

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia P. O. Box 3243 Tel; 5517 700 Fax: 5511299
Website: www.africa-union.org

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**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES
WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM
27 January 2014, ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA)**

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES
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27 January 2014, ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA)**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System met in its Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session on 27 January 2014, in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), under the Chairmanship of **H.E. Hon. Sam KUTESA**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda.

2. The Chairperson, after opening the meeting and all protocols duly observed, announced the Agenda of the Meeting.

3. He gave the floor to the Representative of the Department of Political Affairs to present the Report on the Implementation of Decision EX.CL/Dec.780 (XXIII) and the New African Candidatures within the International System which the Ministerial Committee is expected to consider and make appropriate recommendations to the 24th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

4. He then gave the floor to the Representative of the Office of the Legal Counsel who presented the Draft Revised Rules of Procedure and the Report of the Permanent Representatives Committee which was mandated to work on the initial draft to be submitted to the Executive Council.

II. PARTICIPATION

5. In attendance were the following Member States of the Committee: Algeria, Angola, South Africa, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Djibouti, Gambia, Malawi, Mauritius, Senegal, Sierra-Leone, Chad, Tunisia and Uganda.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Committee adopted the following Agenda:

- (i) Implementation of Decision EX.CL/Dec.780 (XXIII) ;
- (ii) Consideration of African candidatures for posts within the international system;
- (iii) Transmission of the proposed revision of the Rules of Procedure and the report of the Permanent Representatives Committee of the Ministerial Committee in charge of the revision of the Rules of Procedure of the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures in the international system.
- (iv) Any other business.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EX.CL/Dec.780 (XXIII)

7. The Committee took note of the progress made in the implementation of Decision EX.CL/Dec.780 (XXIII) on African Candidatures endorsed at the May 2013 Session held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). The Committee observed that it was difficult for the Secretariat of the Committee to collect information on election results for certain positions where there is no African Union representation.

8. Concerning the implementation of decisions of the Executive Council, Members of the Committee regretted the fact that African voters gave little support to African candidatures endorsed by the Executive Council. They also stressed the need for countries to forward good candidatures and for the Ministerial Committee on candidatures to choose qualified and worthy candidates.

V. DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9. With regard to new applications for positions in the international system, the Committee decided to consider only those candidatures whose elections will take place this year and to defer consideration of other candidatures to the sessions of the Committee which precede the elections.

10. The Committee approved the following candidatures:

- i) **for Membership of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations**, the candidature of **Mr Clément Atangana** of the Republic of Cameroon for re-election and the candidature of Mr Azzouz Kerdoun of the Republic of Algeria for re-election;
- ii) **For the post of Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**, the candidature of **Mr Martin Chungong** of the Republic of Cameroon;
- iii) **For Membership of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, the candidature of **Mr Basharu Umaru** of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the candidature of Mr Pyaneandee Coomara of Mauritius;
- iv) **For the post of Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organisation**, the candidature of **Mr Geoffrey Onyeama** of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- v) **For the post of Judge at the International Criminal Court**, the candidature of **Mr Antoine Kesia-Mbe Mindua** of the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- vi) **For the post of Judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for the period 2014-2023**, the candidature of **Judge Albertus Jacobus**

Hoffmann from South Africa for re-election and the candidature of Judge James Luta Kateka of Tanzania for re-election;

- vii) **For the post of non-permanent member of the UN Security Council** for the period 2015-2016, the candidature of ***the Republic of Angola***.

11. With regard to **Membership of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization** for the period 2014-2017, the Committee decided, pursuant to Decision EX.CL.Dec.398 (XII) which requires that all candidatures to posts within the International Labour Organisation be submitted for consideration to the Labour and Social Affairs Commission (LSAC) through the Geneva Office of the African Union, to postpone the candidature of the ***Republic of Sudan*** and that of the Republic of Senegal for consultation within the said Group.

12. **Concerning the following posts, the Committee differed the matter to its session in June/July 2014:**

- i) **For the post of Regional Director of the World Health Organisation, the** candidature of ***Dr Fatoumate Nafo Traore***, of the Republic of Mali/the candidature of Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, of the Republic of Botswana/the candidature of Professor Thérèse Aya N'Dri-Yoman, of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire ;
- ii) **for the post of Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU)** for the period 2014-2018, the candidature of ***Eng. Shola Taylor***, of the Federal Republic of Nigeria/the candidature of ***Mr Mongi Hamdi***, of the Republic of Tunisia/the candidature of ***Mrs Fatimetou Mint Mohamed Saleck*** of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

13. The Committee decided to postpone to:

- i) January 2015, the candidature of the ***Republic of Senegal***, for the post of non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period 2016-2017;
- ii) June/July 2015, the candidature of ***Mr Jeremiah Lengosa*** of the Republic of South Africa , for the post of Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organisation for the period 2016-2020, during elections to be held in May 2015.

VI. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO REVISE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

14. The Committee considered and adopted the draft revised Rules of Procedure of the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System which

was prepared by the Permanent Representatives Committee set up for that purpose. The Report and draft proposal are attached to this report.

VII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Angola took the floor to thank the Members of the Executive Council for endorsing the candidature of his country for the post of non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period 2015-2016.

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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P.O. Box 3243

Telephone : +251-115-517 700

Fax : +251-

115517844

website : www.africa-union.org

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DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE AU MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE
ON CANDIDATURES WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

DRAFT AMENDMENTS
TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE AU MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE
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Rule 1
ESTABLISHMENT

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, and of Resolution AHG/Res.144 (XXI), there shall be established a “Standing Nominating Committee” of the Executive Council to be known as the “AU Ministerial Committee on Candidatures within the International System” (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”)

Rule 2
COMPOSITION

1. The Committee shall be composed of fifteen (15) members in conformity with the geographical distribution of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, namely, West (4), East (3), Southern (3), Central (3) and Northern (2).
2. Each region shall designate its representatives after consultations among the Member States of the respective regions.

Rule 3
REPRESENTATION

Each Member of the Committee shall be represented by a delegation led by its Minister of Foreign/External Affairs or any other representative designated by its Government.

Rule 4
TERMS OF OFFICE

Members of the Committee shall hold office for a period of two (2) years. Their terms of office shall be renewable once.

Rule 5
FUNCTIONS

1. The Committee shall consider only candidatures for elective posts within the United Nations System as well as other International Intergovernmental Organisations.

2. Where applicable, candidatures for non-elective posts within the United Nations System or other International Intergovernmental Organizations shall be considered by the relevant African Groups in conformity with their Rules of Procedure or established practice including rotation.

3. Candidatures shall, where applicable, be considered taking into account the recommendations, if any, of the relevant African group(s). The Committee shall endorse the recommendations of the African Groups except, where in its opinion the recommendations have not been made in conformity with the relevant rules or established practice. The Committee shall make appropriate recommendations thereonto the Executive Council.

Rule 6 SESSIONS

1. The Committee shall meet in ordinary session twice a year, concurrently with the ordinary sessions of the Executive Council.
2. The Committee shall, upon approval by a two-thirds majority of its members, meet in extraordinary session.

Rule 7 VENUE OF MEETINGS

1. The Committee shall hold its sessions at the same venue as the ordinary sessions of the Executive Council except when meeting in extraordinary session.
2. **The Committee shall hold its extraordinary sessions at the Headquarters of the African Union or in any other member state upon invitation by the latter and in accordance with Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council.**

Rule 8 MEETINGS

1. All the Meetings of the Committee shall be held in closed Session.
2. Any Member State which has a candidate may present the same before the Committee but shall be required to leave the meeting during the deliberations of the Committee.
3. A Member of the Committee **that** has a candidate may present the same, but shall not participate in the deliberations of the Committee and shall be required to leave the meeting during the deliberations on such candidature.

Rule 9
ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE OF THE BUREAU

1. The Bureau shall be composed of a Chairperson, three (3) Vice Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, who shall be elected for a term of office of one (1) year. The Members of the Bureau shall be eligible for re-election once.
2. Each region shall designate its Members of the Bureau after consultations within the respective regions.
3. The Chairperson shall open and close the meetings, direct the debates/proceedings and submit for approval the records of the meetings. In the absence of the Chairperson or in case of a vacancy, the first Vice-Chairperson **or any other member of the Bureau** shall act as the Chairperson.

Rule 10
QUORUM

A two-thirds majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum at any of its meetings.

Rule 11
SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATURES

1. All candidatures shall be submitted to the Committee, through the AU Commission. **(The Political Affairs Department should acknowledge receipt containing the date and the stamp of submission.)**
2. Candidatures shall be submitted to the Commission at least **two (2)** months prior to the Sessions of the Executive Council, which shall consider them. **The submission shall be accompanied by relevant information related to the submitted candidatures, including the nature of each post, date and place of elections.**
3. In accordance with paragraph 2 above, the Committee may accept candidatures submitted after the deadline under the following conditions:
 - a) **No other candidatures for the position have been submitted in the prescribed time in accordance with paragraph 1.**
 - b) **The position is declared vacant during the meeting of the Committee and the submission of candidatures has been closed.**

c) There are more vacancies reserved for Africa than the submissions received.

4. Member States shall submit the names of their Candidates with accompanying **Curricula Vitae** (CVs) of at most three (3) pages, in at least two (2) working languages of the AU and where applicable a personal statement outlining the vision and programme of the candidate.

5. The official communication shall also indicate the actual date, as well as place of the election for the post for which candidatures are being submitted.

6. Upon receipt of the nominations and accompanying CVs, the Commission shall circulate them to all Member States for information.

7. The Commission shall circulate all candidatures and accompanying CVs to the Members of the Committee at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Sessions of the Executive Council, which shall consider them.

8. The Commission shall also prepare **relevant and detailed** background notes on each post being considered for support, which shall include information such as: which countries have held the post before, which countries are being considered for the first time, names of previous supported unsuccessful candidates.

9. The Commission shall provide the Committee with all necessary information including **information on the nature** and number of posts under consideration, the dates of submission of candidatures by Member States as well as **the date and place of elections** and the status of consultations at the level of the African Groups.

10. In order to ensure a transparent process and prevent any premature endorsement, the Commission shall keep records of all forthcoming positions that would be up for elections in the next twelve (12) months and communicate them to Member States.

Rule 12

ADMISSIBILITY OF CANDIDATURES

1. In accordance with decision CM/Dec.650 (LXXV) of the Seventy-Fifth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in March 2002, candidatures that are not submitted in accordance with Rule 11 (1), (2), (3), (4) **and (5)** above shall not be included on the Agenda of the Committee.

2. By virtue of Article 4 (p) of the Constitutive Act, candidatures of States or nationals of states under suspension shall not be considered.

Rule 13
CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATURES

1. **Candidatures shall be considered, when elections are organized, between the ordinary session of the Executive Council on the margins of which the Committee is meeting and the following session.**
2. **In order to increase chances of winning, the Committee may decide to permit the early consideration of certain candidatures to allow the candidates and Member States to benefit from a longer period of time to campaign at regional, continental and international level, provided that all Member States are informed by the Commission accordingly.**
3. **There shall be early consideration under paragraph 2 above provided:**
 - a) **a request for early consideration and the reasons thereof are contained in the submission;**
 - b) **the Commission will have informed all Member States accordingly**

Rule 14
RECOMMENDATIONS ON CANDIDATURES

1. **The Committee shall take into consideration the pertinent Decisions of the Union as well as the following criteria in considering the candidatures:**
 - a) **Candidates qualifications, intellectual qualities and experience;**
 - b) **Candidates international repute and recognition;**
 - c) **Equitable geographical representation;**
 - d) **Collective interest of the African Union.**
2. **Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this rule, the Committee shall have the right to recommend the withholding of support for any candidature, if in its opinion it would be in the best interest of the Union.**

Rule 15
DECISION-MAKING

1. **The Committee shall be answerable to the Executive Council of the African Union. Its recommendations shall be binding after endorsement by the Executive Council.**
2. **The Committee shall take its decisions by consensus or, failing which by a simple majority of the members of the Committee eligible to vote.**

3. Decisions of the Executive Council on the recommendations of the Committee on a particular candidature shall be binding on all Member States.

Rule 16
Sanctions for Non- compliance with Decisions

Member states that fail to comply with the decisions of the Executive Council on candidatures for elective posts within the International system ,in addition to the sanctions provided for in Article 23 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union may also be subject to a suspension of endorsement of their candidatures for a period of five(5) years.

Rule 17
REPORT

The Committee shall adopt its report before submission to the Executive Council for consideration.

Rule 18
WORKING LANGUAGES

The Working languages of the Committee shall be those of the African Union.

Rule 19
AMENDMENTS

The present Rules of Procedure may be amended by the Committee by a simple majority of its members, subject to the approval of the Executive Council.

Rule 20
ENTRY INTO FORCE

The present Rules of Procedure shall enter into force upon approval by the Executive Council.

Adopted by the Twenty Forth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on January 2014.