

**DECISION ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL
FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)
Doc. Assembly/AU/3(XXXI)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the Report of H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, Leader of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and the recommendations thereof on the progress achieved on the establishment of the AfCFTA;
2. **RECALLS** Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1(X) adopted in Kigali, Rwanda, in March 2018, which requested the African Union Ministers of Trade to submit the Annexes to the Protocol on Trade in Goods, Annexes to the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes, and the List of Priority Sectors on Trade in Services to the July 2018 Session of the Assembly for adoption;
3. **ADOPTS** the five (5) services priority sectors: transport, communication, tourism, financial and business services;
4. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of African Union Ministers of Trade to undertake national and regional consultations on the lists of sensitive products and exclusion and **REQUESTS** them to come up with a conclusive recommendation on this matter for consideration by the February 2019 Summit;
5. **COMMENDS** the African Union Ministers of Trade (AMOT), Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Justice and Legal Affairs and the Commission for their efforts to conclude Annexes to the Protocol on Trade in Goods and Annexes to the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes;
6. **WELCOMES** the signatures and ratifications of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area and its Protocols and **STRONGLY URGES** all other Member States who have not done so to sign and ratify the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA before its first anniversary;
7. **DECIDES** to celebrate the entry into force of the AfCFTA during the 1st Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to be held in Niamey, Niger in June/July 2019;
8. **COMMITTS** to undertake broad-based national awareness campaigns so that all stakeholders such as ordinary citizens and business people across Africa embrace the AfCFTA;
9. **FURTHER COMMITTS** to engage external partners as one block speaking with one voice and **URGES** Member States to abstain from entering into bilateral trading arrangements until the entry into force of the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA;

10. **MANDATES** the Commission to organize a Civil Society Forum and a Private Sector Forum preceding the June/July 2019 Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in Niamey, Niger in order to enhance stakeholder engagement on the implementation of the AfCFTA;
11. **FURTHER COMMITS** to establish National Committees on AfCFTA to ensure meaningful participation of all stakeholders and come up with national AfCFTA and Boosting Intra-African trade strategies;
12. **REQUESTS** the Commission to:
 - (i) develop a template on the operation of national AfCFTA committees by January 2019;
 - (ii) develop regulatory cooperation in all services sectors in collaboration with national and regional regulators and building on continental and global experiences.
13. **REITERATES ITS DIRECTIVE** to the AU Ministers responsible for Trade to:
 - (i) submit the Schedules of Tariff Concessions, and Schedules of Specific Commitments on Trade in Services in line with agreed modalities to the February 2019 Assembly for adoption;
 - (ii) conclude the negotiations on Competition Policy, Investment and Intellectual Property Rights, and submit the draft legal texts to the January 2020 Session of the Assembly for adoption through the Specialised Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.
14. **REQUESTS** the AfCFTA Leader, H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger to submit a progress report on the AfCFTA to the February 2019 Summit.