FOURTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AU SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON YOUTH, CULTURE AND SPORTS (AU STC-YCS4)
22 – 26 MAY 2023
ADDIS ABABA – ETHIOPIA

STC/YCS-4MIN/Report [EN]

THEME: ***"AU at 60: Unlocking and Scaling Innovation for AfCFTA Implementation Through Youth, Culture and Sports"***

REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' MEETING

African Union

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministers' Meeting of the 4th African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture and Sport (STC-YCS4) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 26 May 2023, following the meeting of Experts' held from 22 to 24 May 2023. The theme of the Conference was ***""AU at 60: Unlocking and Scaling Innovation for AfCFTA Implementation Through Youth, Culture and Sports"***

II. ATTENDANCE

2. The following thirty-four (34) AU Member States were in attendance:

   Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Mauritania, Malawi, Mozambique, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, South Sudan, South Africa, Seychelles, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following Organs and Specialized Agencies and institutions of the African Union (AU) were represented: African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD); African Union International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa (CIEFFA); The African Academy of Languages (ACALAN); the Centre for Linguistic Studies Through Oral Traditions (CELHTO); and The African Union Sports Council (AUSC).

4. The following Partners and United Nations (UN) Agencies attended the meeting:

   United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); International Labour Organization (ILO), Afro-Arab Cultural Institute (AACI), African World Heritage Fund (AWHF); Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA), African Union Sports Council Regions, World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Africa Office, Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) AFREXIM Bank and SELAM, National Youth Councils.

III. OPENING SESSION

5. In her welcome statement H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma, the Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development welcomed all Ministers of Youth, Culture and Sports to the 4th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture and Sport (STC YCS4), and commended their commitment to attend this important meeting which will discuss and propose possible

strategies and approaches to youth development, sustainable culture and sports programmes, which will enhance regional integration and social cohesion in Africa. She further commended Member States commitment to develop and support the youth, culture and sport programmes and initiatives. She also took the opportunity to apologize and at the same time appreciate the Member States patience on the delays to organize the 4th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture and Sport (STC YCS4).

6. She emphasized that, the contribution of youth, culture and sport in accelerating the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and the realization of the African Union Agenda 2063 of the Africa We Want could not be over emphasized. She mentioned that youth have a strong contribution to make to the continent's economies and there is a need to consider programmes and initiatives which will increase their active participation and contribution in the economies though sport and cultural activities and programmes.

7. Ms. Chido Mpemba AUC, the AUC chairperson's Youth Envoy, in her remarks, expressed her appreciation on behalf of young people across the continent and diaspora for the invitation to participate in the STC. She underscored that young people are represented at the highest level in the affairs of the African Union. She pointed out that, the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), the largest free-trade initiative in the world is an importance pathway which can provide meaningful and sustainable opportunities for African youth. She emphasized the importance of providing appropriate education, and skills to young people to enhance their contribution to the achievement of the AU Agenda 2063 aspirations, the Africa we Want. Further she called for the Member States that have not yet done so to ratify the Youth Charter.

8. In his opening remarks Hon. Abderahman Hammad, Minister of Youth and Sports of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, outgoing Chairperson of the STC – YCS3, he expressed his honor to host the Third Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture, and Sports of the AU in the Algerian capital. He noted that the continent's youth are the future, and our shared collective responsibility is to ensure that they have the skills, resources, and support they need to succeed. He highlighted that sports and culture programmes and activities are an opportunity for young people to develop their professional, physical, mental, and psychological well-being. He also emphasized the need to provide youth with appropriate skills, promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, invest in education and training, help them meet their needs and aspirations, achieve success, and access the digital world, and all this includes coding programs, digital marketing, data analysis, and other

related fields. He concluded by wishing his fellow ministers a productive session of the STC-YCS4.

IV. PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE STC YCS4 THEME "*AU at 60: Unlocking and Scaling Innovation for AfCFTA Implementation Through Youth, Culture and Sports"*

9. A panel composed of H.E. Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union. H.E. Dr. Nkosanzana Dlamini, Zuma, Minister in the Presidency of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Republic of South Africa and Former Chairperson of the African Union Commission; Hon. Emma Theofulus Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Republic of Namibia; H.E. Amb. Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, AUC and Ms. Chido Mpemba, AUC Chairperson's Youth Envoy, in an interactive manner addressed the theme of the STC-YCS4 titled "***AU at 60: Unlocking and Scaling Innovation for AfCFTA Implementation through Youth, Culture and Sports***".

