

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P.O. Box 3243 Telephone: 251-115 517700 Fax:251-115 513036
Website: [www. au.int](http://www.au.int)

ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION
Eleventh Extraordinary Session
17 - 18 November 2018
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1-4(XI)

DECISIONS

DECISION ON THE INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

The Assembly,

I. ON THE REFORM OF THE COMMISSION

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Reform of the AU Commission, based on the outcomes of the 6th Retreat of the Executive Council held on 12-13 September 2018 at the AU Headquarters;
2. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the 20th Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council and its deliberations on the Reform of the Commission;

II. ON THE STRUCTURE AND PORTFOLIOS OF THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP OF THE AU COMMISSION

3. **DECIDES** as follows:
 - (i) That the new structure of the AU Commission shall be composed of eight (8) members as follows: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and six (6) Commissioners;
 - (ii) That the portfolios of the Commissioners shall be as follows:
 - a) Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment;
 - b) Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining;
 - c) Education, Science, Technology and Innovation;
 - d) Infrastructure and Energy;
 - e) Political Affairs, Peace & Security;
 - f) Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development;
4. **DECIDES** to create a non-elected post of Director-General, at the D2 level, to lead the operational co-ordination of the Commission's departments and non-elected staff. The position shall be filled through a competitive and transparent process taking into account gender and equitable regional representation and rotation;
5. **DECIDES** that the title of the current post of the Secretary General shall revert to the Secretary to the Commission;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to propose distinct Terms of Reference specifying the roles of each position within the framework of the new departmental structure of the Commission;
7. **MANDATES** the Chairperson of the Commission to develop a new departmental structure that is lean and performance-oriented, taking into

account the division of labour between the African Union, RECs and Regional Mechanisms, Member States and continental organisations;

8. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit, through the established procedures, a detailed leaner departmental structure, together with its financial implications, for consideration by the 35th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled from 27 to 28 June 2019 in Niamey, Niger;
9. **DELEGATES** the Executive Council to adopt the new departmental structure at its 35th Ordinary Session;
10. **DECIDES** that the structure and portfolios of the senior leadership of the Commission shall come into effect at the end of the current tenure of the Commission in 2021;
11. **DECIDES** that the relevant Articles of Statutes of the Commission shall be amended according to this decision and **DIRECTS** the Commission to align all relevant legal instruments by February 2019;

III. ON THE SELECTION OF THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

12. **DECIDES** as follows:
 - (i) The following key principles shall guide the selection process of the senior leadership of the Commission:
 - a) Equitable regional representation and gender parity;
 - b) Predictable inter and intra-regional rotation following the English alphabetical order to be applied to each senior leadership position¹;
 - c) Attracting and retaining Africa's top talent;
 - d) Accountable and effective leadership and management;
 - e) Transparent and merit-based selection;
 - (ii) The principle of rotational gender parity shall be applied to the posts of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson ensuring that if the Chairperson is male then the Deputy Chairperson shall be a female and vice versa;
 - (iii) The six (6) Commissioner level posts shall be equally distributed by gender and across the three regions that are not represented at Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson level;

¹Reservation entered by the Kingdom of Morocco on the use of the English alphabetical order on the intra-regional rotation of each senior leadership position. For the Kingdom of Morocco the intra-regional rotation shall be through regional consultations.

(iv) The regions with candidates that are elected to the position of the Chairperson or the Deputy Chairperson shall not be eligible for consideration for the six remaining Commissioner posts;

13. **HEREBY ESTABLISHES** a Panel of Eminent Africans, composed of five (5) eminent personalities, one per region, to oversee the pre-selection of candidatures of the senior leadership of the Commission;
14. **REQUESTS** Member States to propose their regional nominations for the Panel of Eminent Africans to the Commission by January 2019. The Commission shall present such nominations to the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly from 10 to 11 February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
15. **DECIDES** that the Panel of Eminent Africans shall be technically assisted by an independent African consultancy firm, to be selected by the Panel;
16. **FURTHER DECIDES** that job profiles and competency requirements for the senior leadership of the Commission shall be developed by the Panel of Eminent Africans. These shall include generic leadership skills and competencies as well as expert and thematic skills in relation to specific portfolios. In addition to the key principles referred to above, the assessment process for all candidates shall be based on the skills and competencies identified for each senior leadership position;

