19 December 2008;
2. **ENDORSES** the Maseru Declaration on the African Union (AU) Gender Policy;
3. **ADOPTS** the Gender Policy¹ as an instrument that will accelerate the empowerment of women and the achievement of gender equality, and thereby facilitate the implementation of Art. 4(I) of the Constitutive Act on Gender Equality; the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), and other global commitments adopted by Member States;
4. **RECOMMENDS** that the Assembly institutionalizes the Conference of AU Ministers in charge of Gender and Women's Affairs;
5. **FURTHER RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly to declare 2010 to 2020 as the Decade for African Women, and **REQUESTS** Member States, the AU Organs, and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to develop and support activities, and avail the necessary resources for the Decade;
6. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit the AU Gender Policy and the related documents to the AU Policy Organs for adoption at the January 2009 Summit and report to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly on the implementation thereof.

¹ Reservations entered by the Arab Republic of Egypt

DECISION ON THE COMORIAN ISLAND OF MAYOTTE**The Executive Council:**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Government of the Union of the Comoros on the situation in the Comorian Island of Mayotte;
2. **RECALLS** all the previous resolutions of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the Comorian Island of Mayotte and **RECALLS ALSO** that the Comorian people, at the referendum of 22 December 1974, expressed their will for independence in the political unity and the territorial integrity of the archipelago of the Comoros;
3. **CONSIDERS** that the referendums organized on 8 February 1976 and 11 April 1976 by the former colonial power in the Comorian Island of Mayotte constitute a serious violation of the territorial integrity of the Comoros and **ALSO CONSIDERS** that the inclusion of the Comorian Island of Mayotte in the Constitution of the French Republic is contrary to international law;
4. **CONDEMNS** the organization on 29 March 2009 of a referendum on the departmentalise of the Comorian Island of Mayotte and **DEMANDS** an immediate end to that process;
5. **REAFFIRMS** that the Comorian Island of Mayotte belongs to the Union of the Comoros;
6. **REQUESTS** for the immediate establishment of a dialogue between the Union of the Comoros and France in order to determine together the modalities for the return of Mayotte to the Union of the Comoros;
7. **DECIDES** to reactivate the Ad-Hoc Committee of Seven on the Comorian Island of Mayotte.



DECLARATION ON PALESTINE

The Executive Council meeting in its 14th Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

Deeply dismayed and shocked by the recent air, ground and sea aggression launched by the Israeli forces on the Palestinian territory of Gaza, which cost the lives of more than a thousand people and accounted for thousands of wounded among the innocent civilian populations including women, children and elderly people as well as the massive destruction of property, thus depriving Gaza of the most basic services;

Considering the brutality and the massive, indiscriminate and disproportionate nature of this aggression and gravely shocked by the bombing of a school run by the United Nations Agency in charge of Palestinian refugees in Jabaliya in the North of Gaza, in flagrant violation of the norms of international humanitarian law;

Also gravely concerned by the catastrophic humanitarian situation created by the Israeli aggression in Gaza;

Considering that such an aggression has created new tension in the region which has undermined the efforts deployed by the international community in a bid to find a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

1. **CONDEMN**S in no uncertain terms the Israeli aggression and **CALLS ON** the United Nations Security Council to carry out an investigation into the serious violation of human rights and war crimes observed during the said aggression, and the use of banned weapons in order that the perpetrators are prosecuted and punished;
2. **WELCOMES** the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of Resolution 1860 which “calls for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire, leading to full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza”;
3. **WELCOMES** the ceasefire following the adoption of the said resolution and **INVITES** them to observe it in order to create conditions that are most conducive to a lasting solution to the conflict;
4. **RENEWS** its support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their fundamental rights, including the right to existence as an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital;
5. **URGES** Israel to put an end to its aggression against the Palestinian people, lift the embargo it has imposed on them and open without delay all the border crossings to allow for the free movement of goods and persons and most importantly humanitarian aid;
6. **INVITES** the international community to provide urgent and appropriate assistance for the reconstruction of Gaza.