10. The panel moderator, Ms Prudence Ngwenya, introduced the panel a conversation on intergenerational cohesiveness – how different generations have come together to deliver of Agenda 2063 and as an effort to continue to shine a light on 60 years of achievements and embrace the journey from where we have come from, to where we are going. She further mentioned that the panel is an e opportunity to hear from people who have contributed to the vision of our founding fathers and mothers.

11. The panelists highlighted the need for Africans to preserve their past, access the present for a better planning of the future, they called for African Governments to implement decisions on youth, culture and sports sectors; They stressed the need Africa to use its resources to develop the continent; They further urged Africa to nullify the paradox '***Rich Africa rich continent with poor people"***. They called on African Youth to play their responsibility to own and promote the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063 in all sectors; The need for AU Member States to implement the protocol on Free Movement of Persons and Commodities to promote integration and a build a prosperous Africa was also underscored. Member States and the AU shall engage in the popularization of the various flagship projects of the AU Agenda 2063, including the One Million Next Level among marginalized groups and the Great Museum of Africa (GMA).

V. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

(a). Election of the Bureau of the STC-YCS4

Following confirmation of the quorum and presentation of election procedure by the representative of the Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC), the meeting elected the Bureau for the 4th Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture and Sports (STC-YCS4) as follows:

Position	Region	Country	Sector
Chairperson	Southern Africa	Malawi	Youth
1st Vice-Chairperson	Western Africa	Nigeria	Culture
2nd Vice-Chairperson	Central Africa	Democratic Republic of Congo	Sport
3rd Vice-Chairperson	Eastern Africa	In consultation	Youth
Rapporteur	Northern Africa	In consultation	Culture

(b) Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work of the STC-YCS4

12. The agenda and programme of work were adopted without amendment.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE EXPERTS' MEETING REPORT OF THE STC-YCS4

13. The Report of the Experts meeting of the STC-YCS4 was presented by the AU Commission due to the absence of the Rapporteur of the STC-YCS4. The Commission presented the Report of the Experts' Meeting over the previous two days. Issues were discussed and decisions were taken as captured in the following sections.

14. The Ministers endorsed the experts' report with the recommendations from the three parallel sessions.

VII. DECISIONS ON YOUTH, CULTURE AND SPORTS

ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

15. The Chairperson of the STC-YSC4 and Minister of Youth of the Republic of Malawi, Hon. Uchizi Mkandawire, expressed gratitude to the former Bureau Chair, Algeria and in the absence of a Rapporteur, requested the Secretariat to read the report of the STC Experts for the Ministers' consideration.

i. Presentation of the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate

1) The Meeting received a presentation of the Experts Report on the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate and took note of the Experts' deferral to this meeting of the proposal to reform the STC-YCS by merging the Youth Sector into the current STC on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) to establish a new STC on Women, Gender and Youth to align with the AU Reforms.

2) Following deliberations, the Ministers endorsed the Experts report and adopted the following decisions:

   a) **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to conduct an assessment and a benchmarking exercise to determine the organization of Ministries in charge of Youth at Member States level, which could guide the decision on whether or not to move the Youth Sector to the Gender STC to establish an STC on Women, Gender and Youth.

   b) **DECIDES** that while such benchmarking exercise is conducted, the Youth sector remains in the current STC constellation of Youth, Culture and Sports.

ii. Consideration of Matrix of Decisions on STC-YCS-3

1) The Meeting received a presentation of the Experts Report on the Implementation of the Decisions on the of the 3rd STC on YCS held from the 21st to the 25th of October 2018, in Algiers, Algeria.

2) The Ministers endorsed the recommendation of the Experts report and called on Member States to align their reporting mechanisms and submit their reports timely.

iii. Pan African Youth Union (PYU) / AUC relationships

1) The Meeting received a presentation of the Experts Report on the Pan African Youth Union (PYU) / AUC relationships.

2) After extensive deliberations, the Ministers adopted the following decisions:

   a) **COMMENDS** the AUC Ad Hoc Committee for the work done in executing its mandate, and welcomes the report titled ***"Report of the African Union Commission Ad-Hoc Committee on the Pan African Youth Union"*** and accompanying recommendations.

   b) **CONGRATULATES the** Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the Headquarters of the Pan African Youth Union.

   c) **AFFIRMS** the critical role that PYU plays in organizing young people on the continent.

   d) **ACKNOWLEDGES** the challenges that PYU has had in the past and the need for revitalization.

   e) **REQUESTS** the Commission to embark on an incremental approach to assist PYU to be properly constituted to address election flaws.

