



COMMON AFRICAN POSITION (CAP) ON HUMANITARIAN EFFECTIVENESS

One Africa, One Voice, One Message

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COMMON AFRICAN POSITION (CAP) ON HUMANITARIAN EFFECTIVENESS at a Glance

One Africa, One Voice, One Message

“...Africa should continue to speak with one voice and act collectively to promote our common interests and positions in international arena...”

The African Union adopted a Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness during the 2016 Ordinary Sessions of the Executive Council and the Assembly held in January 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The CAP lays emphasis on humanitarian effectiveness in Africa, and is a consolidation of the aspirations of African Union Member States and their people, on the desired reforms they want in the global humanitarian architecture to make it more effective and relevant for the future. In this regard, the CAP is therefore Africa’s contribution in shaping a future humanitarian architecture - An Agenda for Humanity - as proposed by the Secretary General of the United Nations. Furthermore, this CAP serves as Africa’s long-term roadmap and vision on forced displacement in line with its Agenda 2063. In doing so, the CAP reaffirms and recalls ideals of Pan-Africanism and African Shared Values, as foundations of Africa’s humanitarian architecture.

The CAP calls for a truly inclusive and transformative ‘global humanitarian architecture’ on the basis of a new spirit of **solidarity, cooperation and mutual accountability** in humanitarian action.

Considering Africa’s peculiarities, the humanitarian priorities are grouped into 10 Pillars:

Pillar One: Primary Responsibility of the State

Pillar Two: Addressing Root Causes and Durable Solutions to Humanitarian Crises

Pillar Three: Governance and Human Rights

Pillar Four: The Development, Peace and Security Nexus



Pillar Five: Institutional Architecture

Pillar Six: Domestication and Implementation of Normative and Policy Frameworks

Pillar Seven: Protection and Assistance of Affected Populations

Pillar Eight: Knowledge, Innovation, Research, Data, Information and Communication Technology

Pillar Nine: Role of the Host Communities, Affected Populations, Private Sector, African Civil Society and the Diaspora and the Youth

Pillar Ten: Humanitarian Financing and Partnerships

The CAP is premised on a long standing principle that effective humanitarian response is a function of a capable State, and therefore calls for strengthening the capabilities of the State to: **predict, prevent, respond and adapt.**

To achieve this vision and objectives, the CAP in the medium-term proposes a Ten Year Action Plan in the following five priority areas to build momentum for national and continental transformative capabilities for an effective humanitarian system in Africa:

1. **Strengthening** role of the State in humanitarian action;
2. **Reforming** the humanitarian architecture;
3. **Addressing** root causes and durable solutions;
4. **Moving** from norm setting to implementation;
5. **Linking** humanitarian action to sustainable development.



“...Africa should continue to speak with one voice and act collectively to promote our common interests and positions in international arena...”¹

The Africa Union welcomes the Agenda for Humanity proposed by the H.E. Ban Ki-Moon the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his report to the World Humanitarian Summit, entitled: One Humanity Shared Responsibility.

The review and a redefinition of the current humanitarian architecture to fit into the contemporary global configuration, in light of the rapidly changing humanitarian landscape, was long overdue. It is in this light that I also appreciate the elements of the Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness, as part of Africa’s contribution to the efforts of the Secretary General of United Nations.

The Common African Position represents the resolve of Africa’s leaders to address the root causes and progressively reduce the phenomenon of forced displacement on the continent. It is our aspiration to address the long-term social economic transformation of the continent in line with Agenda 2063. However, it is our conviction that we cannot achieve such a laudable goal and sustainable development on the continent without tackling the issues of forced displacement in a meaningful way.

Today, the African continent faces some of the most complex humanitarian emergencies globally. The emergencies are in some cases as a result of natural and human induced disasters but in very many others, are driven by conflicts leading to mass displacements of persons both within and across national borders. The combined effects of which makes the humanitarian situation subsisting on the continent more complex. This Common African Position therefore represents Africa’s appreciation and it’s understanding of the humanitarian landscape and the required intervention that is necessary for a sustainable response and resolution of such situations.

It is important to draw attention to the fact that one of the key appreciation of the humanitarian situation on the continent is that of the primary role

1 African Union 50th Declaration, paragraph.5

of and responsibility of the State. In other words, Africa recognises that States have obligations to ensure an effective delivery, in all its ramifications, of humanitarian relief, protection and assistance.

Furthermore, our position on the continent today is to build the resilience of our States and communities to better withstand complex emergencies. This then means that States will now be prepared and in their responses, will not only build back better, but also ensure that appropriate coping mechanisms are in-built to prepare for future shocks that may affect communities. At the same time states should prepare to better appreciate the environment, including by mitigating the effects and consequences of climate change as it affects communities.

Finally, we on the continent of Africa also appreciate the very many competing needs for resources globally, not least of all in the area of humanitarian assistance. It is in this regard that our position commits us on the continent to increase the flow of resources to meet the demands of humanitarian intervention. Both governments and the private sector including high net worth individuals on the continent will be mobilised to better furnish the financial needs in the area of humanitarian work.

We can only assure that in forging the new global humanitarian architecture, Africa stands to contribute its quota in the full realisation for a more pragmatic and robust architecture that is fit for the 21st century's purpose and challenges.

I express profound appreciation to the African Union Commission and the Permanent Representative Committee, Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons and all stakeholders who actively contributed to the successful consultation process at national, regional and continental levels, in the formulation of this Common African Position (CAP). The CAP is commended for the attention of all Member States, Regional Economic Communities, civil society and the Diaspora, African Union Partners and African people and the global humanitarian community at large to improve humanitarian effectiveness on the continent.

Idriss Deby

President of the Republic of Chad and Chairman of the African Union





I am pleased to release the Common African Position (CAP) on Humanitarian Effectiveness, on Agenda for Humanity, to be presented at the first ever World Humanitarian Summit scheduled to be held on 23 – 24 May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The CAP is on the basis of Executive Council Decision Ex.CL/Dec.817 (XXV) of June 2014, which “...mandated the African Union Commission in close collaboration with the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees and IDPs to establish an African Common Position to be presented at the World Humanitarian Summit...and to continuously make progress reports to the Executive Council at each Ordinary Summit leading up to the World Humanitarian Summit...” This is a knock-on effect of the announcement by the Secretary General of the United Nations Secretary General of the first ever World Humanitarian Summit.

The CAP was formulated through an inclusive consultative political process and received input from Member States, Regional Economic Communities, Institutions and Organs of the African Union, a wide range of stakeholders among them public and private sectors, parliamentarians, civil society, the Diaspora, and the youth.

The CAP is consistent with previous Decisions of the Executive Council and the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, which called for African Solutions to African problems so as to effectively address humanitarian crises on the continent.

The CAP which lays emphasis on humanitarian effectiveness in Africa, is therefore a consolidation of the aspirations of African Union Member States and their people, on the desired reforms they want in the global humanitarian architecture to make it more effective and relevant for the future. In this regard, the CAP is Africa’s contribution in shaping a future humanitarian architecture - An Agenda for Humanity - as proposed by the Secretary General of the United Nations.

I wish therefore to underscore the significance of this document and also add that it is not a mere narrative for the World Humanitarian Summit, but should be conceived first and foremost as Africa's long-term roadmap and vision on forced displacement in line with its Agenda 2063. In this regard, therefore, the CAP reaffirms and recalls Ideals of Pan-Africanism and African Shared Values, as foundations of Africa's humanitarian architecture.

The document is an expression of Africa's core values and the essence of being African and extends to the ethos of what Africa is thinking and positioning itself, for its people as well as its commitment to humanitarian effectiveness on the continent.

To address these aspirations, the CAP lays priority to the following Ten Pillars: (i) strengthening the primary responsibility of the State, (ii) addressing root causes and durable solutions, (iii) improving governance and human rights, (iv) addressing the development, peace and security nexus, (v) measures for reform of institutional architecture, (vi) domestication and implementation of normative and policy frameworks, (vii) protection and assistance of affected populations, (viii) investment knowledge, innovation, research, data, information and communication technology, (ix) promoting the role of the private sector, African civil society, the Diaspora and youth, and (x) humanitarian financing and partnerships.

The CAP is premised on a long standing principle that effective humanitarian is a function of a capable State, and therefore calls for strengthening the capabilities of the State to: predict, prevent, respond and to adapt.

To achieve this vision and objectives, the CAP in the medium-term proposes a Ten Year Action Plan in the following five priority areas:

1. Strengthening role of the state in humanitarian action;
2. Reforming the humanitarian architecture;
3. Addressing root causes and durable solutions;
4. Moving from norm setting to implementation;
5. Linking humanitarian action to sustainable development.

The formulation of the CAP would not have been accomplished without the commitment, dedication and leadership of the Permanent Representatives Committee Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, under the leadership of H. E. Lamine Baali, Ambassador of Sharawi Arab Democratic Republic, the African Union Commission and the stewardship of H.E. Aisha Abdullahi-Commissioner for Political Affairs; and advice provided by the High Level Advisory Group and Partners.

Following the adoption of the CAP by the 28th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, it is now time to turn a new page that will transform the aspirations contained in the CAP into reality to benefit our people. We need a robust strategy to engage with Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and stakeholders in the public and private sectors.

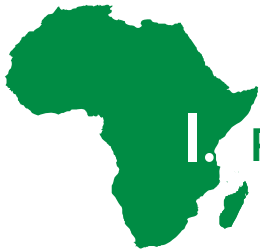
As called for by the Assembly, the African Union will seize the moment during the World Humanitarian Summit to voice its concerns and at the same time engage the global community to popularise the CAP and Africa's Agenda on humanitarian issues.

Therefore, as Africa dialogues openly with the global community, in line with the theme of the CAP: "One Africa, One Voice, One Message", I call upon Member States and Regional Economic Communities, and African people and stakeholders to remain seized with the spirit of ownership exhibited during the formulation of the CAP and commit to the implementation of the priorities outlined therein.

We want to count on the continued support of everyone who has made contribution to this work and all stakeholders who have supported Africa on its roadmap on humanitarian issues. At this time, we also welcome on board other stakeholders whose valued contribution will be needed in translating the aspirations of this CAP into reality.

Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

Chairperson of the African Union Commission



I. Preamble

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union assembled in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during the 26th Ordinary Session of the Union on 30 January 2016,

1. NOTE that the political process involving consultations in all the five regions of the Union was inclusive and participatory, involving Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs); International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN Agencies, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), various stakeholders at the national, regional and continental levels among the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, women and youth associations, academia and the Diaspora;
2. RECOGNIZE that the leadership of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons and the coordinating role of the African Union Commission, particularly the Department of Political Affairs, and technical support from the High Level Advisory Group, Norwegian Refugee Council, UN Agencies as well as various Partners, in facilitating the process;
3. REITERATE the principles of Pan-Africanism and Shared Values as foundations for Africa's humanitarian response and call for African Solutions to African problems;
4. COGNISANT that AU is pursuing its own humanitarian agenda in line with aspirations of the 50th Anniversary Declaration and its long-term vision encapsulated in Agenda 2063, in the three Domains, namely: democratic and participatory governance; peace and security, inclusive-people centred development; and their consequences as drivers of humanitarian crises and durable solutions;
5. REITERATE AND RECOGNIZE the inextricable link between good governance, development, peace and security, and climate change, and their impact on the humanitarian system. Reiterate our collective vision in the Common African Position on Post 2015-Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

6. FURTHER REITERATE the need to put the people at the centre of all aspects of humanitarian response. In line with this, we recall Pillar III of the Common African Position on SDGs on “people centred development”. On Pillar VII, we need to anticipate, prevent and respond to major threats to health and wellbeing that frequently worsen humanitarian settings - such as sexual violence, by mainstreaming protection and prevention in all aspects of humanitarian assistance. We also need to revitalize health systems and services during crises and recovery period and in protracted crisis, to integrate reproductive health services and gender based violence prevention in humanitarian response;
7. STRESS further Pillar V Paras 64 to 67 in which we recognised the importance of peace and security in Africa and the inextricable link between development and peace, security and stability; and reaffirm that “...peace and security is essential for the achievement of the continent’s development aspirations particularly for countries affected by conflict and those emerging from conflict...”;
8. COMMIT to address the root causes of conflict by tackling the following drivers: “...economic and social inequalities and exclusion; strengthen good and inclusive governance; fight against all forms of discrimination; and forge unity in diversity through democratic practices and mechanisms at the local, national and continental levels...” and to prevent the outbreak of armed conflicts, by undertaking the following measures; “...strengthening cross border cooperation for the resolution of disputes and promotion of cross-border security; implementing comprehensive, post-conflict reconstruction programmes, including the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), in countries emerging from conflict through effective partnerships at regional and continental levels; supporting domestic financing for conflict resolution and stabilization; and promoting the use of mediators for conflict resolution, including traditional conflict resolution mechanisms...”;
9. RESOLVE to work towards our vision for a peaceful and secure Africa, “...aspire to silence the guns by 2020 and make peace a reality for all people and by ending all wars, civil conflicts, human rights violations, humanitarian disasters, gender-based violence and violent conflicts and to prevent genocide..., and pledge not to bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans...”;
10. ACKNOWLEDGE that the rapidly changing humanitarian landscape has outstretched the global humanitarian system established by UN RES 46/182 and call for its reform, to make humanitarian action more relevant, timely, efficient and fit for its purpose;

11. TAKE NOTE of the Report of the Secretary General of the United Nations entitled, “One Humanity: Shared Responsibility” and the proposed Agenda for Humanity with five core responsibility areas as well as recommendations contained in the Global Report of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) consultations on the four themes namely: humanitarian effectiveness, transformation through innovation, reducing vulnerability and managing risk and serving needs of people in conflict; and the proposed five action areas, namely: Dignity, Safety, Resilience, Partnerships and Finance and Shaping a future humanitarian architecture;
12. EMPHASIZE the need to establish and/or to strengthen responsive, transparent and accountable local, national, regional and global humanitarian governance architecture, including through the full and equitable representation of African countries;
13. ACKNOWLEDGE the hospitality extended to refugees and displaced populations by Member States in upholding their international obligations and the progress made in norm setting including in adoption of various normative and policy frameworks, and call for the ratification, wider domestication and effective implementation of these instruments to strengthen protection and assistance of people affected by humanitarian crises;
14. CONSCIOUS AND RECOGNIZING that a number of causes exist and give rise to statelessness in Africa and concerned by the high number of stateless persons on the continent, including children;
15. MINDFUL that current demographic trends that have resulted in the youth bulge require sound socio-economic strategies and public policies, particularly in employment, education, health services and housing in order to harness the attendant demographic dividend;
16. CONCERNED that the worsening situation of human displacement, mobility and migration on the continent is of unprecedented proportions, and take note of the Accra Pan African Forum on Migration and its Decisions including the Common African Position on Migration and the outcome of AU-EU Valletta Summit on migration;
17. CONCERNED that Africa faces growing extremism, radicalisation and terrorism, and are threats to future security and stability on the continent;

18. RECOGNISE the achievements registered on the continent in the area of democracy and governance, but express our concern over political violence and resultant civil strife as potential drivers of humanitarian crises on the continent;
19. STRESS greater cooperation between the United Nations, Continental and Regional structures, and in strengthening their complementary role in addressing issues of forced displacement on the continent especially through political action;
20. EMPHASIZE that the WHS provides a unique opportunity for Africa to reach consensus on common challenges, priorities and aspirations, and changes Africa would like to see in the way humanitarian action is organised and delivered globally and in Africa;
21. STRESS that the role of colonization and foreign occupation in exacerbating the challenges facing communities around the globe and the need to settle issues relating to them in a manner that ensures the full respect of rights and due compensation for harm and damages inflicted upon them;
22. MINDFUL that efforts to eradicate all forms of racism, discrimination, defamation, intolerance, and disrespect for other people remain inefficient and insufficient at the international level.

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

To commit ourselves to speak with one voice and to act in unity to ensure that Africa's voice is heard and is fully integrated into the World Humanitarian Summit and to build momentum for national and continental transformative capabilities for an effective humanitarian system in Africa with an Action Plan in the following five priority areas, namely:

1. Strengthening the role of the state in humanitarian action;
2. Reforming the humanitarian architecture;
3. Addressing root causes and durable solutions;
4. Moving from norm setting to implementation;
5. Linking humanitarian action to sustainable development.



II. Background

1. RECALLING Executive Council DECISION EX.CL/Dec.817 (XXV) adopted by the 25th Ordinary Session of the Union, held in June 2014, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, which while welcoming the announcement by the United Nations Secretary General of the first ever World Humanitarian Summit to be held on 23 to 24 May 2016, in Istanbul, Turkey, mandated the AU Commission in close collaboration with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) Sub-Committee on Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons “... to establish an African Common Position (CAP) to be presented at the World Humanitarian Summit and to continuously make progress report to the Executive Council at each Ordinary Summit leading up to the World Humanitarian Summit...”
2. The CAP is an outcome of inclusive pan-African political consultations that ensured ownership by Member States in a manner that would generate the required political will to address humanitarian crises; and respond to the mega trends that may cause humanitarian crises in future.
3. Chaired by the PRC Sub-committee on Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons, the regional consultations covered all regions of the Union. The ultimate goal of regional consultations was an outcome that duly reflects Africa’s concerns and priorities in the future humanitarian architecture. The consultations called for resolute and actionable recommendations that would take the global and African humanitarian agenda forward.
4. The CAP outlines Africa’s concerns and demands from Member States of the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, Partners, the Private Sector, Civil Society and the Diaspora, the Global System and all segments of its peoples in shaping a future humanitarian architecture,
5. It will be recalled that various Decisions of the Assembly of the Union and the Executive Council particularly Assembly Decision AU/Decl.2 (XIV) adopted in February 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, called for modalities to establish an African humanitarian mechanism for a

rapid response, in a coordinated, harmonized and efficient way, to address grave humanitarian situations in Africa and elsewhere.

6. Furthermore, the AU has undertaken commitments in various global processes including Common African Positions on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework and The Ezulwini Consensus of 8 March 2005, on reform of the UN and the Security Council, among others, which have all underscored the AU's concerns and priorities.
7. The United Nations Secretary General's initiatives including the transformative Agenda have also aimed at a humanitarian system which is more efficient, inclusive, global and fit for the future.
8. Consistent with these reforms, the UN Secretary General's Report, "One Humanity: Shared Responsibility" for the World Humanitarian Summit and the synthesis report of global consultations for the World Humanitarian Summit "Restoring Humanity: Global Voices calling for Action" and the final WHS Global Consultation, held on 13 to 16 October 2015, in Geneva, Switzerland; have proposed key reform areas.
9. We underline that for the World Humanitarian Summit outcome to be a collective one, it should emphasise the primary responsibility of the State in protecting and assisting those in need of humanitarian action.
10. However, for such change to be achieved, the Istanbul outcome has to be resolute and actionable, particularly in reaffirming respect for international obligations and standards enunciated in various AU Instruments and International Law.
11. Therefore, we call for an inclusive and transparent inter-governmental WHS process that takes into account Africa's peculiarities and concerns.



III. Context and Justification

12. The global humanitarian context is characterized by a rapidly changing landscape. The World Humanitarian Summit comes at a time when Africa and the world are faced with growing humanitarian challenges. The global humanitarian system founded 20 years ago by UN Resolution 46/182 is overstretched and needs reform to meet these challenges. More than ever before, humanitarian needs are diverse and need to be delivered in a complex environment that creates new risks for humanitarian actors and the recipients of aid. What is needed is a humanitarian system that is more reliable, accountable and transparent, and fit for its purpose.
13. Africa remains the region where a large sum of humanitarian activity is undertaken. The region has continued to face growing humanitarian crises exacerbated by increased effects of climate change, conflicts and protracted dire humanitarian situations.
14. Since the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Africa has experienced humanitarian crises. In June 1969, the OAU adopted the Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, which was anchored on the African culture of hospitality and solidarity as a Pan-African solution to the humanitarian crisis of refugees on the continent. The 1979 Arusha Conference and the two international Conference on Refugees in Africa (1994 and 1991) reinforced the basic principles elaborated in the OAU Convention on Refugees. Since the Arusha conference, the OAU/AU convened more than five high level meetings, including those in Addis Ababa in 1994, Khartoum in 1998, Banjul, The Gambia; Ouagadougou in 2006 and Kampala in October 2009. These conferences produced key position documents and policy declarations in addressing the growing humanitarian crises on the African continent. These efforts culminated in the 2009 Kampala Plan of Action on Forced Displacement in Africa.
15. Hybrid threats and urban-based warfare have added to the complexity in the delivery of an appropriate humanitarian response. Technological advances, including social media and viable infrastructural development projects and illegal exploitation of natural resources are increasingly precipitating forced displacement on the continent.

- 16.** The African Union has also for many years been committed to a progressive migration agenda recognizing the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development. The AU's minimum regional integration agenda in relation to migration in Africa, includes promoting free movement and labour migration, and countering forced migration, which could improve the lives of the millions of regular and irregular migrants in Africa. Since the Abuja Treaty in 1991, the AU has developed several policy frameworks on migration and forced displacement. The Rabat and Khartoum processes and the November 2015 AU-EU Valletta Summit have provided a framework and benchmarks in addressing issues of migration and labour mobility on the continent.
- 17.** Stateless persons face a grave humanitarian situation, since the absence of a nationality constitutes a serious impediment to the exercise of their rights as enumerated in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, including their access to health, education, social protection, freedom of movement and identity documentation. Some regions, have made remarkable progress to address statelessness, and similar efforts should be deployed throughout the entire continent.
- 18.** Financing of humanitarian action is also rapidly changing. The cost of humanitarian action has surged, while available resources for humanitarian aid show a downward trend. Nevertheless, African philanthropism, the informal and private sectors as well as diaspora remittances play a key role in humanitarian action. Technological advances have also made resource mobilization and financial transfers much easier and more accessible, but these need to be reviewed with the emphasis on quality and cost.
- 19.** In spite of these challenges, Africa has made remarkable efforts in humanitarian responses, such as the recent response to the Ebola epidemic, combating famine through early warning in drought prone areas and the use of remittances to enhance the resilience of families affected by disasters. Notwithstanding the progress made, more needs to be done.
- 20.** Africa remains highly vulnerable to many natural and human-induced disasters, including conflicts, development projects, man-made and natural induced disasters such as drought, food and water insecurity, flooding, infrastructural failures and industrial accidents. Extreme poverty remains the principal multiplier of vulnerability by reducing the capabilities of communities and individuals to withstand adversities.

21. These growing and emerging challenges call for the transformation of the existing reactive humanitarian response into inclusive and proactive global humanitarian response architecture fit for purpose.
22. The CAP provides opportunity for Africa to speak with one voice in seeking change - that Africa would like to see in the manner of humanitarian action and how it is organised and delivered globally and on the African continent.
23. Therefore, through the CAP, Africa will seize the moment, to reaffirm its leadership role on humanitarian issues on the continent, and to unequivocally bring to the global agenda its concerns in shaping such a future humanitarian architecture.



IV. Anchors for the Common African Position

24. The CAP draws its basis from the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which reaffirms collective resolve of Member States and its peoples to play an active role in building an effective continental and global governance architecture.
25. The CAP is therefore Africa's contribution to the WHS process. "...to promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples..."
26. The CAP is guided by ideals of Pan-Africanism, vision of Africa's Renaissance and Shared Values with the emphasis on Solidarity among Member States. These ideals should provide a long-standing vision and inspiration in shaping Africa's new humanitarian architecture.
27. The CAP reiterates our endeavour in the 50th Anniversary Declaration, Paragraph (5) in which we called for "... Africa to take her rightful place in political, security, economic and social systems of global governance towards the realisation of its renaissance and establishing Africa as a leading continent..."; and further reiterate to "...advance international cooperation that promotes and protects our interests,

that are mutually beneficial and aligned to Pan-African Vision...”; “...further emphasize that Africa should continue to speak with one voice and act collectively to promote our common interests and positions in international arena...”

28. The CAP builds on the AU’s existing Normative and Policy Frameworks, including the Constitutive Act of the AU, Agenda 2063, the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa; the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (the Banjul Charter); the Protocol to the African Charter on the establishment of an African Court on Human and People’s Rights (Protocol on Arusha Court); the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention) and the African Charter on Elections, Democracy and Good Governance : the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA); African Governance Architecture (AGA); African Union Humanitarian Policy Framework and AU Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD); among others.
29. The elaboration of this CAP on humanitarian effectiveness should take Africa on the path toward ownership and responsibility regarding effective humanitarian responses. In this regard, we shall stand together in solidarity to strengthen humanitarian action on the continent and in negotiating an outcome that will result in our collective ownership of the future humanitarian architecture.
30. The CAP upholds humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality; including principles of state responsibility, solidarity among Member States as a customary extension of hospitality, egalitarianism and solidarity with peoples in situations of need; and also lays emphasis on participation and ownership by the affected populations and host communities as a cornerstone of humanitarian action.



Statement of our Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness

31. We recognize that future humanitarian crises on the continent is a serious threat to social economic emancipation of our people. In light of the changing humanitarian landscape and as guided by ideals of the Union and Agenda 2063, and in order to bequeath a peaceful future to coming generations, we need to collectively and actively seek to implement already existing AU Instruments and UN resolutions and to find durable solutions to displacement and an effective and efficient humanitarian system in dealing with humanitarian crises when they occur;
32. We therefore commit ourselves to speak with one voice and to act in unity to ensure that Africa's voice is heard and is fully integrated into the future global humanitarian agenda.
33. We emphasize the primacy of political leadership and governance in building an effective and inclusive global humanitarian architecture based on the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity.
34. We reiterate that the WHS should galvanize political will and international commitment, including resource mobilization for an effective global humanitarian agenda.
35. We call for the adoption of concrete actionable recommendations and an adequate implementation mechanism fully reflecting the CAP to ensure the full realization of timely and effective humanitarian action;
36. We call for a truly inclusive and transformative 'global humanitarian architecture' on the basis of a new spirit of solidarity, cooperation and mutual accountability in humanitarian action.
37. Considering Africa's peculiarities, our humanitarian priorities are grouped into 10 Pillars (i) strengthening the primary responsibility of the State, (ii) addressing root causes and durable solutions, (iii) improving governance and human rights, (iv) addressing the development, peace and security nexus, (v) measures for reform of Institutional architecture, (vi) domestication and implementation of

normative and policy frameworks, (vii) protection and assistance of affected populations, (viii) investment knowledge, innovation, research, data, information and communication technology, (ix) promoting the role of private sector, African civil society, the Diaspora and youth, and (x) humanitarian financing and partnerships.

Pillars of CAP on Humanitarian Effectiveness

Pillar One Primary Responsibility of the State

38. We recognise that States bear the primary responsibility under International law with respect to the humanitarian needs of all segments of its population and in creating appropriate and conducive space to protect and assist, and in ensuring security of all populations, therefore, we reiterate and commit ourselves to the notion of African solutions to African problems.
39. We acknowledge that a capable State is the main driver for social and economic development for its peoples. States therefore, constitute the main drivers in assuring human security, which, we perceive as the totality of what makes its citizens secure in their surroundings. As encapsulated under Agenda 2063, this shall constitute an overriding vision in addressing forced displacement on the continent and for Africa's long-term social and economic transformation.
40. We are CONVINCED that an effective humanitarian system needs to be built on a capability development approach anchored on the following four capabilities of States:
 - a. **Predictive capabilities** as the first line of defence against humanitarian crises related to early warning, which is a function of scientific and communication capacity;
 - b. **Preventive capabilities** as the second line of defence against humanitarian crises related to the proactive developmental early intervention that is the function of socio-economic capacity, pro-poor policies and governance with foresight;
 - c. **Responsive capabilities** as the third line of defence against humanitarian crises related to reactive intervention, including relief which is a function of socio-economic capacity and governance for effective delivery of basic services to the population and finally;
 - d. **Adaptive capabilities** as the fourth line of defence against humanitarian crises related to the abilities and coping mechanisms

of societies, communities, state and non-state institutions to 'bounce back' after facing adversity, shocks and changing environments. This capability relies on socio-cultural traits, social innovative, traditional structures such as the informal economy, small scale cross border trade, cross border spontaneous mobility and migration, and natural resources sharing.

Pillar Two Addressing Root Causes and Durable Solutions to Humanitarian Crises

41. Triggers of humanitarian crisis include the impacts of natural and man-made disasters, conflicts, development projects, lack of consensus and political will, half solutions in residual cases, third party interest and rapid urbanization, poorly planned and executed development projects and impacts of climate variability and climate change. Fatalities due to natural disasters have decreased over the past decade, although there has been an increase in economic and social impacts. There has also been an increase in vulnerability to disasters at the local and community levels, causing chronic food insecurity and perpetuating poverty. Conflicts of earlier years were characterized by interstate and liberation conflicts which affected most countries, and have been replaced by more localized conflicts leading to mass internal displacements of people.
42. We are cognizant that most of the humanitarian crises on the African continent are conflict induced, and we are determined to ensure that humanitarian interventions do not exacerbate or reinforce the dynamics that engendered these crises, in line with aspirations of Agenda 2063.
43. We further recognise that life-saving humanitarian assistance is necessary, yet unsustainable; and reaffirm the need to address the continent's deep rooted problems through holistic interventions that cut across humanitarianism, development and peace building.
44. We also urge all humanitarian actors, particularly those working in conflict-induced crises, to inform their interventions by conflict analyses, and assessment and actively contribute to the continent's long term peace and development endeavours.
45. We commit therefore to set up and foster domestic and multi-sectoral funding pools to encourage holistic interventions that cut across humanitarian, development and peace building sectors.

46. We stress that prevention is a key factor to mitigate the impact of humanitarian crises. Prevention is more cost effective than humanitarian responses to emergencies but also underline that humanitarian action should go beyond response and recovery, to include development and building of capabilities of the affected states as well as community resilience, and adequate measures to the protect rights of displaced populations. However, we emphasise that resilience should neither be used for demographic change nor be considered as a durable solution.
47. Early warning systems are an important tool for prevention and early response. Where these mechanisms exist, they should be fully exploited and implemented. Where they do not exist, we commit to taking measures for their establishment. We call for monitoring mechanisms to look at the implementation and the appropriate and timely use of available tools to prevent humanitarian crises. We emphasise the importance of comprehensive context analysis that includes conflict and gender analysis at all stages of their respective interventions.
48. We recognize that approaches to humanitarian interventions have largely been dominated by long-lasting tradition of top-down practices and stress the need to leverage the varying levels of capacity, indigenous knowledge and wisdom, and resources embedded in communities.
49. We therefore stress that humanitarian action must go beyond a response to emergencies. It must be linked to the development agenda of the concerned country at all levels. We underscore the prioritization of development as a solution or response to humanitarian crises that can help build effective prevention to all crises in a holistic and inclusive manner; including social economic transformation.
50. We are concerned about various protracted refugee situations on the continent and call for long-lasting elements of durable solutions as per their applicability in line with national regulations, such as voluntary repatriation to countries of origin, local integration accepted by host countries and resettlement. We are particularly concerned about Sahrawi refugees who have been in camps for over 40 years and call on the international community to address this issue, by exercising the right to self-determination in accordance with various AU and UN Resolutions.

Pillar Three Governance and Human Rights

51. We note that good governance and respect for fundamental human rights is central to our advancement as a continent. Humanitarian crises are generally caused, among other factors, by governance deficits and gross violations of human rights, taking into account the distinction of State obligations under International law.
52. Humanitarian action, international humanitarian law and human rights are highly intertwined and should constitute a firm foundation for the new humanitarian architecture. We underline therefore that humanitarian protection and aid should be a claimable right by those in need of assistance.
53. We acknowledge that humanitarian action is not a substitute for political action. Therefore, we note that preventive diplomacy is an efficient tool to prevent political crises that may transform into humanitarian crises. Addressing the governance deficit also requires sustaining the peace that prevails and preventing it from relapsing. In this regard, we emphasize that the role of Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and relevant organisations are of paramount importance.
54. We particularly stress the need to speed up the bloc endorsement, ratification, domestication and effective implementation of all AU and relevant international legal instruments, particularly the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the African Charter on Election, Democracy and Good Governance, the African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration, and the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation, Local Governance and Local Development, as well as the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention).
55. The contribution of women to humanitarian action is of paramount importance. Women are crucial in performing humanitarian activities and constitute important actors in humanitarian action and should be involved at all stages and levels. Women's active and substantive participation in the humanitarian discourse is crucial in particular through, creating the necessary space for their participation in peace building and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction efforts. To strengthen this role, we call for the speedy ratification and effective implementation of the Protocol to the Africa Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

56. Member States also need to deepen strategies to tackle poverty, inequalities and youth unemployment that could fester into social unrest through social and economic transformation and development, to create employment opportunities, including through small scale pro-poor initiatives.

Pillar Four The Development, Peace and Security Nexus

57. We acknowledge the nexus between humanitarian action and development. Humanitarian action should not be limited to relief. Rehabilitation and recovery are integral parts of the humanitarian action and should be accorded the necessary attention and sufficient resources. Humanitarian action should go beyond emergency response and be perceived as part of a long-term development, peace and stability strategy.
58. Eradication of poverty and social protection safety nets should be part of strategic and long-term missions of building an effective humanitarian architecture in Africa. Therefore, we shall endeavour to establish and strengthen national mechanisms for the effective implementation of the 2015 AU Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development.
59. We shall take specific measures to mainstream and integrate humanitarian needs and displacement issues in national and local development plans. This approach shall serve to ensure that the new humanitarian architecture places emphasis on humanitarian action that is planned within national long-term framework from the initial stages of emergencies and conceptualised as a multi-sectoral issue.
60. There is a need to focus on early warning and early response systems, preventive diplomacy, and cross-border cooperation for the resolution of disputes, as well as the promotion of integrated cross-border security governance and social economic development.
61. To ensure sustainable peace and development, emphasis should be on the peace culture in implementation of comprehensive, post-conflict reconstruction programmes, particularly in countries emerging from conflict, through effective partnerships at regional and continental levels by promoting the use of mediators for conflict resolution, including traditional conflict resolution mechanisms.

- 62.** We recognise that affected populations at risk of humanitarian crises have the right to be informed about the scale of the disaster or the level of risk as well as the relevant mitigation measures.
- 63.** We are concerned that illegal exploitation and competition for ownership of natural resources in mineral belts have been on the increase, contributing to increased illicit financial flows out of Africa. We call for the strengthening of mechanisms and implementation of policy frameworks to prevent arbitrary displacement and illegal exploitation of natural resources on the continent, including the enforcement of the AU Mining Vision and the Kimberly process, in line with the Kampala Convention, and African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights.
- 64.** In our quest for development, we appreciate that development projects both public and private may result in displacement. We call for measures to ensure protection against arbitrarily displacement of populations as a result of such projects. Where such displacement is anticipated, it is necessary to take measures in accordance with Article 10 of the Kampala Convention.
- 65.** We recognise that in this digital age, ICT will be the basis of the continent's transformation. There is a need to take advantage of the potentially huge new technology in order to improve humanitarian response on the continent.
- 66.** We further note that terrorism is a growing threat to global peace and security. On the African continent, terrorism is increasingly becoming a trigger for humanitarian crises, mainly causing displacement and destruction of livelihoods and serving as an overall obstacle to development in all affected States. We therefore call for the following:
- a.** collective strategies to address the growing threat of terrorism, radicalisation and extremism on the continent.
 - b.** a review of counter terrorism and counter-violent extremism laws and responses which may impede humanitarian action
 - c.** conducting a study of the causes of extremism and radicalisation on the continent, under the auspices of the Algiers Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism.
- 67.** Migration and mixed migratory flows on the continent need particular attention in the light of recent migration crises. We emphasize that humanitarian efforts and intervention on migration issues should include the identification and treatment of the root causes of the

phenomenon and dealing with it from a developmental approach. We call for measures to deal with this issue including in the finalisation of the AU Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in Africa.

68. We also call for the integration and mainstreaming of migration governance, including free movement of persons and labour mobility into humanitarian action as part of durable solutions for protracted humanitarian crises as well as addressing issues of irregular migration, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.
69. We further call for action plans to fight against racism and xenophobia, as well as new forms of racism and all forms of intolerance. We particularly call for the respect of the dignity and the protection of the rights to which migrants are entitled under the applicable AU and international instruments, stressing especially the right to equal treatment.
70. We recognise that the phenomenon of statelessness is rampant across the continent. To address this issue, we call on the Commission to finalise the Protocol Relating to the Specific Right to Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa.

Pillar Five Institutional Architecture

African Humanitarian Agency

71. We recognize the imperative need for an appropriate continental architecture to effectively respond and coordinate humanitarian crises on the continent, as a basis for the AU's leadership role. We particularly note that a lack of such a continental humanitarian framework has hindered effective humanitarian action.
72. We also note that indeed the global and continental humanitarian systems are overstretched and require reform to enable them to be fit for the purpose for which they are intended.
73. We therefore endorse and commit to appropriate reforms, and to be fully engaged in the process to create effective and timely ways of humanitarian action on the continent and at the global level.
74. We are convinced that to achieve this objective Africa needs to establish its own African Humanitarian Agency to advance the continental agenda on humanitarian action, with due consideration of its legal, structural and financial implications.

75. The Agency shall be Africa's institutional pillar in dealing with forced displacement on the continent, giving effect to the objective of the centrality of the African States in humanitarian action on the continent.
76. We acknowledge that while highlighting the primary responsibility of the State, humanitarian action shall reflect a collective responsibility extending to regional, continental and international actors. Therefore, the private sector, the diaspora, Civil Society, and the youth and all segments of African society shall be involved as partners in providing humanitarian assistance in collaboration with the Agency, without prejudice to sovereignty of States or to international law

National Level

77. We emphasize that our role as States remains overarching in respect of the intervention by local communities, which are the first responders in providing humanitarian assistance. We commit to build appropriate capacities of local communities as well as social and traditional structures to reinforce this role.
78. We believe that humanitarian action should be anchored from the beginning on appropriate inclusive strategies and plans, involving affected populations and host communities, UN Agencies and Partners, civil society and the private sector. We call for deliberate measures to strengthen this approach of inclusivity. We shall therefore endeavor to integrate humanitarian dimensions in local, national and regional development plans.
79. We undertake to adopt comprehensive national humanitarian policies guided by relevant international and AU normative and policy instruments through the establishment and strengthening of national frameworks for execution, implementation and coordination of humanitarian action, and to conduct inclusive awareness and engagement programs in their operationalisation.
80. We note that the complexity of humanitarian crises require multifaceted action. We particularly acknowledge the varying capabilities of the military and commit to establishing mechanisms for the deployment of AU Member State military assets, when needed as enablers in the humanitarian system without compromising obligations under international law and humanitarian principles.
81. We recognise that the Diaspora, which is Africa's sixth constituency, needs to play an enhanced role in Africa's quest for social-economic

development. Their potential is enormous and a critical resource. We shall therefore work towards the elaboration and implementation of policies that facilitate the Diaspora's appropriate participation in Africa's development and humanitarian action plans.

82. We further recognize the role that the private sector and civil society play in Africa's development. We shall endeavor, to support strategies to create a conducive environment to enhance the contribution of the private sector and civil society in humanitarian action on the continent.
83. We recognize that governance of the humanitarian sector is complex. We emphasize that resources allocated towards humanitarian crises should be used effectively in line with the Paris Principles. We shall therefore adopt appropriate guidelines on humanitarian action and implement measures to fight corruption, enhance transparency and accountability, in delivery of humanitarian aid on the continent.
84. We shall endeavour to increase national capacity and capabilities, and domestic resource mobilization to reduce over dependency on external resources to ensure timely and predictable availability of resources. However, we stress on the need for the international community to meet its obligations.

Cooperation with the Global Humanitarian System

85. We reaffirm and uphold the United Nations Charter as foundation for international peace and security. Africa shall continue to play an active role in the global arena on humanitarian issues. The International Community should ensure an effective and responsible global humanitarian architecture, which allows full and equitable representation of African countries. We shall endeavour to emphasise the respect for international principles and standards;
86. We note that the challenges Africa faces are partly due to the weaknesses in the global humanitarian architecture. While we recognise the central role of the global humanitarian system established under UN Resolution 46/182, we, at the same time acknowledge that the system is overstretched and underfunded, and inadequate to meet increasing humanitarian needs. We call for its reform to address these concerns.
87. Africa seeks a global humanitarian system that is transparent, efficient and responsive. To this end, we believe in the importance of restructuring the relevant decision making process on humanitarian

issues by the UN Security Council based on the Common African Position on this issue reflected in the Ezulwini Consensus.

