

### THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – SECOND SESSION – 2023 DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

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## REPORT ON PARTICIPATION AT THE 36<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION HELD IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA FROM 14<sup>TH</sup> TO 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

CLERK'S CHAMBERS DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS <u>NAIROBI</u>



Report of a Delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations to the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
ABBREVIATIONS	4
1.0 PREFACE	5
2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION	9
3.0 KEY OUTCOMES OF THE 36TH ORDINARY SESSION	2
4.0 OBSERVATIONS	4
5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS	5

Report of a Delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations to the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

#### ABBREVIATIONS

CMP	-	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties
COP	-	Conference of the Parties
COP 23	-	Conference of the Parties Twenty-Third Session
COP 24	-	Conference of the Parties Twenty-Fourth Session
ExCom	-	Executive Committee
SBI	-	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
UN	-	United Nations
UNFCCC	-	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WCC	-	World Climate Conference

Report of a Delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations to the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

#### 1.0 PREFACE

#### 1.1 Committee Establishment and Mandate

- 1. The Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations is one of the twenty (20) Departmental Committees of the National Assembly established under **Standing Order 216** whose mandates pursuant to the **Standing Order 216 (5)** are as follows:
  - a) To investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned ministries and departments;
  - b) To study the programme and policy objectives of Ministries and departments and the effectiveness of the implementation.
  - c) On a quarterly basis, monitor and report on the implementation of the national budget in respect of its mandate.
  - d) To study and review all legislation referred to it;
  - e) To study, assess and analyze the relative success of the Ministries and departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
  - f) To investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned Ministries and departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the House;
  - g) Vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any other law requires the National Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 204 (Committee on Appointments);
  - h) To examine treaties, agreements, and conventions;
  - i) To make reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible, including recommendations of proposed legislation;
  - j) To consider reports of Commissions and Independent Offices submitted to the House pursuant to the provisions of Article 254 of the Constitution; and

#### **1.2 Committee Subjects**

- 2. In accordance with the Second Schedule of the Standing Orders, the subjects of the Committee entail Defence, intelligence, foreign relations, diplomatic and consular services, international boundaries including territorial waters, international relations, and veteran affairs.
- 3. In executing its mandate, the Committee oversees the following government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs):
  - a) The Ministry of Defence,
  - b) The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs
  - c) The State Department for East African Community Affairs (EAC).
  - d) The National Intelligence Service

#### 1.3 Committee Membership

4. The Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations was constituted by the House on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 and comprise the following Members:

Chairperson Hon. Koech Nelson, M.P. Belgut Constituency <u>UDA Party</u>

Vice-Chairperson Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, M.P. Mandera North Constituency <u>UDM Party</u>

#### **Members**

Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, M.P, Gilgil Constituency **UDA Party** 

Hon. Hassan Abdi Yusuf, MP Kamkunji Constituency Jubilee Party

Hon. Odhiambo Millie G. Akoth, MP Suba North Constituency **ODM Party** 

Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, MP Kajiado Central Constituency **ODM Party** 

Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni,MP Kitui County **WDM-K** 

Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, MP Imenti Central Constituency **UDA Party** 

Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, MP Saboti Constituency **ODM Party**  Hon. Joshua Kandie, MP Baringo Central Constituency **UDA Party** 

Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, MP Kinangop Constituency Jubilee Party

Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, MP Sabatia Constituency **UDA Party** 

Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, MP Shinyalu Constituency **ANC Party** 

Hon. Mohamed A. Hussein, MP Lagdera Constituency **ODM Party** 

Hon.Teresia Wanjiru Mwangi, MP Nominated Member **UDA Party** 

Report of a Delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations to the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

#### 1.4 Secretariat

5. The Committee is facilitated by the following staff:

#### Mr. Dennis Mogare Ogechi **First Clerk Assistant** Lead Clerk/Head of Secretariat

Ms. Clarah Kimeli **Principal Legal Counsel II** 

Dr. Donald Manyala, PhD **Research Officer I** 

Ms. Roselyne Ndegi Senior Serjeant-At-Arms

Mr. Murimi Mwangi **Media Relations Officer III**  Ms. Winfred Kambua Kilonzo **Clerk Assistant III** 