f) **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to start a process of engaging on an MOU to focus on the revitalization and reform Agenda.

iv. Presentation on Youth Envoy

1) The meeting received a presentation of the Experts Report on the presentation of the Youth Envoy and following clarification on the role of the Youth Envoy vis-à-vis the PYU in the event of institutionalization of the Office of the Youth Envoy and PYU granted Specialized Agency status, the Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the Experts report and adopted the following decisions for onward transmission to AU Policy Organs:

a) **CONGRATULATES** Ms. Chido Mpemba on her appointment as African Union Commission Chairperson's Youth Envoy and commended the Envoy for the accomplishments of her office.

b) **TAKES NOTE** of the status of ratification of the African Youth Charter, noting that 16 Member States have not ratified the Charter and called on increased advocacy for the signing and ratification of the African Youth Charter in the Member States that haven't done so yet. Burundi is the latest country to ratify the protocol in 2022.

c) **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations by the AUC Youth Envoy to review, in line with Article 31 the African Youth Charter to reflect the evolving aspirations of Africa's Youth.

d) **REQUESTS** the Commission to provide guidance on the mechanism to address emerging and current realities of the African Youth through the African Youth Charter

e) **FURTHER REQUESTS** the AU Commission to conduct a study and publish a report on the state of implementation of the African Youth Charter since its adoption.

f) **DECIDES** to institutionalize the Office of the Youth Envoy of the AUC Chairperson for the assurance of continuity of the representation of young people's voices at the leadership of the AU Commission.

g) **REQUESTS** the relevant Departments of the AU Commission to work with the Youth Envoy to assess the financial, legal and structural implications of the institutionalization and submit to the relevant Policy Organs for consideration.

v. Update Report on Youth Connekt Africa

1) The meeting received a presentation of the Experts Report on the Update Report on Youth Connekt Africa.

2) The Ministers adopted the following decisions:

   a) **RECALLS** EX.CL/Dec.1032(XXXIV) which established YouthConnekt Africa as a continental initiative that promotes youth linkages and knowledge sharing and commended the Republic of Rwanda, for its efforts in spearheading the YouthConnekt Africa Initiative in collaboration with the Commission, and partners.

   b) **RECOGNISES** and applauds the leadership of the 32 Member States that have joined YouthConnekt and are shaping knowledge-based cooperation and collaboration on Youth Development in Africa.

   c) **EXPRESSES** appreciation to UNDP for the support to operationalize Youth Conneckt Africa Hub and also appreciates the Republic of Ghana and the Republic of Senegal for convening Africa's youth, policy makers and partners under YouthConnekt Africa Summits and YouthConnekt Sahel Forum, respectively and acknowledges the Republics of Kenya and of Chad which will be hosting these important events later this year.

   d) **TAKES NOTE** of the offer presented by the Kingdom of Morocco and People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to host the North Africa Satellite of Youth Connekt and expression of interest in organising training for Member States youth experts towards effective delivery of the Youth Connekt mandate.

   e) **INVITES** YouthConnekt Africa Hub to coordinate closely with the AU Commission through collaborative programmes in the areas of knowledge development on youth policy, innovative programmes and building a continental ecosystem for youth.

   f) **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue its support to YouthConnekt Africa Hub as a platform of innovative youth development activities in Member States in line with the African Youth Charter, 1 Million Next Level and the Demographic Dividend Roadmap through development of relevant frameworks of cooperation.

   g) **FURTHER REQUESTS** the AU Commission in collaboration with the YouthConnekt Africa Hub to report on the implementation of this decision at the next STC session.

vi. Promoting Youth Volunteerism and Young Professional Programs in Africa

1) The meeting received a presentation of the Experts Report on Promoting Youth Volunteerism and Young Professional Programs in Africa.

2) The Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the Experts report and adopted the following decisions:

a) **COMMENDS** the AU Commission for spearheading youth volunteerism on the continent and successful implementation of the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps and the development of model national volunteer policy and continental volunteer framework as well as various tools aimed at promoting Youth Volunteerism in Africa.

b) **APPRECIATES** support from Partners in jointly implementing Young Professional schemes and creating opportunities for young people across the AU Commission and AU organs in line with Assembly/AU/Dec.687(XXX), which requested the Commission to achieve 35% of youth quotas by 2025.

c) **TAKES NOTE** of the offer by the State of Libya to host the African meeting on Volunteerism in 2023 and the offers by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the AU Youth Volunteer Corps Training in 2023 as well as the Arab Republic of Egypt offer to host the AU Youth Volunteer Corps Training in 2024.

