

## DECISION ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF AFRICA CDC

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Assembly Decision/AU/Dec.554 (XXIV) adopted at the 24th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, whereby the Assembly of the Union decided on the establishment of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the Executive Council Decisions EX.CL/Dec.1106(XXXVII) and EX.CL/Dec.1110(XXXVII I) which respectively **REQUESTED** and **INSTRUCTED** the African Union Commission to: *“prepare a report, including a road map and Framework of Operations, outlining the financial, legal and structural implications to fully operationalize the Africa CDC in line with its Statute, for submission to the Council through the AU Policy Organs”*.
3. **REAFFIRMS** its commitment and determination to strengthen the functioning, capacity and capability of Africa CDC, at both the secretariat and regional coordinating center levels, for better preparedness and response to health emergencies and disease threats including the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. **RECOGNIZES** that disease outbreaks are a serious health, security, economic, and development threat to Africa.
5. **REITERATES** that the Africa CDC urgently requires additional expertise and capacity to provide optimal support as envisaged in its mandate and in response to the increasing expectations and requests from AU Member States.
6. **DECIDES** to upgrade the current *AU COVID-19 Response Fund* into the *Africa Epidemics Fund* to mobilize resources for preparedness and response to disease threats on the continent **AND DIRECTS** the Commission to develop a framework of governance and management of the Africa Epidemics Fund in accordance with the AU FRR with the Africa CDC as Secretariat.
7. **TAKES NOTE** of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1146(XL) of February 2022 and **DECIDES** to delegate its authority to the Executive Council to consider during its next Session, the endorsement of amendments to the Africa CDC Statute in line with its financial, structural and legal implications and taking into account the following recommendations:
  - (i) that, the Africa CDC shall be an autonomous Body of the Union which is charged with the responsibility of prevention and Control of Diseases in Africa
  - (ii) a new governance structure that allows for strategic leadership and ownership by Member States at the highest level of Heads of State and

- Government, or their duly nominated/delegated representative.
- (iii) the Africa CDC Secretariat to be headed by a Director General at a proper grade
- (iv) Put in place modalities for full implementation of the Africa CDC Statute

**8. DIRECTS** the Commission to report on the implementation of this decision through the relevant AU Policy Organs.