Mr. Edwin Machuki **Fiscal Analyst III** 

Mr. Lenny Muchangi Legal Counsel II

Mr. Kelvin Ng'ang'a **Research Officer III** 

#### **1.5 Delegation**

6. The delegation that participated in the Assembly was comprised of:

1)	Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, M.P.	-	Leader of the Delegation
2)	Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, M.P,	-	Member
3)	Ms. Winfred Kambua Kilonzo	-	Secretary to the Delegation
1)	Mr. Abubakar Mauwa		Parliamentary Officer

4) Mr. Abubakar Msuwo

Parliamentary Officer

Report of a Delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations to the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14th to 20th February, 2023

#### 1.6 Acknowledgement

- 7. The Delegation is thankful to the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly for the logistical and technical support given to it during its preparation and actual participation in the Conference. Equally, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is commended for its coordinative role that ensured the effective participation of the delegation at the Conference.
- 8. It is, therefore my pleasant duty and privilege, on behalf of the delegation and by extension the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations, to present to the House the Report on Participation at the 36th Ordinary Session of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Report of a Delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations to the  $36^{th}$  Ordinary Session of the African Union Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from  $14^{th}$  to  $20^{th}$  February, 2023. 8 | P a g e

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 2.1 Establishment of the African Union (AU)

- 9. The African Union (AU) was officially launched in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa, following a decision in September 1999 by its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to create a new continental organization to build on its work. All 55 African countries are Member States of the African Union.
- 10. The OAU was formed in 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by the 32 African states that had achieved independence at the time. A further 21 members joined gradually, reaching a total of 53 by the time of the AU's launch in 2002.
- 11. In 2011, South Sudan became the 54th Member State, and in 2017, Morocco became the 55<sup>th</sup> Member State.
- 12. The OAU's main objectives were to: promote the unity and solidarity of African states; coordinate and intensify their cooperation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa; safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States; rid the continent of colonization and apartheid; promote international cooperation within the United Nations framework; and harmonize members' political, diplomatic, economic, educational, cultural, health, welfare, scientific, technical and defence policies.
- 13. The OAU operated on the basis of its Charter and the 1991 Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (known as the Abuja Treaty). Through the 1990s, leaders debated the need to amend the OAU's structures to reflect the challenges of a changing world. The creation of the AU shifted focus from supporting liberation from colonialism and apartheid to spearheading Africa's development and integration.
- 14. The vision for the Union included accelerating the process of integration in Africa; supporting the empowerment of African states in the global economy; addressing the multifaceted social, economic, and political problems facing the continent; and promoting peace, security, stability, democracy, good governance and human rights.
- 15. The Commission is the AU's Secretariat: It is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and is composed of an elected chairperson, deputy chairperson, six commissioners, and staff.
- 16. The AU vision is: An integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.
- 17. Agenda 2063, officially adopted by the AU Assembly in 2015, provides a collective vision and roadmap to build a peaceful, prosperous, and united Africa, based on shared values and a common destiny.
- 18. Under article 3 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (2000) and the Protocol to the Act (2003), the Union's objectives are to:
  - a) Achieve greater unity and solidarity between African countries and the peoples of Africa.
  - b) Defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States.

- c) Accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent.
- d) Promote and defend African Common Positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples.
- e) Encourage international cooperation, taking due account the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- f) Promote peace, security and stability on the continent.
- g) Promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance.
- h) Promote and protect human and peoples' rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant human rights instruments.
- i) Establish the necessary conditions that enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations.
- j) Promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies.
- k) Promote cooperation in all fields of human activity to raise the living standards of African peoples.
- 1) Coordinate and harmonize policies between the existing and future Regional Economic Communities for the gradual attainment of the objectives of the Union.
- m) Advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields, in particular in science and technology.
- n) Work with relevant international partners in the eradication of preventable diseases and the promotion of good health on the continent.
- o) Ensure the effective participation of women in decision-making, particularly in the political, economic, and socio-cultural areas.
- p) Develop and promote common policies on trade, defence, and foreign relations to ensure the defence of the continent and the strengthening of its negotiating positions.
- q) Invite and encourage the full participation of the African diaspora, as an important part of the continent, in the building of the Union.

#### 2.2 The Assembly of the African Union

19. The Assembly is the African Union's (AU's) supreme organ and comprises Heads of State and Government from all 55 Member States. It determines the AU's policies, establishes its priorities, adopts its annual programme, and monitors the implementation of its policies and decisions.