d) **ENDORSES** the AU Model National Volunteerism Policy, and AU Volunteer Framework as a reference guide for the Member States embarking on developing or updating national volunteer policy, strategy or program to draw inspiration from and harmonize national efforts to continental frameworks.

e) **REQUESTS** Member States to submit to the AU Commission their national reports on Youth volunteerism for the development of AU State of Youth Volunteerism report.

f) **RECOMMENDS** for Member States to sponsor their nationals to serve in the AU Youth Volunteer Corps program through the established recruitment and deployment mechanism to boost the participation of their nationals in the AU Youth Volunteer Corps.

g) **REQUESTS** the Commission, in concurrence with the STC Bureau, to develop and submit a strategy for the institutionalization of AU Young Professional Programs for consideration by the AU Assembly and to report regularly on the implementation of this decision.

vii. Report: Outcome of the Youth Pre-Event

1) The meeting received a presentation of the Experts Report on the Outcomes of the Youth STC Pre-Event

2) The Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the Experts report and adopted the following decisions:

a) **TAKES NOTE** of the outcomes of the Pre-STC Youth Forum which was held on the 18th and 19th of May 2023 where youth and relevant stakeholders deliberated and discussed on the key strategies, scalable models and recommendations to accelerating and taking the 1 Million Initiative to the Next Level through Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship, Engagement as well as Health and Well being (4Es and H).

b) **COMMENDS** the AU Commission for organizing such a Pan-African platform for Youth of the continent to exchange.

c) **REQUESTS** the Commission to work towards implementing the recommendations for the accelerated implementation of the African Youth Charter, 1 Million Next Level initiative, the Demographic Dividend Road Map, the Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security as adopted at the 36th AU Heads Summit and other Youth Priorities of the Continent.

viii. African plan of action on Youth Empowerment 2024 - 2030: Reaching 300 Million African Youth through The 1 Million Next Level Initiative

1) The meeting received a presentation of the Experts Report on the African plan of action on Youth Empowerment 2024 - 2030: Reaching 300 Million African Youth through the 1 Million Next Level Initiative

2) The Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the Experts report and adopted the following decisions:

a) **COMMENDS** the Commission for the successful implementation of the 1 Million by 2021 initiative which reached more than 8 Million Youth between 2019 and 2021 through opportunities in Employment, Entrepreneurship, Education and Engagement (4Es)

b) **TAKES NOTE** of the launch of the One Million Next Level (1mNL) Initiative by H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Chairperson of the AUC, as the successor of the 1mby2021, which aims to reach at least 300 million young people in Africa with opportunities in health and wellbeing, education, entrepreneurship, employment, and engagement (4Es+H) by 2030.

c) **CONGRATULATES** H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi for formally

launching the National One Million Next Level Initiatives in Uganda and Burundi, respectively.

d) **NOTES** the overlaps and synergies between the 1 Million Next Level and the African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (APAYE) and recommends that the 1 Million Next Level and its action plan succeeds the APAYE.

e) **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to work with the Bureau of the STC-YCS4 to develop Country Acceleration Strategies for the accelerated implementation of the 1 Million Next Level at the national levels across Member States for scale and impact.

f) **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to develop an annual report and Scorecard on the progress of the implementation of the 1 Million Next Level by Member States, partners, youth organizations and stake holders.

ix. Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion (WYFEI) 2030 Initiative

1) The meeting received a presentation of the Experts Report on the Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion (WYFEI) 2030 Initiative.

2) The Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the Experts report and adopted the following decisions:

a) **TAKES NOTE** of the launch of the AU Women and Youth Financial & Economic Inclusion (WYFEI) 2030 Initiative and drew parallels of initiatives taking place at national levels, notably Egypt, DRC, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Congo and Benin.

b) **CONGRATULATES** H.E. Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Deputy Chairperson (DCP) of the Commission for spearheading the WYFEI 2030 Initiative and H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana for launching the WYFEI 2030 Initiative in Accra, Ghana.

c) **REQUESTS** Member States to support the WYFEI 2030 Initiative by aligning existing national women and youth empowerment strategies, programmes, and investments to the WYFEI 2030 Initiative and cascading the approach by sharing knowledge, best practices, experience, and resources towards achieving impact and scale.

x. Equal Representation of Women and Men and Youth Quota Initiative

1) The meeting received a presentation of the Experts Report on the Equal Representation of Women and Men and Youth Quota Initiative.

2) The Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the Experts report and adopted the following decisions:

   a) **TAKES NOTE** of AU Assembly and other policy decisions enjoining the Commission to take specific measures by the year 2025, to achieve equal representation of women and men (50/50) across all levels and 35% of the AU workforce to be made up of youth.

   b) **REQUESTS** the AUC to engage in awareness-raising efforts to popularize the AUC Equal Representation of Women and Youth Quota Initiative and to work with Member States to cascade the implementation of the initiatives by providing Country Technical Assistance and capacity building.

xi. Presentation of the Africa Youth Fund

1) The meeting received a presentation of the Experts Report on the Africa Youth Fund.

2) The Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the Experts report and adopted the following decisions:

   a) **COMMENDS** the AU Commission and African Union Development Agency- New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) for their efforts to collaborate on the implementation of the Trust Fund for African Women (TFAW) and the African Youth Fund (AYF).

   b) **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to collaborate with AUDA-NEPAD to establish a joint governance mechanism and architecture to harmonize the TFAW and AYF accountability, governance, management, and operational mechanisms.

   c) **DECIDES** for AUDA-NEPAD to operationalize and implement the Trust Fund for African Women (TFAW) and the African Youth Fund (AYF).

   d) **REQUESTS** the AU Commission and AUDA-NEPAD to define modalities of cooperation on the African Union Women and Youth Financial Mechanisms and to report on a regular basis on the implementation of the decision.

xii. Initiatives by Partners

1) The meeting received a presentation of the Experts Report on Initiatives by Partners

2) The Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the Experts report and adopted the following decisions:

a) **COMMENDS** the AU - ILO Youth Employment for Africa (YESA) initiative and requests harmonization of this initiative with other AU Youth Employment-related initiatives, in particular the 1 Million Next Level initiative and its plan of action under its Employment pillar.

b) **WELCOMES** the AU-UNDP African Young Women Leaders Fellowship and recommends scaling up of the initiative and establishment of linkages with similar initiatives at national levels.

c) **COMMENDS** the AUC on the implementation of the AU Digital and Innovation Fellowship and AU CivicTech Fund; and welcomes the deployment of digital and innovative approaches towards ensuring youth leadership in political participation. RECOMMENDS AUC to work with partners towards upscaling of these initiatives as part of the 5 year plan on youth development.

d) **TAKES NOTE of** UNESCO's initiatives spearheaded across the continent promoting education in Africa – including through the Gender Responsive education toolkit, scholarship schemes and teacher education.

ON CULTURE

i. ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE SECTOR FOR THE PERIOD 2018 - 2022

Takes note of the report:

a) **COMMENDS** the AU Commission for the work done during the implementation of the AU theme of the year for 2021 titled: ***Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levels for Building the Africa we Want,"*** which contributed to increase the visibility of the arts, culture and heritage sector in a challenging period/COVID19 pandemic;

b) **FURTHER COMMENDS** the Republic of Kenya and the African Union Commission (AUC) for signing the Host Agreement of the hosting of the Temporary Secretariat of the African Audio-Visual and Cinema Commission (AACC);

c) **REQUESTS** the AUC to continue to advocate for the ratification of the Statute of the African Audio-Visual and Cinema Commission (AACC);

d) ***FURTHER REQUESTS*** the AU Commission and Kenya to fast track the launching of the African Audio-Visual and Cinema Commission (AACC) Temporary Secretariat, as well as appointment of its staff as per the Host Agreement, so that the Temporary Secretariat can play its role in the development and promotion of the creative economy of audio-visual and cinema. on the continent;

ii. THE GREAT MUSEUM OF AFRICA (GMA): A FLAGSHIP PROJECT OF THE AU AGENDA 2063

a) **REQUESTS** Member States to support the AUC and Algeria in mobilizing resources and in advocacy/publicity for the full implementation of the Great Museum of Africa (GMA): A flagship Project of the AU Agenda 2063;
b) **STRESSES** the need to strengthen the idea of establishing satellite museums linked to the Great Museum of Africa (GMA) in the different regions of the continent to complement the activities of the GMA and as part of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan of the AU Agenda 2063;
c) **CALLS FOR t**he increased involvement of young people in the implementation of AU Flagship programmes;
d) **INVITES** Member States to participate in the Launch of the Temporary Site of the GMA and the 1st Continental Exhibition to be held in Algiers, Algeria on 14 and 15 June 2023.

iii. ON THE REVISED AU PLAN OF ACTION ON CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

a) **APPROVES** the Revised AU Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries and **REQUESTS** the AUC to popularize the revised plan and advocate for its implementation by Member States.
b) **REQUESTS** Member States to monitor the implementation of the Revised AU Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries using its monitoring tool after the first ten (10) years of implementation.
c) **ENCOURAGES** Member States to fast track the process of implementation of Assembly Decision AU/Dec.772 on the allocation of 1% of national budgets to the arts, culture heritage and creative industries sectors by 2030.

iv. ON THE DRAFT COMMON AFRICAN POSITION (CAP) ON RESTITUTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

a) **APPROVES** the Draft Common African Position (CAP) on Restitution of Heritage Resources and **REQUESTS** Member States to **USE** the CAP as a strong tool in the negotiations for the restitution of illicitly trafficked cultural property and heritage and in combatting illicit trafficking in cultural property on the continent;
b) **REQUESTS** the AUC with support from the Open Society Foundation (OSF) and other partners to draft an implementation/operationalization plan of the CAP which will enable monitoring and evaluation of the restitution of the heritage resources on the continent. The plan should also guide on the systems and structures to receive the repatriated/restituted heritage resources to the continent

v. ON THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES (ACALAN)

a) **REQUESTS** Member States to render the necessary support to ACALAN to develop and promote African values and cultures through African languages which are one of the main components of our culture;
b) **APPROVES** the development of a Decade of African Languages alongside the UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022 – 2032 which should be implemented within ACALAN's mandate and programmes;
c) **ENDORSES** the change of dates for the commemoration of the African Languages Week (ALW) to be held from 21 - 28 February every year.

d) **REQUESTS** the Commission to implement Assembly Decision/AU/Dec796 (XXXIV) adopted at the 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in February 2021 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on making Kiswahili a working language of the African Union and to promote Kiswahili as a language of wider communication in Africa.
e) **REQUESTS** ACALAN and other institutions concerned be supported financially in their endeavour to effectively implement Decision/AU/Dec796 (XXXIV) to effectively promote Kiswahili as a Working Language of the AU and Language of Wider Communication in Africa.
f) **REQUESTS** ACALAN to revise the Languages Plan of Action for Africa to incorporate Decision/AU/Dec796 (XXXIV) on Kiswahili as a Working Language, of the AU and Language of Wider Communication in Africa.

vi. ON THE CENTRE FOR LINGUISTIC AND HISTORICAL STUDIES BY ORAL TRADITION (CELHTO)

a) **REQUESTS** CELHTO and CIDO to enhance collaboration on the implementation of the Encyclopaedia Africana Project: a flagship project of the AU Agenda 2063 to promote history on the continent;
b) **REQUESTS** Member States to promote Africa's oral traditions as they contribute towards the African identity and enable Africa to document its true history.

c) **RECALLED** Decision EX.CL/Dec1032 (XXXIV) on the adoption of the decisions of the STC-YCS3 held in Algiers, Algeria in 2018 and which included a decision for CELHTO to draft its Statute for consideration and approval by the AU policy organs; **REQUESTS** CELHTO to continue with consultations and work to refine the draft Statute and follow due process for its validation and endorsement. This should be done with no further financial implications for Member States;

vii. ON THE STUDY ON THE PROMOTION OF DECENT WORK IN THE AFRICAN CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES SECTOR

a) **ENDORSES** the Study on the Promotion of Decent Work in the Creative Economy Sector on the Continent.
b) **REQUESTS** more engagement between the Member States, ILO, UNESCO and AUC in the finalization, endorsement and implementation of the CREATE Programme in line with the study.
c) **FURTHER REQUESTS** the involvement of ministries responsible for youth, culture, and labour with ILO, UNESCO and AUC for the finalization, endorsement and subsequent implementation of the CREATE programme.
d) **REQUESTS** the AUC in collaboration with ILO AND UNESCO to explore possibilities and ways of integrating decent work strategies in the Revised AU Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries.

viii. ON THE 2nd Creative Africa Nexus (CANEX) and the Activities of AFREXIM Bank on the Creative Economy

a) **APPLAUDS** AFREXIM Bank for promoting and supporting the development of the creative economy on the continent through the Creative Africa Nexus (CANEX) programme.
b) **INVITES** Member States to attend and participate in the 3rd Edition of CANEX at IATF2023 taking place in Cairo, Egypt between 9-15 November 2023 by supporting participation of creatives from Member States through exhibition, performance and attendance.
c) **ENCOURAGES** Member States to adopt film-audio visual tax incentive policies to support the development of the sectors which also foster economic growth in tourism, infrastructure investment, as well as hospitality services.
d) **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** Member States to develop policies that foster the protection of African intellectual property, in order to catalyse a sustainable commercialisation of intellectual property on the continent.
e) **ADVOCATES** for Member States to support the construction of industrial parks in special economic zones in order to develop the clothing and textile sector through increased production capacity.