IV. ON THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE AU COMMISSION

17. **DECIDES** that Rule 38 of the Rules of Procedure of the AU Assembly shall be amended to read as follows and **DIRECTS** the Commission to align all relevant legal instruments by February 2019:

"RULE 38

Election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

1. The Assembly shall elect the Chairperson of the Commission and his/her Deputy by secret ballot and two-thirds majority of Member States eligible to vote.
2. The Chairperson of the Commission and his/her Deputy shall be competent women or men with proven experience in the relevant field, commensurate leadership qualities and a good track record in government, parliament, international organizations or other relevant sectors of society.
3. Candidatures for the Office of the Chairperson of the Commission and his/her Deputy shall be circulated to Member States at least **ten (10)** months before the election.
4. The Chairperson of the Commission and his/her Deputy shall not be from the same region.

5. ***The selection process should ensure the appointment of the best possible candidate who embodies the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity as well as demonstrating a firm commitment to Pan-Africanism and the objectives, principles and values of the AU, proven managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations and strong diplomatic and communications skills.***

18. **DECIDES** to enhance the transparency and meritocracy of the current selection process as follows:

- a) All the candidates shall provide a curriculum vitae, along with vision statements outlining how they intend to address the most pressing issues facing the AU. These shall be posted on a dedicated webpage on the AU website;
- b) All candidates for the position of the Chairperson of the Commission shall participate, at least six months before the election, in a public debate which shall be broadcasted live on the AU website during which they shall present their visions and ideas on the implementation of Agenda 2063. AU Member States shall be encouraged to broadcast this on their national outlets; and
- c) Prior to election, each candidate shall make a formal presentation to the AU Assembly outlining their vision and the proposed priorities for their term of office;

V. ON THE ELECTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE AU COMMISSION

19. **DECIDES** that Article 13 of the Statutes of the Commission shall be amended to read as follows and **DIRECTS** the Commission to align all relevant legal instruments by February 2019:

- a) ***A skills and competency based assessment and shortlisting of candidates shall be undertaken by a High Level Panel of Eminent Africans (1 per region) assisted by an independent African firm to generate a ranked pool of pre-qualified candidates nominated by the relevant AU regions from which Commissioners shall be elected and appointed by the Executive Council;***
- b) ***Candidates shall be assessed through an initial review of applications and CVs. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for assessment against the skills and competency criteria established for the leadership posts.***

VI. ON ELECTION TIMELINES

20. **DECIDES** that the following assessment and election timelines shall be applied for the senior leadership of the Commission:

- a) The announcement of the candidatures for the senior leadership posts shall start in March of the year preceding the election of the new Commission;
 - b) The independent assessment of candidates for Commissioner posts (August to December);
 - c) The election and appointment of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson in January/February by the AU Assembly;
 - d) The election and appointment of the Commissioners in January/February by the Executive Council;
21. **DECIDES** that the above selection process shall come into effect at the end of the current tenure of the Commission in January 2021;

VII. ON THE TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON, THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON AND COMMISSIONERS OF THE AU COMMISSION

22. **DECIDES** that Rule 41 of the Rules of Procedure of the AU Assembly shall be amended to read as follows and **DIRECTS** the Commission to align all relevant legal instruments by February 2019:

“RULE 41

Termination of Appointment

1. ***The Assembly may, by two-thirds majority and following due process conducted by the Executive Council, terminate the appointment of the Chairperson of the Commission, his/her Deputy and the Commissioners on grounds of incompetence, gross misbehaviour or inability to perform the functions of his/her office for reason of permanent incapacity certified by a medical board.***
2. ***The procedure for the termination for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall take place as follows:***
 - a) ***In order to initiate termination procedures, a group of Member States, constituting at least 4, one per region, excluding the region from which the official being recommended for termination is from, may recommend to the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, through written notification, the termination of appointment with respect to the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson of the Commission based on the provisions outlined below;***
 - b) ***The Bureau of the Assembly shall communicate the written notification to the Assembly;***

- c) *The Bureau of the Assembly shall review the recommendation in order to assess whether there are sufficient grounds for the termination of appointment within three to six months;*
 - d) *The Bureau of the Assembly may consider proposing to the Assembly the suspension of the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson pending their investigation if the claims, prima facie, prove serious and grave in nature;*
 - e) *In conducting this review, the Bureau may call upon any resources required to ensure a transparent and fair process;*
 - f) *The Bureau of the Assembly shall make its recommendation to the AU Assembly;*
 - g) *The AU Assembly shall consider the matter and take a decision.*
3. *The procedure for termination of the appointment of Commissioners shall take place as follows:*
- a) *The Chairperson of the Commission, may recommend to the Executive Council, through written notification to the Bureau of the Executive Council, the termination of appointment with respect to Commissioners based on the provisions below;*
 - b) *The Bureau of the Executive Council shall communicate the written notification to the Executive Council;*
 - c) *The Bureau of the Executive Council shall review the recommendation in order to assess whether there are sufficient grounds for the termination of appointment within three to six months;*
 - d) *The Bureau of the Executive Council may consider proposing to the Executive Council the suspension of the Commissioner pending their investigation if the claims, prima facie, prove serious and grave in nature;*
 - e) *In conducting this review, the Bureau may call upon any resources required to ensure a transparent and fair process;*
 - f) *The Bureau of the Executive Council shall make its recommendation to the Executive Council;*

- g) ***The Executive Council shall consider the matter and take a decision on that recommendation.***

23. **DECIDES** that the above termination process shall come into effect at the end of the current tenure of the Commission in 2021;

VIII. ON ENHANCING PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AT THE LEVEL OF THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP OF THE AU COMMISSION

24. **DECIDES** that a results based effective performance management system shall be embedded as a matter of urgency in order to ensure proper accountability for performance and delivery. This shall be applied to all elected and non-elected staff. Administrative and disciplinary measures that ensure accountability should be applied for misconduct, abuse of office, poor performance and non-delivery of assigned responsibilities;
25. **REQUESTS** the Commission to prepare the annual goals and targets of the AU Commission and present them through the Executive Council to the AU Assembly each year, starting from February 2020. These goals and targets shall be cascaded to all staff and shall serve as the basis for performance agreements with the elected leadership, management and staff;
26. **FURTHER REQUESTS** that the Chairperson of the Commission shall submit an annual performance report to the Executive Council reporting on progress against these targets;
27. **MANDATES** the Executive Council to undertake a performance assessment of the Commission against the goals and targets and submit a performance evaluation report for the Assembly's consideration each year;
28. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit through the Executive Council, at its February 2019 Ordinary Session, specific proposals on delegation of authority to the Commission in matters pertaining to the internal management of the Commission, in order to ensure greater flexibility and responsiveness in the pursuit of the mandate of the Commission;

IX. ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL REFORM

29. **COMMENDS** the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) for its contributions to the reform of the Union as it relates to Finance and Human Resource Matters;
30. **APPROVES** the net impaired assets balance of USD 617,004.14 for write off and write back and **ENDORSES** the Recommendations of the Executive Council relating to the Reserve Fund, the 2018 Supplementary Budget, the Balances Proposed for Write Off and Write

Back, the 2018 AUC Mid-Term Performance Report, Staffing Status, AU Performance Management, Recruitment System, Staffing Quota System, Salary Arrears, Travel Administration, Procurement, and Information Technology;

31. **REQUESTS** the Executive Council, in collaboration with the Commission, to submit annual reports on the implementation of this Decision;
32. **REQUESTS** the Commission to elaborate a Roadmap on implementation of administrative and financial reforms to be presented at the 34th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for 7-8 February 2019 at the AU Headquarters;

X. ON THE MANDATE OF THE AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

33. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) on the Reform of the African Union of January 2017, which proposes the transformation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) into the African Union Development Agency (AUDA);
34. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.685(XXX) of January 2018 on the NEPAD which **REASSERTS** the essential role played by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) and the Steering Committee in the provision of political leadership and strategic direction to the NEPAD program;
35. **ALSO RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.691(XXXI) of July 2018 on the Transformation of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) into AUDA;
36. **WELCOMES** the consultation process carried out with all the stakeholders to define the roles and attributions of the African Union Development Agency;
37. **TAKES NOTE** of the evolutionary trajectory of the NEPAD and the rationale behind the establishment of the AUDA as a vehicle for the better execution of the African Union Agenda 2063 and **DECIDES** that the NEPAD shall henceforth be renamed AUDA/NEPAD.
38. **HEREBY APPROVES** the Mandate of the AUDA/NEPAD as follows:
 - (i) To coordinate and execute priority regional and continental projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realisation of Agenda 2063;
 - (ii) To strengthen capacity of African Union Member States and regional bodies; advance knowledge-based advisory support, undertake the full range of resource mobilisation, and serve as the continent's technical interface with all Africa's development stakeholders and development partners;

39. **CALLS FOR** the conclusion of a permanent Host Country Agreement for the AUDA/NEPAD with the Government of the Republic of South Africa;
40. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission and the CEO of NPCA to take all necessary practical measures for the implementation of this Decision by July 2019 and inform the AU policy organs accordingly;
41. **EXPRESSES** appreciation to Member States, the Chairperson of the Commission and other stakeholders for their invaluable contribution towards the definition of the mandate of AUDA/NEPAD and **ENCOURAGES** them to continue to lend their support to the AU institutional reform process in general, and the transformation of NPCA into AUDA/NEPAD in particular;

XI. ON INSTITUTIONAL REFORM OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM)

42. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on African Union Institutional Reform, Assembly/AU/3(XXX), presented to the 11th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union and in particular, on the Review of the APRM;
43. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) adopted by 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, on the Outcome of the Retreat of the Assembly of the African Union on the Institutional Reform of the AU, which stated that the APRM should be strengthened to track implementation and oversee monitoring and evaluation in key governance areas on the continent;
44. **ALSO RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.631(XXVIII) adopted by the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, on the Revitalisation of the APRM in order to play a monitoring and evaluation role for the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030;
45. **STRESSES** in line with the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) adopted by the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held in Addis Ababa, on the holding of one (1) ordinary summit per year and in place of the June/July Ordinary Summit of the Assembly the convening of a Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the African Union, the need for the APR Forum to hold its ordinary sessions on the margins of the AU Ordinary Summit;
46. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that the APRM Forum is allocated and afforded adequate and sufficient time to fully address its agenda;
47. **DECIDES** to integrate the APRM budget in the statutory Union budget funded by Member States; and **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the

Commission to propose concrete implementation modalities to the February 2019 Summit;

48. **REAFFIRMS** the need to strengthen the capacity of the APRM to deliver on its extended mandate, and enhance its functional autonomy, including developing a report on the state of governance in Africa in collaboration with the African Governance Architecture (AGA);
49. **REITERATES** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.686(XXX) on the Report of the APRM and **URGES** the remaining eighteen (18) Member States to accelerate accession to APRM in order to achieve universality by 2023, as envisaged in the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063;
50. **REQUESTS** the APRM to present an update on the State of Governance in Africa report to the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled to take place in February 2019;

XII. ON ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DIVISION OF LABOUR BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION, REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES, MEMBER STATES AND CONTINENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

51. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.690(XXXI) of July 2018 which requested the implementation of the roadmap on the clarification of the division of labour among the AU, RECs, Member States and continental organizations;
52. **ALSO RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) of January 2017 which called for a clear division of labour and effective collaboration among the AU, the RECs, the Regional Mechanisms (RMs), the Member States, and other continental institutions, in line with the principles of subsidiarity and comparative advantage;
53. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.112(VII) of July 2006 which urges RECs to coordinate and harmonize their policies among themselves and with the Commission with a view to accelerating Africa's integration process;
54. **MANDATES** the AU Commission, in collaboration with the RECs, AU organs, relevant continental organizations, to develop a proposal on an effective division of labour among the AU, the RECs, the Member States, and other continental institutions, in line with the principle of subsidiarity, for submission to the First Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in June/July 2019, based on the following technical work:
 - (i) Review of the level of alignment and coherence of continental and regional medium term plans and development of proposals with a view to developing harmonized continental and regional medium term plans;
 - (ii) Review of overall financing arrangements for continental and regional medium term plans with a view to developing a joint

mobilization and financing strategy for the implementation of the division of labour;

- (iii) Development of proposals and recommendations on how to establish a coherent partnerships strategy between the AU, RECs and RMs on one hand and external parties on the other;
 - (iv) Review and assessment of existing Co-ordination and working Arrangements with a view to establishing new AU-REC-COs co-ordination arrangements that ensure an effective division of labour;
 - (v) Review of existing overall monitoring and review arrangements with a view to establishing an effective monitoring and evaluation system; and
 - (vi) Assessment of the implementation of the “Protocol on Relations between the African Union (AU) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)” and “Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in peace and security between AU, RECs and Coordinating Mechanisms of Eastern and Northern Africa”;
55. **ENCOURAGES** RECs to harmonise their policies, strengthen their horizontal collaboration by holding regular meetings;
56. **URGES** RECs to hold their annual statutory meetings prior to the June/July AU-RECs Co-ordination Meeting;
57. **REQUESTS** the RECs to prepare reports on the status of integration within their respective regions and report to the July 2019 Coordination Meeting. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to report to the AU Coordination Meeting in July 2019 on the progress made on the implementation of the roadmap on the Division of Labour among the AU, RECs, RMs, Member States and continental organizations.

DECISION ON AFRICAN UNION SCALE OF ASSESSMENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) of January 2017 on the institutional reform of the AU which emphasizes the need for the Union to be financially independent;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.578(XXV) which approved the current scale of assessment to be implemented till 2020;
3. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1020(XXXIII) which extended the current scale of assessment to the Year 2019 until a new scale of assessment is approved latest by February 2019, for application starting 2020;
4. **COGNIZANT** of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1022(XXXIII) of June 2018 Nouakchott, Mauritania, which requested the Commission to:
 - (i) circulate the documents on the New Scale of Assessment and Contributions and the Sanctions Regime to all Member States by 15 July 2018 for their inputs by 15 October 2018;
 - (ii) convene in November 2018, a Joint Sitting of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC), including experts from Capitals, and the Committee of Fifteen Finance Ministers' Technical Experts (F15) to review all the documents pertaining to the New Scale of Assessment and Contributions and the Sanctions Regimes;
 - (iii) convene a Joint Sitting of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions and the F15 Ministerial Committee to consider the recommendations of the Joint Sitting of the PRC and F15 Experts prior to submission to the 34th Ordinary session of the Executive Council scheduled for February 2019;
5. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the proposals on the New Scale of Assessment and Contributions and the Sanctions Regime circulated to all Member States by 15 July 2018 for their inputs by an extended deadline of 30 October 2018. In this regard the Assembly **NOTES** that the Commission to this date has received inputs from twenty-four (24) Member States;
6. **APPRECIATES** the technical support provided by the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15) to the work of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions;

7. **DIRECTS** the Joint Sitting of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions and the Committee of F15 to conclude by January 2019 the work on the new scale of assessment recommended by the Experts level meeting from 27 to 28 November 2018 and to report to the 34th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for 7- 8 February 2019 at the AU Headquarters, and **DECIDES** that should the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions fail to fill its leadership vacancy, in the spirit of continuity, the Committee of F15 should drive the process.

**DECISION ON THE NEW AFRICAN UNION SANCTIONS REGIME
FOR THE NON-PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) of January 2017 which states that the current sanctions mechanism should be strengthened and enforced;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of both reports of the Chairperson of the Commission on the AU Institutional Reform of January 2018 (Assembly/AU/3(XXX)) and of November 2018 (Ext/Assembly/AU/2(XI)) on the strengthening of the sanctions regime for the non-payment of assessed contributions and **COMMENDS** the Executive Council for its extensive and constructive discussions on this issue during its 20th Extraordinary Session held at the AU Headquarters on 14 - 15 November 2018;
3. **DECIDES** the following:
 - a. Those Member States which fail to meet their obligations and have not settled at least 50% of their current assessed contributions after the second quarter (6 months) of each financial year in which the contribution is due shall be deemed to be in arrears taking into account the budget cycles of Member States;
 - b. The short-term period for Member States to be in arrears shall be six (6) months, intermediate period for Member States to be in arrears shall be one (1) year and the long-term period for Member States to be in arrears shall be two (2) years;
 - c. Sanctions shall be applied in three parts, namely, the **cautionary sanctions** for the short term arrears, **intermediate sanctions** for the intermediate arrears and **comprehensive sanctions** for the long-term arrears;
 - d. Cautionary sanction, which deprives Member States of their rights to speak at meetings of the African Union shall be applied to those in short term arrears;
 - e. Intermediate sanctions shall include all sanctions outlined in the Constitutive Act (Article 23(1)), the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly (Rules 5, 26, 35 (2.a)), AU Financial Rules and Regulations (Article 78(6)) and the Statutes of the Commission (Article 18 (8)) plus the suspension of Member's right to:
 - i. Be a member of a Bureau of any Organ of the Union;
 - ii. Host any Organ, Institution or Office of the Union;

- iii. Have its nationals participate in electoral observation missions, human rights observation missions; or be invited for any meeting organized by the Union;
 - iv. Have its nationals appointed as elected and nonelected staff including consultants, volunteers, interns etc.
- f. Comprehensive sanctions shall include all the sanctions in paragraphs (c) and (d) above, those outlined under Assembly Rules of Procedure (Article 35 (2.b)) plus suspension of the Member State's right to participate in meetings of the Union;
4. **DECIDES** that the Assembly may consider requests from Member States experiencing force majeure circumstances making them temporarily unable to pay their assessed contributions. Member States shall notify the Assembly in writing. The Assembly may consider such requests and take a decision;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to align the relevant provisions of the Assembly Rules of Procedure, AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the Statutes of the Commission to this decision accordingly;
6. **MANDATES** the Commission to implement this decision as of July 2019 taking into account that the discussions and modalities of the new scale of assessment have not been finalized.

DECISION ON POST-COTONOU NEGOTIATIONS

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.694(XXXI) on a new agreement on Post-Cotonou Cooperation with the European Union (EU), adopted by the Assembly of the Union at its 31st Ordinary Session held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, from 1 to 2 July 2018;
2. **TAKES NOTE** of the report presented by the Chairperson of the Executive Council and the Chairperson of the Commission on the proceedings of the 19th Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council enlarged to Ministers in charge of the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States and/or Ministers in charge of the negotiations with the EU, on the Post-Cotonou 2020 agreement, held in the AU Headquarters on 14 September 2018;
3. **DECIDES** as follows:
 - a) that the ACP-EU post-Cotonou negotiations should proceed within the mandate agreed to by the parties. The Assembly **REQUESTS** the African Union (AU) Commission to extend technical support to the African Members of the ACP negotiating team, as may be requested;
 - b) that the AU-EU continent-to-continent partnership should continue post 2020, building on the Joint Africa-EU Strategy adopted in Lisbon in December 2007 and the Declaration of the AU-EU Summit held in Abidjan in November 2017, in order to advance Agenda 2063 and its priorities with respect to peace and security, development, the African Continental Free Trade Area, migration and climate, among others. The Assembly **UNDERScores** that the continent-to-continent partnership will preserve the interests, specificities, diversities, *acquis* of each African region and country as well as their legal frameworks and financial and political instruments with the European Union;
4. **STRESSES** the need to ensure that Africa speaks with one voice in the various platforms of partnership with the EU, so that this partnership can be leveraged to help achieve the objectives set in Agenda 2063;
5. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to follow up on implementation of this Decision, and to submit a comprehensive report to the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, scheduled to take place at the AU Headquarters on 10-11 February 2019.