20. In addition, the Assembly:

- a) Elects the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC).
- b) Appoints the AUC Commissioners and determine their functions and terms of office.
- c) Admits new members to the AU.
- d) Adopts the AU budget.
- e) Takes decisions on important AU matters.
- f) Amends the Constitutive Act in conformity with the laid-down procedures.
- g) Interprets the Constitutive Act.
- h) Approves the structure, functions, and regulations of the AU Commission.
- i) Determines the structure, functions, powers, composition, and organization of the Executive Council.

Report of a Delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations to the  $36^{th}$  Ordinary Session of the African Union Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from  $14^{th}$  to  $20^{th}$  February, 2023.10 | P ag e

- 21. The Assembly can create any committee, working group or commission as it deems necessary. It can also delegate its powers and functions to other AU organs, as appropriate.
- 22. On peace and security matters, the Assembly delegated its powers to the Peace and Security Council (PSC) when the Council became operational in 2004. The Council was established in 2003 to be the standing decision-making organ for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts (Protocol on Amendments to the Constitutive Act, article 9).
- 23. Provisions governing the Assembly's composition, functions and powers, voting, and procedures are contained in articles 6 to 9 of the Constitutive Act and the Protocol on Amendments to the Constitutive Act. Section 1, rule 4 of the Assembly Rules of Procedure, as amended in 2021, elaborates on the Assembly's functions and powers.

#### 2.3 Meetings

- 24. Article 6 of the AU Constitutive Act provides for the Assembly to meet in ordinary session at least once a year and in extraordinary session on request by a Member State and approved by a two-thirds majority of Member States.
- 25. In 2004, the Assembly decided it would meet in Assembly ordinary session twice a year (Assembly/AU/Dec.53(III)). Sessions usually take place in late January or early February at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and in June or July hosted by a Member State.
- 26. In January 2018, the Assembly decided that ordinary sessions would be held once a year from 2019 (Assembly/AU/Dec.687(XXX)), and they have since been held in February each year.
- 27. In place of the June/July session, the Assembly Bureau holds a coordination meeting with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), with the participation of the Chairpersons of the RECs, Regional Mechanisms (RMs), and the Commission (Assembly/AU/Dec.798(XXXIV)).
- 28. Under rule 8 of the Assembly Rules of Procedure, as amended in 2021, the Assembly adopts its own agenda at the opening of each session. The provisional agenda and working documents for an ordinary session are prepared by the Commission 60 days before the opening session and submitted to the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) and Executive Council

#### 3.0 KEY OUTCOMES OF THE 36<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION

- 29. The Assembly of Heads of State and Government considered and made far-reaching decisions on various political and socio-economic areas to promote and advance the welfare and quality of life of the African citizenry.
- 30. African heads of State and Government endorsed the outcomes of the Dakar 2 Summit On Food Sovereignty and Resilience, hosted in January by the African Development Bank Group and the government of Senegal, calling for global support for its immediate implementation. They described the Dakar 2 Food Summit as important and timely to address rising food prices, disruption in the global food supply, and worsening of food insecurity in Africa. In less than a month, the Dakar 2 Food Summit mobilized more than \$36 billion in investment to boost food and agriculture production across the continent. The African Development Bank led with \$10 billion. Other commitments included, Islamic Bank committing \$7 billion, International Fund for Agricultural Development, or IFAD: \$3 billion, United States Agency for International Development, USAID: \$5 billion, European Union: \$4 billion, West African Development Bank: \$1 billion and Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa: \$2 billion.
- 31. The Heads of African Union member states called for more commitment and accountability in Africa's effort to achieve continental and global goals for nutrition ahead of the 2025 World Health Assembly Nutrition target deadline.
- 32. The Assembly considered various reports, including, but not limited to:
  - a) Institutional reforms of the African Union
  - b) State of peace and security in Africa, activities of the Peace and Security Council, and the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa.
  - c) Global political, financial, and energy policy governance and the food crisis.
  - d) The African Union's response on Covid-19 pandemic in Africa.
  - e) The evaluation report of the First-Ten Year implementation plan and the development of the Agenda 2063 Second-Ten Year Implementation Plan
  - f) The African Continental Free Trade Area
  - g) Climate change
  - h) Progress on the committee of Africa CDC and the appointment of the Director General of Africa CDC.
  - i) Appointment of one member of the AU Board of External Auditors.
- 33. The Assembly also considered various draft legal instruments on;
  - a) Draft statute of the African Training Center for Statistics (PANSTAT)
  - b) Draft statute of the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC)
  - c) The African Continental Free Trade Area Protocol On Competition Policy
  - d) Draft statute of the African Humanitarian Agency
  - e) The Protocol on Investment to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area
  - f) The Protocol on Intellectual Property Rights to the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area
- 34. During the Session of the Executive Council, the Ministers similarly considered among others:

Report of a Delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations to the  $36^{th}$  Ordinary Session of the African Union Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from  $14^{th}$  to  $20^{th}$  February, 2023.12 | P ag e

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- a) The annual report on the activities of the Union and its Organs
- b) The operationalization of Africa CDC.
- c) Progress report on the establishment and operationalization of the Africa Medicines Agency (AMA)
- d) The implementation of activities on the roadmap of the AU theme of the year 2022 on Nutrition
- e) The concept note and roadmap of the theme of the year 2023 "acceleration of AfCFTA implementation"
- f) Report on administrative and financial governance of the African Union Commission and the Organs.
- g) The draft AU Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework.
- h) The social and humanitarian situation in Africa.
- i) The implementation of the Continental Civil Capacity Mechanism for disaster preparedness and response
- j) Activities and prospects for the establishment of the High Committee in charge of the Agenda for the Decade of African Roots and Diasporas
- k) Report of the Joint-Sitting of the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions and the Committee of F15
- 1) Report of the Ministerial Committee on African Candidatures within the International System
- m) Report of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on the Implementation of Agenda 2063
- 35. The Executive Council conducted elections of the following:
  - a) Election of Two Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
  - b) Election of Six Members of the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption
  - c) Nomination of Three Judges to the Administrative Tribunal of the African Union
  - d) Appointment of One Member of the AU Board of External Auditors, for the Two-Year Term, 2022 and 2023
- 36. In conclusion, the 36<sup>th</sup> AU Summit urged Member States to double the spirit of Pan-Africanism, solidarity, and brotherhood by accelerating the operationalization of the AfCFTA

Report of a Delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations to the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.13 |  $P = g \in C$ 

#### 4.0 OBSERVATIONS

- 37. The delegation observed that:
  - a) Kenya is a committed member of the African Union and was dedicated to preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction across Africa. Kenya continued to maintain the firm position that her prosperity is inextricably linked to peace and stability in the continent and the need to enhance regional peace and security.
  - b) The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), one of the 13 flagship projects of Agenda 2063, is of immense benefit to both Kenya and the African continent. It creates the largest free trade area in the world measured by the number of countries participating. According to the World Bank, it presents a major opportunity for African countries to bring 30 million people out of extreme poverty and to raise the incomes of 68 million others who live on less than \$5.50 per day. This informed the launch of Kenya's national AfCFTA implementation strategy (2022-2027).

Report of a Delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations to the  $36^{th}$  Ordinary Session of the African Union Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from  $14^{th}$  to  $20^{th}$  February, 2023.14 | P ag e

#### **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

38. The delegation recommends that:

- a) The involvement of the National Assembly (Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations) in African Union forums should be preceded by structured engagement with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs especially with regard to prior briefing on the agenda and Kenya's position on various agenda items.
- b) The AfCFTA National Implementation Committee should put in place robust follow-up mechanisms to ensure full implementation of the national AfCFTA implementation strategy (2022-2027) for the country to reap maximum benefits from the African Continental/Free Trade Area.

DATE 20/06/23 SIGNED.

HON. MAJ. (RTD.) SHEIKH ABDULLAHI BASHIR, M.P. LEADER OF DELEGATION AND VICE CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

Report of a Delegation of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations to the  $36^{th}$  Ordinary Session of the African Union Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from  $14^{th}$  to  $20^{th}$  February, 2023.15 | P ag e



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#### REPUBLIC OF KENYA THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 13<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT - SECOND SESSION - 2023 DIRECTORATE OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND FOREIGN RELATIONS.

#### **REPORT ADOPTION LIST**

#### **REPORT ON PARTICIPATION AT THE 36<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION HELD IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA FROM 14<sup>TH</sup> TO 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023.**

We, the Members of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations, have pursuant to standing order 199, adopted this Report and affix our signatures to affirm our approval and confirm its accuracy, validity and authenticity today, **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**.