ix. ON THE AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE FUND (AWHF)

a) **RECALLS** the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union Declaration on African World Heritage Fund (Assembly/AU/Decl.4XXXII), which **REQUESTS** Members States to support the work of the AWHF to enable the Fund to fulfil its mandate on the continent.

b) **REQUESTS** the AWHF to support Member States with no inscribed sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List namely Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Liberia, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone,

Somalia, South Sudan & Eswatini to nominate at least one (1) site on the World Heritage List by the year 2026.

x. ON THE AFRICA ARAB CULTURAL INSTITUTE (AACI)

a) **TAKES NOTE** of the activity report of the AACI.
b) **REQUESTS** Member States to continue supporting the AACI in the implementation of its programmes and activities to increase the visibility of AACI on the continent.

xi. ON THE OBSERVATORY OF CULTURAL POLICIES IN AFRICA (OCPA)

a) **TAKES NOTE** of the report of OCPA.
b) **ENCOURAGES** Member States to revise their national cultural policies in light with the Charter for Cultural renaissance which entered into force in October 2020.
c) **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the offer by the Kingdom of Morocco to host the head office of the Committee of African Capitals of Culture; **REQUESTS** the Committee on African Capitals for Culture to finalize the programme which should designate on a three (3) years cycle an African city as an African Capital of Culture with defined criteria, and report on progress to the 5th Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture and Sport (STC-YCS5).
d) **FURTHER REQUESTS** Member States to support the work of the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA) and ensure that national cultural policies and updated.

xii. ON THE SELAM PROJECT

a) **TAKES NOTE** of the launching of the Connect for Culture Africa Project.
b) **REQUESTS** the AUC and Member States to support SELAM's Connect for Culture Africa (CfCA) 2023-2027, a Pan-African project on the promotion of the creative economy of the continent.
c) **FURTHER REQUESTS** the e Connect for Culture Africa Project work closely with the AUC in the advocacy for the implementation of the Assembly Decision AU/Dec.772 on the allocation of 1% of national budgets to the arts, culture heritage and creative industries sectors by 2030.

ON SPORTS

Takes note of the report:

1. ACTIVITY REPORT FOR SPORT 2018 – 2023

a) **REQUESTS** all Member States to participate in AU Sports Council Regions' meetings and play active roles in the activities of the Regions.

b) **URGES** All Member States that are owing arrears in form of contributions to the dissolved Supreme Council for Sports in Africa (SCSA) to pay their arrears through the AU Sports Council as this remains an audit query that is consistently being followed by the AUC Office of Internal Oversight (OIO).

c) **REQUESTS** the AU Commission to appreciate and include all mega sports events hosted on the continent in the Sports Activities Report.

d) **CONGRATULATES** the Republic of Senegal for the exceptional historic and unprecedented performance in the annals of African football by winning all African competitions and in all categories.

e) **COMMENDS** the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for hosting and organizing exceptional sports competitions within a very limited time period.

f) **ALSO CONGRATULATES the Kingdom of Morrocco for being the first country in Africa to reach the FIFA World Cup Semi-Finals in the history of the tournament.**

2. **REVISED AFRICAN UNION POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT IN AFRICA 2023-2033**

a) **ENDORSES** the African Union Policy for Sustainable Development of Sports in Africa 2023-2033.

b) **REQUESTS** Member States and the entire African Sports movement to embrace and align their policies with the AU Policy for Sustainable Development of Sports in Africa.

3. **REPORT OF THE AU SPORT COUNCIL ADVISORY BOARD**

a) **REQUESTS** all parties involved in the African Games: host countries, participating countries and partners to respect and comply with the Statutes of the AU Sport Council that was approved by the AU Assembly of Heads of States and Governments in January 2016.

b) **ENDORSES** the establishment of the AU Sports Council Sports Advisory Board and Technical Committee on Sports for Development

c) **REQUESTS** All AU Sports Council Regions to align their Constitutions to the Statute of the African Union Sports Council (AUSC), which is the mother Statute.

4. AFRICA WORLD ANTI-DOPING REPORT

a) **ENDORSES** Member States contribution to WADA as per current AU Scale of Assessment.

b) **ENDORSES** Egypt as the 3rd Member of the WADA Africa Foundation Board for the term 2023-2025 along Madagascar and Ghana.

c) **URGES** Member States to honour their obligations of paying contributions to WADA in a timely manner.

d) **ENCOURAGES** Member States to develop Anti-Doping laws, and to ensure that they consult with WADA prior to any official adoption to ensure compliance with World Anti-Doping Code.

e) **ENDORSES** Member States representation on WADA Foundation Board as follows: Botswana to replace Ghana for the period 2024-2026, Democratic Republic of Congo to replace Madagascar in 2025, Tanzania to replace Egypt in 2026 and Zambia to replace Botswana in 2027.

5. 12TH EDITION OF THE AFRICAN GAMES – RABAT 2019

a) **COMMENDS** the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting a successful 12th Edition of the African Games 2019

b) **CALLS FOR** the signing of the African Games Protocol Agreement between AUC and host countries at least eight (8) years before the Games, to provide enough time for Member States to prepare for the Games.

c) **REQUESTS** Member States to honour their commitments and pay their financial obligations as required by the regulations for participation in the Games.

d) **URGES** All AU Sport Council Development Regions to continue organizing Regional Youth and Senior Games that will promote coaches and athletes' development pathways, to become qualifiers for the African Games and other international competitions.

6. **PROGRESS ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE 13th EDITION AFRICAN GAMES ACCRA 2023.**

a) **REQUESTS** Member States as a matter of urgency to confirm their participation, selection of sports codes and appointment of the Chef de Mission for the 13th Edition of the African Games 2023.

b) **CALLS FOR** Member States to support the Republic of Ghana in the preparations and hosting of the Games.

c) **URGES** the Host Country and other Games organizing stakeholders to comply with the Protocol Agreement for hosting the African Games, governing instruments, agreed timelines and roadmap.

d) **REQUESTS** Member States to express interest to host the 14th Edition of the African Games 2027 and 15th Edition of the African Games 2031.

e) **CALLS UPON** the Bureau of the STC-YCS to pay visits to the African Games host countries to assess the status on the preparations of the African Games. Bureau Members to meet their own costs for undertaking the mission.

7. REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA ON THE AFRICAN GAMES 2023

a) **CALLS FOR** the Statute of African Union Sports Council to be respected by all stakeholders with respect to the organization and management of future editions of African Games.

8. SAFEGUARDING IN SPORT AND SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT (S4D) CONTEXTS IN AFRICA: A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE FROM POLICY TO ACTION

a) REQUESTS All Member States and sports stakeholders to develop legislation that safeguards athletes, administrators, spectators and members of the public involved in sporting environments

9. PRESENTATION BY THE FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FIFA) ON FOOTBALL FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAMME AND THE CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL (CAF) ON AFRICAN SCHOOLS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

a) **CALLS FOR** the Strengthening of the collaboration between AU, FIFA and CAF

b) **CALLS UPON** Member States to support the implementation of the FIFA Football for Schools Programme and CAF African Schools Football Championship to promote mass participation, quality football development, life skills, and social

values education in line with the AU Agenda 2063 aspirations of the Africa We Want.

VIII. Adoption of the Report of Ministers

The Ministerial Report on Youth Culture and Sports was adopted with amendments.

IX. DATE AND VENUE FOR THE 5TH SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON YOUTH, CULTURE AND SPORTS

The STC-YCS 5 will be held in May 2025, the expression of interest to host the STC-YCS 5 were made by the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Rwanda, and the State of Libya.

X. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chief Executive of AUDA-NEPAD, H.E. Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas presented Energize Africa initiative. The initiative targets young professionals to enhance public sector efficiency; Innovation hubs to stimulate solution-focused research and development, and Entrepreneurship opportunities for Africa's youthful populations for improved socio-economic well-being. The CEO requested Member States to support the initiative.

XI. CLOSING SESSION

In her closing remarks H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, thanked the Ministers, Member States and partners present at the meeting and congratulated all for the fruitful deliberations and the work achieved which enabled crucial decisions to be taken pertaining to the youth, culture and sport sectors. She stressed that it was through the implementation of such decisions that the sectors will move ahead towards empowering the continent's young people to contribute to the socio-economic and cultural development of the continent.

The Meeting was officially declared closed by Hon. Uchizi Mkandawire, Chairperson of the STC-YCS4 Bureau and Minister of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Malawi. The Chairperson thanked the Ministers for attending the meeting and providing guidance on the youth, culture and sport agenda for the next two years. He concluded by thanking the elected Bureau for the support provided in the deliberations.