

DECISION ON THE REPORTS OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEES (STCs)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the reports of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs);
2. **RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.1032(XXXIV) regarding the moratorium on the creation of new bodies and offices;
3. **STRESSES** that the present decision should not bear any financial, legal and structural implications to the Union and **FURTHER CALLS UPON** the STCs and all technical ministerial councils and meetings to refrain from adopting any structures or budgets that were not considered by the policy Organs through due process;
4. **REQUESTS** that all STCs adopt their reports at the end of their meeting.
 - I. **ON THE 6TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, 1 MARCH 2022 Doc. EX.CL/1349(XLI)**
5. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the 6th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment held on 01 March 2022;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that the establishment of the Trust Fund for African Women follows the due processes of the Union.
 - II. **ON THE 4TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (STC-SDLE4), 7-8 APRIL 2022 – Doc. EX.CL/1350(XLI)**

The Executive Council,

7. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the 4th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment of the African Union (STC-SDLE4), held virtually from 4 to 8 April 2022, and recommendations contained therein;
8. **NOTES** that the following do not have any financial, legal and structural implications:
 - i) Revised Draft Strategic Policy Framework and Plan of Action on ageing;
 - ii) Five-year Strategy of the AU Saleema Initiative on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation;

- iii) Draft Terms of Reference of the African Social Security and Cooperation Forum (ASSCCF);
 - iv) Draft Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers;
 - v) Draft Guidelines on Establishing Integrated Labour Market Information Systems;
 - vi) Draft Guidelines on Bilateral Labour Agreements (BLAs);
9. **RECOMMENDS** that the following be submitted to the relevant STCs for consideration:
- Draft AU Accountability Framework to End Harmful Practices;
 - Draft Guidelines on the Development of a Model Migrant Welfare Programme/System;
 - AU Strategy and Plan of Action on Ending Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA);
 - Five years Strategy of the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa;
 - Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant workers;
10. **CALLS UPON** Member States that have not signed, acceded to and ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of on Older Persons in Africa, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa and Social Protection and Social Security to do so;
11. **COMMITTS** to take appropriate measures for the implementation of the African Union Comprehensive Socio-economic and Environmental Response to the COVID-19 Health Pandemic;
12. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to step up national measures to domesticate, implement and report on polices on ageing, disabilities, ending child marriage, FGM, online sexual exploitation of children, Harmful Practices Accountability Framework and Social Agenda 2063;
13. **CALLS UPON** Member States to accelerate the domestication and reporting on the African Union Plan of Action and Implementation Strategy on Ending Attacks and Other Human Rights Violations Targeting Persons with Albinism in Africa;
14. **RECOGNIZES** the pressing need to strengthen national labour migration governance guided by the AU instruments, including Bilateral Labour Agreements, Model Migrant Welfare Programme, Integrated Labour Market Information Systems, and Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers;
15. **REQUESTS** the Commission to:

- i. set-up the African Social Security and Cooperation Forum (ASSCCF) as an important platform for post-Covid-19 response and recovery strategy;
 - ii. commence the process to galvanize support for the implementation the AU labour migration governance instruments adopted by STC-SDLE4 held on 04-08 April 2022.
- III. ON THE 4TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION, REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS, 23-24 MAY 2022 – Doc. EX.CL/1351(XLI)**
- 16. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the 4th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (STC-MRI) held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 23-24 May 2022, and the recommendations contained therein;
 - 17. **CONGRATULATES** the government of Equatorial Guinea and the Commission for hosting and organizing a successful Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference;
 - 18. **APPRECIATES** the Assembly Declaration of the Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference Ext/Assembly/AU/Decl.(XV), and **CALLS UPON** Member States, the Commission and relevant partners to engage in its implementation;
 - 19. **FURTHER APPRECIATES** the commitments and financial pledges made by Member States and partners towards humanitarian needs in Africa and **CALLS UPON** Member States and partners who have not yet pledged to consider doing so;
 - 20. **MANDATES** the Commission, in its role as the promoter of the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI), to coordinate the continental agenda on migration and climate change, as well as spearhead programs and activities to support Member States and the RECs on climate change, forced displacements and migration;
 - 21. **ADOPTS** the recommendations of the following background papers related to the Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference;
 - i. Climate Change, Disasters, and Forced Displacement in Africa;
 - ii. Food Security and Nutrition situation in Humanitarian Situations in Africa;
 - iii. Covid-19 and Health Challenges in Humanitarian space in Africa;
 - iv. Post Conflict Reconstruction Development for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;
 - v. Resource Mobilization and Financing for Humanitarian Action in Africa;
 - 22. **TAKES NOTE** of the following documents and their recommendations without any financial, legal and structural implications:

- i) Progress Report on the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence, and Right of Establishment;
- ii) Progress Report on the establishment of African Migration Centres in Bamako, Khartoum, and Rabat;
- iii) Policy document on the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Africa;
- iv) Policy document on the Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) in Africa;
- v) Report of the Experts 6th Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFOM);
- vi) Policy Orientation on AU-EU-UN Taskforce: Addressing Irregular Migration in Africa and Policy Trajectory;
- vii) Policy Orientation of the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) and Policy Trajectory;
- viii) Update Report of the AU-EU Summit in Brussels and the AU-EU Foreign Affairs Ministerial meeting in Kigali;
- ix) Policy Orientation on Return, Readmission, and Reintegration;
- x) Updates on the Progress of the Implementation of the GCM in Africa including the Status of the Draft Plan of Action on GCM;

23. CALLS UPON the Member States that have not yet ratified the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment to do so as soon as possible to enable the instrument to enter into force;

24. REQUESTS the Commission to:

- i) develop an implementation plan for the outcomes of the Extra-Ordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference and submit the same for validation and approval by the relevant organs;
- ii) submit the Draft Statutes of the African Humanitarian Agency to the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs for its consideration;
- iii) submit the relevant documents for the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency related to finance and staffing of the Agency to the PRC Sub-Committee on Structural Reforms and PRC Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters for their consideration;
- iv) establish a Special Fund into which the humanitarian pledges will be deposited;
- v) submit the structure and operationalization process of the Special Fund for adoption by the Policy Organs via the PRC and its relevant Sub-Committees and within the regulation of the AU Financial Rules and the SRR;

- vi) design a popularization strategy that will help promote the Free Movement Programme at the national, regional, and continental levels for increased signatures and ratifications;
- vii) fast-track the operationalization of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration in Mali, the African Migration Observatory in Morocco, and the Continental Operational Centre in Sudan;
- viii) coordinate the continental agenda on migration and climate change, as well as spearhead programs and activities to support the Member States and the RECs on climate change, forced displacements, and migration;
- ix) develop a 5-year plan of action for the approved Draft Policy on the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Africa and submit the same for the Member States' validation and approval;
- x) develop a 5-year plan of action to the approved Policy on the Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants in Africa and submit the same for Member States validation and approval;
- xi) fast-track the establishment of relevant working groups of the forum to implement PAFOM reports, including their respective plans of actions;
- xii) expedite the process of revising the Draft Plan of Action on the implementation of the GCM in Africa that takes inputs from the outcome of the International Review Forum on Migration (IMRF) and submit the same to the next STC for validation and endorsement;
- xiii) expedite the process of revitalizing and enhancing the work of the task force in line with Declaration of the 6th AU-EU Summit of February 2022;
- xiv) develop draft Continental Guidelines on Return, Readmission and Reintegration (RRR) and submit the same for Member States' validation and approval.

IV. ON THE 4TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, POPULATION AND DRUG CONTROL – Doc. EX.CL/1352(XLI)

25. COMMENDS:

- i) the Ministers responsible for Health, Population and Drug Control for the successful holding of the 4th Ordinary Session of their Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control (STC-HPDC) and notable achievements in the areas of health, nutrition, population and drug control;
- ii) the Government and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the hosting the Ministerial session of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the (STC-HPDC) on 04-05 June 2022.

26. TAKES NOTE of the review of the draft amended Statute of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and their onward transmission to the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs.

27. FURTHER TAKES NOTE OF:

- a. of the recommendation to change the name of the STC-HPDC to 'STC on Health, Nutrition, Population and Drug Control' and **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit the recommendation to the Assembly in February 2023;
- b. the report and the recommendations of the 4th Ordinary Session of the STC-HPDC;
 - i) The Campaign Plus on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa from 2022 to 2030;
 - ii) Extension of the Decade of Traditional Medicine from 2022 to 2030;
 - iii) The First Continental Nutrition Report and its recommendations;
 - iv) The Common Africa Position on Population and Development;
 - v) Cairo Declaration on addressing Drug Use and Substance Use Disorders among Youth, Children and Women for consideration by Ministers;

28. ADOPTS the following reports and documents without financial, legal and structural implications:

- a. The report and recommendations of the Fourth Ordinary Session of STC-HPDC; and
- b. the following policy documents:

On Health

- i. Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) Plus Proposal and its Accountability Framework and Action Plan;
- ii. Revised Maternal, New-born and Child Health (MNCH) Taskforce Terms of Reference;
- iii. Mama Afrika Award Concept Note;
- iv. End of decade review report of the Traditional Medicines (TM) (2010 - 2020);
- v. AU Continental Hepatitis Technical Working Group (TWG) Roadmap;
- vi. Continental Framework on the Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases in Africa by the Year 2030;
- vii. Common African Position on Neglected Tropical Diseases;
- viii. The Africa Leadership Meeting on Investing in Health (ALM) Declaration Progress Report;

- ix. Biosafety and Biosecurity Legal Framework;
- x. Legal Framework and Standards for Infection Prevention and Control in Healthcare Facilities;

On Nutrition

- xi. African Union Continental Nutrition Report;
- xii. Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) Study Continental Report;
- xiii. Mid- Term Review Report of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy;
- xiv. African Task Force on Food and Nutrition Development (ATFFND) Terms of Reference (ToR);

On Population

- xv. Common Africa Position (CAP) on Population and Development;

On Drug Control and Crime Prevention

- xvi. Biennial Implementation Report of the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control (2019-2023);
- xvii. Report of the Pan African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (2019-2020);
- xviii. Report of Recommendations from Continental Consultations on Drug Demand Reduction;
- xix. African Civil Society Common Position on Drugs;
- xx. Cairo Declaration on addressing Drug Use and Substance Use Disorders among Youth, Children and Women for consideration by Ministers;
- xxi. Technical Brief on the Role of Traditional Health Practitioners in drug dependency prevention, treatment and care;
- xxii. Technical Brief on implementing Alternatives to Imprisonment/Incarceration;
- xxiii. Technical Brief on accelerating access and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes;
- xxiv. African Union Technical Paper on Cannabis.

V. ON THE 2ND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TRANSCONTINENTAL AND INTERREGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND ENERGY (STC-TTIE), 14-16 JUNE 2022 – Doc. EX.CL/1353(XLI)

29. TAKES NOTE of the report of the 2nd Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, and Energy (STC-TTIE) held by videoconferencing on 14-16 June 2022 and the related declaration;

30. COMMENDS the Ministers responsible for Transport and Energy for the successful holding of the said 2nd Extraordinary Session and achieving notable

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outcomes for the development of the transport, transcontinental and interregional infrastructure, and energy in Africa.

A. African Common Position on Energy Access and Transition:

31. **ENDORSES** the proposed African common position on energy access and transition and request the Commission to work together with Member States to consolidate all the different African proposals on energy access and just energy transition in Africa;
32. **REQUESTS** the Commission to coordinate the submission of the consolidated African Position Paper to the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) for onward transmission to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) for endorsement;
33. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with AFREC, AfDB and UNECA, to work with the Member States to develop national energy transition masterplans and resource mobilization strategies for Member States and RECs, and strategies to accelerate implementation;
34. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, and UNECA to develop and implement a continental framework and programme on technology transfer that will enable the Member States to access, manufacture, adopt, and adapt energy access and transition technologies to their local and national needs;
35. **REQUESTS** Member States to accelerate efforts towards facilitating energy access and transition through the allocation and mobilization of domestic financing, developing carbon markets, the creation of a conducive environment for private sector participation and increased commitment to regional integration of energy markets;
36. **ALSO REQUESTS** Member States to define decarbonization targets through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and accelerate efforts towards decarbonizing and improving energy efficiency in key sectors including transport, electricity, and industrial sectors; subject to receiving the financing pledged at COP26;
37. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission and its continental and regional partners to accelerate the implementation of key initiatives including the Continental Power Systems Masterplan (CMP), Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA-PAP2), the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) and the African Energy Transition Programme (AETP);

38. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with continental and regional institutions to develop a continental programme on green hydrogen to create sustainable and cost-effective domestic and international markets and develop appropriate financing, policy and regulatory frameworks and partnerships with other world regions to develop the technologies;
39. **ALSO REQUESTS** the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) and African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) to accelerate the implementation of appropriate frameworks to utilize nuclear energy and continue to foster cooperation at the regional, continental and global levels to mobilize financing, acquire technologies, enhance skills and expertise, and address the associated risks;
40. **UNDERScores** and **Commends** the initiative for energy access and just transition in Africa proposed by the Arab Republic of Egypt, **SUPPORTS** the preparation for COP27 and **CALLS ON** the Arab Republic of Egypt to champion the African common position going forward;
41. **CALLS ON** partners, stakeholders and potential public and private investors to support Africa's common position for energy access and just transition and to help develop technical and financial instruments and packages to fast-track African's right to universal access to affordable and reliable electricity and clean cooking as well as clean fuel and transport.

B. Impacts of the Russia-Ukraine Crisis on the Infrastructure and Energy Sectors in Africa:

42. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with specialized Pan-African institutions and all relevant stakeholders, to continue monitoring the evolving situation of the Russia-Ukraine crisis and its impact on infrastructure and energy sectors and advise Member States on appropriate mitigation measures and intensify the development of data systems on energy consumption and behaviour in the Continent;
43. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with specialized Pan-African institutions, to coordinate the implementation of the following recommendations to mitigate the impacts of the Russia-Ukraine crisis and to increase and improve Africa's resilience in the face of future shocks/crises:
- i) develop an African Energy Security and Financing Plan that promotes intra-African trade and increased African oil production; refining African crude oil in African refineries and pan-African storage and distribution infrastructure (ports, terminals, maritime transport, rail, etc.);
 - ii) accelerate development of regional gas and electricity projects and infrastructure in Africa to support Africa's energy transition, industrialization,

- clean cooking, agriculture, petrochemicals and open opportunities to the export of natural gas to other markets;
- iii) integrate electrification of railways and other sustainable transportation systems into current development plans to reduce the impact of fluctuations in oil and gas prices on transport costs;
- iv) create interconnected multi-modal logistics zones across the continent to facilitate the movement of goods, reduce transport and distribution costs and reduce storage costs in the continent especially for the African Island States;
- v) develop intra-African shipping lines and/or dedicated regional tanker pools;
- vi) request the Commission, African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) and the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) to undertake a detailed analysis on impacts related to airlines including on interconnectivity and safety, and develop a strategy for the collaboration of African airlines;
- vii) Accelerate implementation of key projects under PIDA PAP2 and African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) to strengthen intra-Africa interconnectivity and tap into the opportunities for energy trade that the Russia-Ukraine Crisis provides for Africa;
- viii) Ensure that partnership agreements and contracts dedicate important clauses and finance for the transfer of technology, technical assistance and training of Africans as well as local, regional and continental level.

C. Transport Sector:

- 44. **APPROVES** the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM Dispute Settlement Mechanism and request AFCAC in collaboration with the Commission and other key partners to establish the SAATM Dispute Settlement Mechanism Administrative Council and Secretariat hosted by AFCAC and reporting to the YD Monitoring Body;
- 45. **ALSO APPROVES** the policy guidelines for the negotiation of the Air Services Agreement between the Member States of the African Union and Non-African States and Regions;
- 46. **REQUESTS** AFCAC to establish an Air Transport Legal Experts Committee to assist in the follow-up on the use of the guidelines and their review;
- 47. **APPROVES** the revised African Civil Aviation Policy and request AFCAC to coordinate its implementation in collaboration with relevant air transport institutions and partners;
- 48. **FURTHER APPROVES** the recommendations of the study on the institutional framework and options for sustainable financing of the African Road Safety Observatory (ARSO);

49. **REQUESTS** the Commission to coordinate the implementation of the study recommendations towards the creation of the ARSO in accordance with Decision EX.CL/Dec.1144(XL), paragraph 17;
50. **REITERATES** its calls to the Member States that have not done so, to accede, ratify and deposit the instrument of ratification of the African Road Safety Charter;
51. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with UNECA to develop an advocacy strategy to urge more Member States to ratify the African Road Safety Charter;
52. **APPROVES** the Maritime Transport Action Plan 2022-2023;
53. **REQUESTS** AFCAC to communicate the proposed African candidates from Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritania, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe to the air transport institutions and other partners for necessary support ahead of the ICAO General Assembly in September 2022.

VI. ON THE 7TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS, 15 JUNE 2022 – Doc. EX.CL/1354(XLI)

54. **TAKES NOTE** of the report and recommendations of the 7th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs (STC-JLA) held virtually from 26 to 29 November 2021 (Meeting of Government Legal Experts) and on 15 June 2022 in hybrid format (in Addis Ababa and via videoconference for the Ministerial Meeting);
55. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Draft Statute of the African Inclusive Markets Excellence Centre (AIMEC) and **DECIDES** to recommend the same to the Assembly for consideration and adoption;
56. **APPROVES** the Draft Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL);
57. **FURTHER APPROVES** in principle a supplementary budget for conducting a physical meeting of the STC-JLA and **DIRECTS** the PRC, assisted by its relevant Sub-Committee, to consider and adopt the required budget.

VII. ON THE 6TH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS, 30 JUNE 2022 – Doc. EX.CL/1355(XLI)

58. **TAKES NOTE** of the report and recommendations of the 6th Extraordinary Session of the STC-JLA held from 28 to 29 June 2022 (Meeting of Government

Legal Experts) and on 4 July 2022 (Ministerial Meeting) in hybrid format (in Addis Ababa and via videoconference) to consider the draft amendments to the Statute of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC);

- 59. RECALLS** Decisions EX.CL/Dec.1106(XXXVII), EX.CL/Dec.1110(XXXVIII) and EX.CL/Dec.1146(XL) on the operationalization of Africa CDC;
- 60. FURTHER RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.835(XXXV), whereby the Assembly delegated its authority to the Executive Council to consider during its 41st Ordinary Session the endorsement of the amendments to the Statute of Africa CDC in line with its financial, structural and legal implications 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 representatives;
 - (iii) the Africa CDC Secretariat to be headed by a Director General at a proper grade; and
 - (iv) to put in place modalities for full implementation of the Statute of Africa CDC;
- 61. APPROVES** the draft amendments to the Statute of Africa CDC;
- 62. ADOPTS** the Draft Revised Statute of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC);
- 63. DIRECTS** the Commission to accelerate the recruitment of the Director General for Africa CDC at SP3 grade.