	NAME	SIGNATURE
1.	The Hon. Koech Nelson, M.P. (Chairperson)	(Harm pring on
2.	The Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, M.P. (Vice Chairperson)	A LAND
3.	M.P The Hon. Hassan Abdi Yusuf, M.P	he -
4.	M.P The Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari	
5.	The Hon. Odhiambo Millie Grace Akoth, MP	
6.	The Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, MP	
7.	The Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P	
8.	The Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P	, ''
9.	The Hon. Kandie Joshua Chepyegon, M.P	Ache
10.	The Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P	
11.	The Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P	CALL +
12.	The Hon. Teresia Wanjiru Mwangi, M.P	And
13.	The Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, M.P	
14.	The Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P	the
15.	The Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir Hussein, M.P	Ald

Annexure 2

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## **Adoption Minutes**

# MINUTES OF THE 32<sup>ND</sup> SITTING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE, AND FOREIGN RELATIONS HELD ON THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023 AT 10.30 AM IN THE MEDIA CENTER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

#### PRESENT

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- 1. The Hon. Koech Nelson, M.P.
- 2. The Hon. Maj. (Rtd.) Sheikh Abdullahi Bashir, M.P.
- Chairperson

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Vice Chairperson

- 3. The Hon. Hassan Abdi Yusuf, M.P
- 4. The Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, M.P
- 5. The Hon. Kirima Moses Nguchine, M.P
- 6. The Hon. Kandie Joshua Chepyegon, M.P
- 7. The Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P
- 8. The Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir Hussein, M.P
- 9. The Hon. Teresia Wanjiru Mwangi, M.P

#### APOLOGIES

- 1. The Hon. Wanjira Martha Wangari, M.P
- 2. The Hon. Odhiambo Millie Grace Akoth, MP
- 3. The Hon. Kanchory Elijah Memusi, MP
- 4. The Hon. (Dr.) Kasalu Irene Muthoni, M.P
- 5. The Hon. Kwenya Thuku Zachary, M.P
- 6. The Hon. Logova Sloya Clement, M.P

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

#### THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

1. Ms. Winfred Kambua Kilonzo

2. Mr. John Nganga

3. Mr. Murimi Mwangi

4. Ms. Rhoda Muchori

Audio Officer III

Clerk Assistant III

- Senior Sergeant-at-Arms
- Hansard Officer III

#### AGENDA

- 1. Preliminaries Prayers, Adoption of the Agenda
- 2. Consideration and Adoption of a Report of a Committee Delegation to the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.
- 3. Any other Business
- 4. Adjournment/Date of the next Sitting

#### MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/167/2023: PRELIMINARIES

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. and commenced with prayers. Then the Chairperson stated that the main agenda of the meeting was Consideration and Adoption of a Report of a Committee Delegation to the 36th Ordinary Session of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

#### MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/168/2023:

#### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SITTINGS

Confirmation of the Minutes for the previous Sitting was deferred to the next Sitting.

#### MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/169/2023:

#### CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF A REPORT OF A COMMITTEE DELEGATION TO THE 36TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION HELD IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA FROM 14TH TO 20TH FEBRUARY, 2023.

The Report of a Committee Delegation to the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 was adopted after being proposed by Hon. Ikana Fredrick Lusuli, M.P and seconded by Hon. Mohamed Abdikadir Hussein, M.P. It was adopted with the following observations and recommendations:

#### Observations

- 1. Kenya is a committed member of the African Union and was committed to preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction across Africa. Kenya continued to maintain the firm position that her prosperity is inextricably linked to peace and stability in the continent and the need to enhance regional peace and security.
- 2. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), one of the 13 flagship projects of Agenda 2063, is of immense benefit to both Kenya and the African continent. It creates the largest free trade area in the world measured by the number of countries participating. According to the World Bank, it presents a major opportunity for African countries to bring 30 million people out of extreme poverty and to raise the incomes of 68 million others who live on less than \$5.50 per day. This informed the launch of Kenya's national AfCFTA implementation strategy (2022-2027).

#### Recommendations

- 1. The involvement of the National Assembly (Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations) in African Union forums should be preceded by structured engagement with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs especially with regard to prior briefing on the agenda and Kenya's position on various agenda items.
- 2. The MDAs responsible for overseeing Kenya's national AfCFTA implementation strategy (2022-2027) should ensure robust follow-up mechanisms to ensure full implementation for the country to reap maximum benefits from the African Continental Free Trade Area.

#### MIN.NO. DDC/DIFR/170/2023:

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12.06 pm.

SIGNED: .

DATE: 20 06 23

THE HON. NELSON KOECH, M.P. CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS