



ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN
AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**TWENTY FIRST SUMMIT OF THE COMESA AUTHORITY OF
THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

Cairo, Egypt
23 November 2021

**COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE
TWENTY FIRST SUMMIT OF THE
COMESA AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

Theme: “Building Resilience Through Strategic Digital Economic Integration”

THE TWENTY FIRST SUMMIT OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA was hosted in Hybrid Format at Almasa International Conference Centre, New Administrative Capital Cairo, and the Arab Republic of Egypt on 23 November 2021, under the theme: *“Building Resilience Through Strategic Digital Economic Integration”*.

IN ATTENDANCE, Heads of State and Government of Egypt, Libya, Madagascar (in person); and Burundi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia and Tunisia (virtually). Also in attendance were Vice Presidents of Malawi, Uganda and Zambia; and Ministers from the Comoros, DRC, Kenya and Zimbabwe; and the Secretary General of COMESA.

PARTNERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The following development partners and organizations also attended the Summit: African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (ADB), , African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), East African Community (EAC), the Commonwealth Secretariat, Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the World Bank Group.

OPENING OF THE SUMMIT

His Excellency Mr. Andry Rajoelina, President of the Republic of Madagascar and outgoing Chairman of the Authority called the Summit to order;

ELECTED by acclamation His Excellency Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as Chairman, Mr. Mohamed Younes al-Menfi, President of the Libyan Presidential Council as Vice Chairman of the Twenty-First Summit of the Authority and His Excellency Mr. Andry Rajoelina, President of the Republic of Madagascar, as Rapporteur of the COMESA Authority;

His Excellency Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt **RECOGNISED** and **EXPRESSED** gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Andry Rajoelina, President of the Republic of Madagascar for the service of Madagascar as Chairman of COMESA Authority since October 2016;

His Excellency Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi thanked the Authority for the honour bestowed upon the Arab Republic of Egypt as Chairman of the Authority and pledged to provide full support to advancing COMESA’s integration programmes.

The following Heads of State and Government made statements: Tunisia, Burundi, Libya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles and Somalia; and Vice Presidents from Malawi, Uganda and Zambia; and Ministers from DRC and Kenya.

In addition, the following heads and representatives of regional economic communities and other regional and international organizations made statements: COMESA, African Union Commission, AfDB and the World Bank.

AFTER THE FORMAL OPENING OF THE SUMMIT, THE AUTHORITY

NOTED the Report of the Secretary General on the State of Integration in COMESA.

NOTED the Report of the COMESA Business Council

CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED the Report of the Forty-Second Meeting of the COMESA Council of Ministers;

CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED the Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the COMESA Ministers of Foreign Affairs;

A. ON COVID – 19 PANDEMIC AND RECOVERY PATH

NOTED the devastating socio-economic and cultural effects of the COVID-19 pandemic across various sectors of the economy and the low vaccine production and access in the region.

COMMENDED Egypt, Rwanda, Uganda and other Member States that are taking initiatives for vaccine production as well as **CALLED FOR** fair global distribution of vaccines particularly for Africa.

COMMENDED the Secretariat and Member States for the various initiatives undertaken to mitigate against the negative effects of the pandemic.

ENDORSED the establishment of a Multi–Sectoral Technical Committee on health matters to coordinate and support regional programmes at the Secretariat in line with Article 110 of the COMESA Treaty.

URGED Member States to prioritize investments in digital infrastructure to enhance universal access to internet and facilitate quick and sustainable economic recovery of our economies.

URGED Member States to scale up investment in research and innovation in the health sector and to prioritize all programmes that would enhance socio-economic recovery and generate more resilient societies that are ready to respond to disasters that may come.

URGED Member States to support the Africa COVID-19 Vaccine Development and Access Strategy and expedite vaccine roll-out as a sure path towards sustainable recovery.

B. ON THE COMESA ANNUAL REPORT

LAUNCHED the 2020 COMESA Annual Report

C. ON MEDIUM TERM STRATEGIC PLAN

The Summit **ENDORSED** and launched the Medium-Term Strategic Plans 2021 – 2025 for COMESA

D. ON LEGAL AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

APPOINTED AND SWORE IN Lady Justice Salohy Norotiana Rakotondrajery Randrianarisoa to the bench of the COMESA Court of Justice Appellate Division;

E. ON THE COMESA FREE TRADE AREA

COMMENDED the Republic of Tunisia for joining COMESA FTA on 1st January 2020;

URGED the Federal Republic of Somalia to fast-track the process of acceding to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and joining the COMESA FTA;

URGED other Member States who have not yet joined the FTA to do so;

URGED Member States to eliminate Non-Tariff Barriers to trade and **ADDRESS** structural challenges to reduce cost of doing business;

RE-EMPHASISED the important role played by the private sector in enhancing regional integration and **ENDORSED** the revival of the COMESA Trade Fairs to exploit the trade potential of the region;

NOTED the progress made in implementation of trade facilitation programmes including the Digital Free Trade Area (DFTA) and adoption of the Customs and Trade Facilitation Programme (2021-2023);

NOTED the importance of trade in services and called upon Member States to expedite liberalisation of services in the region in order to enhance intra-COMESA trade.

F. ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

WELCOMED the progress made on various infrastructure programmes on road and railway transport, water and maritime transport, civil aviation, energy, information and communication technology;

NOTED the financing, technical assistance and capacity building opportunities available under the Regional Infrastructure Finance Facility of the World Bank and the progress on the implementation of the power interconnection projects in the Region;

ENCOURAGED Member States to adopt and implement COMESA and Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation instruments to improve corridor efficiency and to continue with programmes to upgrade and maintain corridor infrastructure and facilities.

URGED Member States to roll out ICT infrastructure in underserved areas to promote universal access and affordable internet;

RECOGNIZED the importance of the use of artificial intelligence and digitalization in enhancing production, trade, investment and innovation;

G. ON GENDER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

ENDORSED the COMESA Gender Policy Implementation Plan to strengthen gender mainstreaming at all levels;

COMMENDED Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius and Seychelles on the signing of the Social Charter and **URGED** Member States that have not yet signed to do so;

ENDORSED the establishment of the COMESA Youth Advisory Panel to foster engagement of the youth in policy dialogue;

H. ON AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

ENDORSED the scaling up of agricultural productivity and value addition initiatives to enhance competitiveness, agricultural value addition and food security;

ADOPTED the industry sectoral frameworks and urged Member States to develop measures to domesticate the frameworks and mobilise resources needed for their implementation;

RECOGNISED the importance of developing the Blue Economy through balanced sustainable economic development and environmental protection in COMESA.

URGED member states to intensify their efforts to combat climate change given its disruptive weather patterns, leading to extreme weather events, unpredictability, scarcity of water supply and its contamination.

CALLED for the expeditious harmonization and mutual recognition of standards to facilitate intra COMESA Trade.

I. ON THE COMESA-EAC-SADC TRIPARTITE ARRANGEMENT

RECALLED that the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) Agreement was launched in June 2015 in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt;

RECOGNIZED the importance of the Tripartite Agreement in resolving the challenges of multiple memberships in the three RECs and of championing and expediting continental integration process.

NOTED that the following 11 Tripartite Member/Partner States have submitted instruments of ratification: Botswana, Burundi, Egypt, Eswatini, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

NOTED that the Tripartite Agreement only requires three more ratifications for it to enter into force and **CALLED ON** COMESA Member States that have not yet ratified to do so.

J. ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

REITERATED the importance of democracy and good governance in the maintenance of peace, security and stability and **URGED** Member States to continue strengthening democratic processes, structures and institutions in order to consolidate democracy and good governance;

CONGRATULATED and **WELCOMED** to the COMESA Authority the Heads of States and Government of DRC, Tunisia, Burundi, Malawi, Seychelles, Libya and Zambia.

Also **CONGRATULATED** on their re-election Heads of State and Government of Zimbabwe, Comoros, Mauritius, Uganda, Djibouti and Ethiopia.

EXPRESSED APPRECIATION to COMESA Elections Observer Missions and particularly the Committee of Elders on their role in supporting the consolidation of democracy in the Region.

SWORE IN three (3) members of the **COMESA Committee of Elders** that were appointed during the Twenty-First Summit of the Authority, namely, Mrs. Hasna Barkat Daoud from Djibouti, Ambassador Mohamed Ashraf Gamal Rashed from Egypt, and Mme Monique Andreas Esoavelomandroso from Madagascar.

K. ON PEACE AND STABILITY

REITERATED the importance of peace, security and stability for creating an enabling environment for investment, sustained economic development and a viable integration for the region;

LAUDED the signing of the October 2020 Ceasefire Agreement in Libya and **COMMENDED** the stakeholders on their commitment to the attainment of lasting peace in the country;

WELCOMED the Roadmap developed by the Libya Political Dialogue Forum towards free, fair, and inclusive presidential election on 24th December 2021 and **CALLED ON** all the parties to redouble their efforts to ensure that the elections are held on schedule;

CALLED ON all Member States to respect the Ceasefire Agreement and to fully comply with the Arms Embargo; and **REITERATED** its call for the withdrawal of all foreign forces and mercenaries from all Libyan territory, land, sea, and air, without delay.

NOTED that the problem of illegal immigration places a lot of pressure on Libya as a transit state and **EMPHASIZED** that the problem requires a political solution for its resolution and **CALLED ON** the European Union and COMESA Member States to support social economic programmes particularly for the youth

COMMENDED the Federal Republic of Somalia (FGS) led by President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed and Federal Member States (FMS) for reaching an agreement in September 2020 on the modalities to conduct the elections;

URGED the Federal Government of Somalia, the AU and the UN to engage in Somalia under the UN and AU umbrella on the basis of a comprehensive approach that combines the military and civilian components taking into consideration the views and aspirations of the Somalia people for a sovereign, united and prosperous Somalia post 2021

EXPRESSED APPRECIATION to the troop contributing countries to AMISOM namely Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda for the sacrifices they continue making for the promotion of peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Somalia;

WELCOMED the Agreement of November 21, 2021, to reinstate Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and to restore civilian rule in Sudan and **URGED** that every effort be made to lead Sudan towards close adherence to the timelines of the Transition

WELCOMED the other elements of the November 2021 Agreement on Sudan including the restoration of the Council of Ministers and the release of political detainees

ENCOURAGED the political leaders in Sudan to expedite the creation of a unified army as well as the drafting of a new constitution that will, among other things, outline the partnership between civilian and military in the transition government.

EXPRESSED CONCERN over the continued fighting in Tigray, Amhara, and Afar regional states in Ethiopia and **CALLED ON** all the parties to immediately cease hostilities and engage in constructive dialogue to end the crisis;

L. SECURITY

CONDEMNED strongly, the atrocities committed by ADF, CODECO, Mai Mai, and FDLR combatants and **CONDOLED** with the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

ENCOURAGED Burundi and Rwanda to continue in their efforts and cooperation to improve the security situation at the common border area

NOTED with appreciation the efforts by Rwanda and SADC in Mozambique as well as the efforts by Member States and other regional and international stakeholders in the counter- terrorism efforts in the region.

TOOK NOTE of the adverse effects of climate change and stand in solidarity with the Member States that have faced the devastating socio-economic impacts of these natural disasters; and **URGED** Member States to strengthen their national disaster response, mitigation and management structures.

EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY with the Government of Madagascar which is facing famine caused by climate change in the Southern part of the country

APPEALED to Member States and partners to adopt actions to mitigate the effects of climate change in light of the objectives of COP26.

COMMENDED COMESA Member States and Cooperating Partners for supporting Maritime security in the Western Indian Ocean.

CONGRATULATED Egypt for being selected to host the UN climate change convention COP27, on behalf of the continent of Africa.

M. ON COOPERATING PARTNERS

EXPRESSED appreciation to Cooperating Partners for sustained solidarity and **URGED** them to continue supporting COMESA.

N. ON SUPPORT FROM COMESA MEMBER STATES, ORGANS, INSTITUTIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

NOTED WITH APPRECIATION the contribution made by COMESA Member States, Organs, Institutions and Specialized Agencies in promoting the COMESA Integration Agenda.

SWORE IN Mr. Lloyds Vincent Nkhoma (Malawi), Mr. Mahmoud Momtaz (Egypt), Ms. Beatrice Uwumukiza (Rwanda), Ms Mesganu Arga Moach (Ethiopia) as new Commissioners for the COMESA Competition Commission:

P. ON THE 2019 - 2021 COMESA MEDIA AWARDS**AWARDED the 2019 - 2021 COMESA Media Prizes to the following:**

Mona Sewilam (Egypt), Moses Havyarimana (Burundi); Chimangeni Banda (Zambia), Prosper Ndhlovu (Zimbabwe), Georgia Mbaghughu Chirombo (Malawi), Fulgence Niyonagize (Rwanda), Sarah Mawerere (Uganda) and Mohamed Lotfy Yahia (Egypt).

Q. ON 2021 INNOVATION AWARDS**AWARDED 2021 innovation prizes to the following**

BILLY Peter Munyenembe (Zambia) and VINAY Jaytruth Kanhye (Mauritius).

O. CLOSING OF THE SUMMIT

The Authority **ADOPTED** its Final Communiqué as read by The Secretary General of the Common Market.

DONE at Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, this Twenty-Third day of November, 2021, in the Arabic, English and French languages, and all texts being equally authentic.