

## DECISION ON THE CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

### The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** with appreciation of the presentation made on the progress achieved on the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) in Africa;
2. **REAFFIRMS** its decision of fast tracking the establishment of the CFTA for Africa's economic freedom and meaningful participation in the global trading system;
3. **DECIDES** to establish a High Level Panel of five (5) eminent persons (one from each region) to champion the fast tracking of the CFTA;
4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to:
  - i) Formulate, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), recommendations and submit thereon to the next ordinary session of the Assembly scheduled for January 2017;
  - ii) Prepare and circulate to Member States draft negotiating texts on trade in goods and in services to be used for national consultations with a view to soliciting inputs from governments and to guide the work of the CFTA Negotiating Forum in order to fast track the negotiations of the CFTA;
  - iii) Present feasible options on how to eliminate non-trade barriers among African countries to foster intra-African trade.
5. **CALLS ON** Member States to speak with one voice on all issues related to trade negotiations with third parties;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report on the implementation of this decision at the next ordinary session of the Assembly scheduled for January 2017.