88. We also emphasize that the future humanitarian architecture should be built on a conducive global environment to ensure its effective implementation, which includes mutually beneficial partnerships to enhance ownership, coherence and appropriate alignment of international support with local, national and regional priorities.
89. To achieve this goal, we reiterate and commit to close cooperation with the UN, National and Regional structures in line with the principle of subsidiarity and complementarity under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, which reaffirms the basis for cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations.
90. The effective and appropriate implementation of the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity should constitute a basis for the new humanitarian architecture. We emphasize that the ultimate aims of the reformed global humanitarian architecture should be to strengthen regional, national and local capabilities to respond better to emergencies. The role of international humanitarian organizations as well as regional organizations remain subsidiary to the primary role of national governments and local communities, which are the first responders to humanitarian crises. This contribution of first responders needs to be recognised and supported.
91. The new global humanitarian architecture should take into account peculiarities of each nation and region, including emerging threats such as the epidemics and pandemics, cyclical drought, famine-like situations and localized violence amongst pastoralist communities and flood related disasters, foreign occupation and terrorism.

Pillar Six

Domestication and Implementation of Normative and Policy Frameworks

92. We assert our collective political will toward implementation of various AU and International Instruments that define and codify various norms and standards underpinning humanitarian action. We call for the speedy ratification and domestication of these Instruments to strengthen protection and assistance and adhere to the African Peer Review Mechanism as proof of our willingness to significantly subscribe to the principles of governance, especially by the active involvement of all segments of society in the management of public affairs.

93. We note that the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), is a historic achievement for the African Union, and we call for its speedy ratification, domestication and implementation in addressing issues of internal displacement on the continent.
94. In view of the growing complexity of internal displacement globally and on the continent, we call on the Commission to explore and conclude modalities for laying the Convention before the UN General Assembly to be adopted as an international legal instrument as Africa's contribution to global efforts to strengthen the legal regime for the protection and assistance of IDPs.
95. We further call for a full mandate of the AU Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, Asylum Seekers, Refugees and IDPs, in addition to the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs.
96. We acknowledge that during humanitarian crises ensuring speedy deployment of services, assets and personnel is key to saving lives. In this regard, we recognise the important role of disaster laws and policies in facilitating humanitarian action and call for their development and implementation across the continent.
97. We also note the growing challenges of cross border disaster displacement and call for collective measures to consolidate a protection agenda at national and sub-regional levels.
98. We affirm the importance of the protection of stateless persons. However we note that the African Union a legal framework for the protection of stateless persons and call for the finalisation of the AU Protocol on Statelessness and Right to Nationality in Africa. We further note that the UN 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless persons is an instrument that regulates the protection of stateless persons, and we urge Member States who have not yet done so to accede to and domesticate the Convention.

Pillar Seven Protection and Assistance of Affected Populations

99. The protection and assistance of vulnerable groups, specifically women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities in humanitarian crises situations need to be at the centre of the humanitarian action. Humanitarian assistance should pay particular attention to their specific needs.
100. We therefore call for specific measures to protect women and children caught in situations of conflict. Particularly in addressing the rampant cases of sexual and gender based violence, including rape and early marriages in situations of displacement.
101. We stress and call for principled humanitarian action to ensure the humane, dignified, and rights based treatment of populations in need of humanitarian assistance and protection.
102. We emphasize that the AU's humanitarian diplomacy and engagement on humanitarian action shall be guided by founding principles of Pan-Africanism and in protection of Africa's interests while guaranteeing the respect of fundamental human rights.
103. We recognise the emerging drivers of forced displacement such as terrorism, development projects and climate change on the continent. We call for comprehensive and coordinated solutions which address such emerging issues from a development perspective with a multidimensional approach.
104. While we acknowledge that Stateless persons face a grave humanitarian situation, we also note that the unresolved situation of statelessness may lead to forced displacement and insecurity. We urge Member States, with the support of the African Union, to develop measures to protect and provide durable solutions to stateless persons as well as to prevent, reduce and resolve situations of statelessness.
105. On protection of civilians in conflict situations, we acknowledge and underscore our primary responsibility in providing protection, security and humanitarian assistance and assuring appropriate access to humanitarian space, and security of humanitarian workers and infrastructure, in conformity with the national legislation of each State.

- 106.** We reiterate principled humanitarian action as foundations of humanitarian response and should underpin a future humanitarian architecture.
- 107.** We are concerned about the proliferation of armed groups and non-state actors as a growing problem in the abuse of human rights and the impeding of humanitarian access in conflict areas and commit to take specific measures to bring to account non-state actors who impede humanitarian access to civilians caught in situations of conflict and generalized violence, in full respect of international law and AU Legal Instruments, including the Kampala Convention.
- 108.** We further underline the need to study and regulate the growing presence and implications of Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs), and support the on-going efforts, including by the African Group, within the UN Human Rights Council, to consider concluding a legally binding international instrument to regulate their activities.

Pillar Eight Knowledge, Innovation, Research, Data, Information and Communication Technology

- 109.** We acknowledge that credible and reliable data plays an important role in enhancing state capabilities for prediction, prevention, response and adaptation. Therefore we call for the following:
- a. Investment in knowledge generation, innovation and research,
 - b. enhancement of national capabilities on the systematic use of existing data and the collection of new data, and the analysis and sharing of information,
 - c. disaggregation of data by the specific needs of populations affected by humanitarian crises particularly in terms of gender and age,
 - d. investing and strengthening national statistical capacities and geospatial information systems for the collection, analysis, production and dissemination of disaggregated data that is credible and reliable to design evidence based policies; and encourage the use of the same data system to measure and evaluate policy effectiveness and evidence-based decision-making;
 - e. systemic technological transfer and institutionalised use of ICTs, which include social and mass media engagement, such as tools for empowering humanitarian actors at all levels and information dissemination for proactive responsiveness in humanitarian action. These need to be elaborated at all levels of governance.

Pillar Nine**Role of the Host Communities, Affected Populations, Private Sector, African Civil Society and the Diaspora and the Youth**

- 110.** We reiterate that effective and mutually reinforcing partnerships are of paramount importance in humanitarian action. We therefore call for collective involvement of the host communities, affected populations, the private sector, African philanthropists, African civil society and the diaspora. The concerns of host communities should be part of the assistance strategy.
- 111.** We recognise that the Diaspora constitute one of the important resources of the continent but remains largely untapped. We note that the Diaspora can play an important role not only for its financial contribution, but also in the light of its potential in mobilizing social expertise, as well as political pressure in foreign jurisdictions for humanitarian action in Africa. While acknowledging this important role of the Diaspora remittances in humanitarian action and development, we call on the international community to remove barriers and support safe and legal mechanisms of remittance flows.
- 112.** We also appreciate that civil society is an important factor in the humanitarian field with a huge capacity for timely response in the field with better knowledge of the realities on the ground. There is a need for specific measures to strengthen their complementary role. Traditional civil society has been the basis for local resilience of African communities for centuries. With long serving expertise, civil society can play an important role as a basis for the new architecture and a trigger for progressive reforms.
- 113.** We recognize the need and call for an enhanced role of Faith Based Organizations in humanitarian discourse including in peace building efforts.
- 114.** We further recognize that the youth constitute more than half of Africa's population and are a source of energy that can be mobilized for the continent's development and humanitarian response. We call for collective policies to invest in the youth to tap into their enormous potential.
- 115.** We are concerned that young people are a potential target for extremism and radicalisation. We commit to measures to mobilize the youth to combat extremism and radicalization and serve as the

bedrock for the transformation of the humanitarian architecture and Africa's renaissance. In this regard, we need to develop collective strategies to enhance the productive potential of the youth, including through: commercial agriculture and investment, promoting the use of ICTs and media engagement as a tool for empowering the youth; information dissemination for proactive responsiveness in regard to humanitarian action, and to promote social responsibility and more civic engagement of the youth. We note that these strategies call for the enhancement of domestic resources mobilization to support entrepreneurship among young Africans and to promote more civic engagement.

Pillar Ten Humanitarian Financing and Partnerships

- 116.** We recognise that effective partnerships governed by mutual accountability are key to building proactive humanitarian architecture, but we note that partnerships for humanitarian action should be based on respect, responsibility, transparency and mutual accountability.
- 117.** Humanitarian actors should institute and strengthen effective monitoring and evaluation systems in humanitarian action to improve accountability and to better control the allocation of resources to ensure efficiency. We call for measures to monitor the exploitation and use of Africa's strategic resources like energy and water.
- 118.** Humanitarian action should enjoy a level of funding predictability from the Pan-African and international communities, which allows for more efficient action and better access to relief materials. In this regard, we call for concrete measures and political will to raise resources for the implementation of the priorities identified in this CAP. There is need for comprehensive measures to address the issue of corruption to ensure resources are well utilised for an Africa's development.
- 119.** We acknowledge that finance is key to an effective humanitarian response. The international community needs to explore ways in which global financial institutions could better serve their roles in respect of financing humanitarian responses in Africa.
- 120.** There is an urgent need to reverse the devastating impacts on Africa of climate change. Climate change funding should act as a catalyst for adequate support, including by mobilizing predictable,

appropriate and timely financial resources in order to enable developing countries, especially in Africa, to face climate change related humanitarian disasters. Thus, the Istanbul Summit outcome should lay emphasis on the speedy implementation of decisions concerning various climate change funds including the UN Green Climate Change Fund and other financial support mechanisms, including the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action on Financing for Development and commitments made at the November 2016, COP21-Paris Conference on Climate Change.

- 121.** We are concerned about the continent's resources that have been pillaged. Recalling the recommendations of the Mbeki High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, we accordingly call for the Istanbul outcome to focus on mechanisms for the return of resources pillaged from Africa, and for such funds to be utilized meaningfully for Africa's development and humanitarian action on the continent.
- 122.** We also emphasise the need for a strategy and innovative ways to decrease reliance on external funding. We therefore call for a shift to internal resource mobilisation as being central to an effective African humanitarian architecture. This would leverage Africa's leadership in dealing with humanitarian issues and setting Africa's own agenda including by implementing its commitments under the Sendai framework, amongst others.
- 123.** We call for robust engagement of the private sector and the informal sector, including measures to strengthen long-term, non-traditional financing mechanisms. In this regard, Africa should explore ways of raising its own resources to fund humanitarian actions, including the support of the African Development Bank (AfDB), the private sector, African philanthropism and remittances from the diaspora, as well as public and semi-public institutions managing such remittances with a view to rationalization and reduction of costs, but in doing so pay attention to the impact of such an approach on the independence and character of the Union.
- 124.** In this regard, we need to call on the AU and RECs to speed up the implementation of recommendations of the Obasanjo High-Level Panel on Alternative Sources of Funding the African Union.
- 125.** We recognize that to achieve these goals, there is need for a fair international burden sharing mechanism. This notwithstanding, Africa's future humanitarian action should be premised on the spirit

of Pan-Africanism and solidarity. The African Solidarity Initiative should galvanize African support for Member States in difficult situations.

126. While we acknowledge the primary responsibility of Member States for the protection of populations in need of humanitarian assistance, we stress that the international community also has a key responsibility to share the burden of humanitarian aid. The international community must share the burden imposed on host countries in Africa and ensure a much fairer means of burden sharing globally, particularly in supporting such affected Member States to cope with the impact of refugees and IDPs.
127. Member States need to integrate humanitarian issues in national, regional, and continental development plans with the necessary budget allocations. In this regard, there is a need to shift the focus from measures for strengthening strategies for management of IDPs and refugees, and place such emphasis and focus on finding durable and sustainable solutions.
128. We welcome outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit global consultations, which recommended a New Deal for Refugees, with emphasis on support to host countries to help them in mitigating the impacts of their hospitality. The roles of host countries and communities should be further recognized as significant contributions to humanitarian assistance and should be quantified.



VI. Post Istanbul & Implementation Mechanisms

129. We call for a post Istanbul Plan of Action to serve as a mechanism for the implementation of outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit.
130. However, we are cognisant that that Africa's humanitarian agenda is on-going and will not be limited to the Istanbul event. Therefore, following the conclusion of the WHS in May 2016, a continental conference will be convened in early 2017, to examine mechanisms for implementation of our commitments and Africa's agenda on forced displacement.
131. We therefore call on the Commission to initiate the process for operationalisation of the African Humanitarian Agency and AU Humanitarian Policy Framework, supported by a 10 year Plan of Action on forced displacement issues in Africa, with due consideration of its legal, structural and financial implications.
132. We further acknowledge that to achieve the desired change, implementation of these recommendations is crucial. Therefore to devolve this process to lower levels, a regional consultative platform should be established to strengthen coordination and synergy between AU, Member States and RECs, as well as other AU Organs and Institutions for enhancing awareness and reaching all segments of African society.



Conclusion

WE, HEADS OF STATE OF THE AFRICAN UNION:

133. COMMEND the political process in the formulation of the Common African Position on humanitarian effectiveness that truly represents our aspirations; and further commend the H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his efforts at the reform of the global humanitarian architecture and in convening the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit.
134. REAFFIRM our call for a fairer humanitarian system that takes cognisance of Africa's concerns but restores international principles that define our humanity.
135. REITERATE our resolve to address the root causes of forced displacement on the continent, in order to assure generations to come, of peace, stability and prosperity.
136. RECOMMEND that the World Humanitarian Summit outcome should pay full attention to appropriate reforms for an inclusive and relevant humanitarian system, to assure effective protection and assistance of populations in humanitarian crises.
137. REAFFIRM the pan-African Ideals and African Shared Values as foundations of our future endeavours in addressing humanitarian issues.
138. COMMIT to our long-term vision and objectives as guided by the Constitutive Act of the African Union and Agenda 2063, and call for a long-term global humanitarian Agenda for Action.

Adopted on 30 January 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



**COMMON AFRICAN POSITION (CAP)
ON HUMANITARIAN EFFECTIVENESS**

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