

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE OYALA CONSULTATIVE SUMMIT OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMITTEE OF TEN (C-10) HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

- 1.** The African Union Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on UN reforms held its Fifth Consultative Summit on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council, in Oyala, Republic of Equatorial Guinea on 24th November 2023. The Summit was hosted by **H.E. Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo**, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea; under the chairmanship of **H.E. Dr. Julius Maada Bio**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and Coordinator of the AU Committee of Ten; **H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso**, President of the Republic of Congo.

- 2.** Other Heads of State and Government were represented as follows:
 - a. His Excellency **Hon. Rigathi Gachagua**, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya;
 - b. Her Excellency, **Major (Rtd) Jessica Alupo** Vice President of the Republic of Uganda;
 - c. His Excellency, **Mr. Nangolo Mbumba** Vice President of the Republic of Namibia;
 - d. His Excellency **Mr. Mossa E. B. Elkony**, Vice President and member of the Presidential Council of the State of Libya
 - e. His Excellency **Mr. Ahmed Attaf** Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria;
 - f. Her Excellency, **Madam Annette Seck**, Minister in charge of Senegalese Abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad of the Republic of Senegal
 - g. His Excellency **Mr. Ambrose Lwiji Lufuma**, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Zambia.

The African Union Commission was represented by the **H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat**, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

3. The Heads of State and Government in their deliberations reviewed eighteen years of activities of the C-10 on the reform of the UN Security Council. The Heads of State acknowledged that significant advancements have been made in canvassing support for the Common African Position (CAP) as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration.
4. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the CAP remains the only viable option for Africa to successfully achieve its objectives. With the continued support for the CAP by UN Member States therefore, the Heads of State and Government emphasized that African Countries should stay united on the reform of the Security Council, speak with one voice and unequivocally support the CAP in terms of allocating two seats in the Permanent Category with all its prerogatives and privileges including the Right of Veto, and two additional seats in the Non-Permanent category of the Security Council.
5. The Heads of State and Government in their deliberations noted the interrelated and interconnected elements of the reform process in particular, the five key clusters namely: Relationship between the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council; Size of an Enlarged Council and Working Methods; Question of the Veto; Regional Representation and Categories of Membership.
6. The Heads of State in acknowledging the need for additional impetus in the engagements by the Committee as it relates to the IGN to firstly strengthen the African voice during the IGN process and secondly addressing the

historical injustice done to Africa, decided to intensify its approach with enhanced engagement in the UN Security Council reform process by the group, in order to continue to advance the CAP.

In this regard, they decided as follows:

- a. The CAP as espoused in Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration is the only viable option to redress the historical injustice done to the African Continent.
- b. Officials to adopt means of enhanced engagement at all levels to properly situate Africa to take advantage of any opportunity to continue to advance the CAP that may arise from the efforts of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) Co-Chairs, Member States, and Interest Groups. This includes advocating for the treatment of Africa as a special case and a priority in the reform process.
- c. In this vein, any submission to the Summit of the Future by the IGN should have an unequivocal message of addressing the non-representation of Africa in the permanent category with all the prerogatives and privileges as the current permanent members and gross underrepresentation in the non-permanent category of the UN Security Council. The message should also make the clarion call for Africa to be treated as a priority and special case in the reform process.
- d. A revised version of the Framework Document should be developed with the call to Member States who did not populate the original 31st July 2015 document and its annexes, to do so in order to narrow down divergences and consolidate convergences in terms of the various positions.

- e. In stressing the critical importance for heightened engagement with the five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council the C-10 Heads of State agreed to continue outreach to their P-5 counterparts including as agreed in the annexed Plan of Action; and further instructed the C-10 Ministers to draw up a roadmap of activities with specific timelines which will be undertaken to advance the work of the C-10.
- f. In this regard, instructed the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the C-10 to come up with a proposed plan of engagement and aide-memoire to engage with the Five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council.
- g. Africa to only engage in text-based negotiations provided there is prior consensus among all member States of the United Nations on the five clusters and an agreed framework, which broadly addresses the issue of historical injustice that has wide consensus, and a model of reform which clearly addresses expansion in both categories of the UNSC.

The Committee expressed their appreciation to **H.E. Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo**, the Government and People of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea for hosting the meetings and the hospitality and excellent facilities provided.

The Heads of State commended the efforts of the Coordinator, **H.E. Dr Julius Maada Bio** for his strong leadership and commitment in spearheading the pursuit of the C-10 mandate and advancing the objectives of the Common African Position on the reform of the United Nations Security Council.

Issued in Oyala this 24th Day of November 2023.