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Sixth Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment
21-24 October 2025
Addis Ababa
ETHIOPIA

STC-6/ARDWE/MIN

Ministerial Report

24 October 2025

I.INTRODUCTION

1. The African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopted the configuration of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) and the modalities of their operationalization (Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII) and Assembly/ AU/Dec.365 (XVII) in January 2009 and July 2011 respectively, as Organs of the Union in accordance with Article 5 (1) (g) of the Constitutive Act. One of the Specialized Technical Committees that was established is the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE).

2. The Ministerial Session of the Sixth Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE) took place in hybrid format in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 24th October 2025

II.PARTICIPATION

3. Delegations from the following Member States participated in the Ministerial Session of 6th STC-ARDWE: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe**.**

4. Participants also included delegates from Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAAGGW), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Convention on Combatting Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) World Food Programme (WFP), AGRA, the European Union Delegation to the African Union, and other partners.

III.COMPOSITION OF THE BUREAU OF THE 6TH STC-ARDWE

5. The representative of the AU Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) confirmed that a quorum had been attained for the Ministerial segment to commence proceedings in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the STC. The Legal Counsel then outlined the procedure for the handover between the outgoing and incoming Bureau as stipulated under Rules 16 and 17 of the Rules of Procedure.

- Chair: The Republic of Cameroon **(Central Region)**
- 1st Vice Chair: The Republic of Ghana **(Western Region)**
- 2nd Vice Chair: The Republic of Namibia **(Southern Region)**
- 3rd Vice Chair: Consultation still on going by representatives of Northern Africa
- Rapporteur: The Republic of Uganda **(Eastern Region)**

6. Handover Statement by outgoing Chair of the 5th STC Bureau.

Hon. Fred Bwino Kyakulaga, representing Hon. Frank Tumwebaze, delivered the handover speech at the 6th STC-ARDWE meeting. He conveyed greetings from President Yoweri Museveni, Hon. Tumwebaze, and the people of Uganda, and thanked Ethiopia and the AU Commission for their hospitality and organization. He highlighted key achievements of the 5th Bureau, including hosting the extraordinary AU Summit in Kampala that led to the Kampala CAADP Declaration (2025), the adoption of coffee as a strategic African commodity, and the successful Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit in Nairobi (2024). Finally, he handed over the Bureau Chairmanship, expressing confidence in continued cooperation among Member States and RECs.

7. Acceptance speech by incoming Chair of the 6th STC Bureau.

Hon. Emilia Arthur, Ghana's Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and 1st Vice Chair of the 6th STC-ARDWE Bureau, chaired the session on behalf of Cameroon, the Bureau Chair, who was absent due to national commitments. After symbolically receiving the AU flag and gavel from the outgoing Chair, she expressed gratitude for the trust placed in Ghana and reaffirmed the Bureau's commitment to advancing Agenda 2063. Her remarks emphasized shared prosperity, inclusive

development, and strengthened collaboration to drive agricultural transformation, rural development, and environmental sustainability across Africa.

IV. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

8. The meeting adopted the agenda of the STC as presented.

V. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On the Report of the Implementation of Decisions and Recommendations of the 5th STC-ARDWE, the STC:

9. ADOPTS the Report on the Implementation Status of the Decisions and Recommendations of the 5th STC-ARDWE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE (ARD)

On the 5th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review (BR) Report[1], the STC:

10. ENDORSES the Fifth CAADP Biennial Review (BR) Report**,**

11. SUBMITS the Fifth CAADP BR Report for adoption by the 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2026

12. CALLS UPON Member States, AUC and RECs to use different available platforms to disseminate the 5th CAADP BR Report and use it as widely as possible to stimulate debate, discussions, and policy changes

[1] The STC notes that Algeria expressed reservations in its scores as reported in the fifth BR Report

13. REITERATES the need for strong political leadership and commitment, including strengthening of financial and human resources capacities at all levels to drive implementation, mutual accountability, to achieve the aspirations of CAADP

14. ENCOURAGES RECs to continue to play the critical roles in the CAADP implementation, promoting peer reviews and strengthening mutual accountability through the review process

15. REQUESTS AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs and Member States to work on improving data quality and incorporating the BR process into the national statistical, monitoring and evaluation systems.

16. FURTHER REQUESTS, Member States, with support of AUC and technical partners to synergize the processes of the BR, National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIP) and Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs).

On the Domestication and Implementation Guidelines for the Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan, the STC:

17. ENDORSES the CAADP Kampala Implementation Guidelines as the definitive framework for the 2026-2035 CAADP cycle with implementation effective 1 January 2026 in full alignment with the CAADP Kampala Declaration

18. SUBMITS the CAADP Kampala Implementation Guidelines for adoption by the Heads of State and Government at the AU Summit of February 2026.

19. CALLS all Member States and RECs to initiate and lead the operationalization of the CAADP Kampala implementation process in accordance with the principles and commitments of the CAADP Kampala Implementation Guidelines.

20. DIRECTS the AUC-DARBE and AUDA-NEPAD in collaboration with relevant partners, African academic and research institutions to provide coordinated technical backstopping, capacity support, and policy guidance to Member States and RECs, to ensure the effective implementation of the Kampala Implementation Guidelines, in the

development of CAADP National Agrifood System Investment Plans (NASIP) and Regional Agrifood System Investment Plans (RASIP).

21. CALLS development partners to provide technical and financial support to Member states, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and RECs for the implementation of the CAADP Kampala Implementation Guidelines.

22. REQUESTS for the formal recognition of CAADP as a Flagship Programme of Agenda 2063, given its proven impact on agricultural transformation, food security, and inclusive economic growth across the continent

23. REQUESTS Member States, RECs and Partners to prioritize initiatives related to Soil Mapping; Fertilizer Development; Seed Bank Development; Job Creation, Climate Resilience and Blue Economy

On the 3rd Africa Biennial Report on the Implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR, the STC:

24. TAKE NOTE of the report and **ENCOURAGES** Member States and RECs to support the implementation of the recommendations

On Operationalization of Commissioner Moses Vilakati's 100-Day Priorities for Africa's Food Security, the STC:

25. ENDORSES the Operationalization of Commissioner Vilakati's 100-Day priorities

26. MANDATES Member States to integrate these priorities into NASIPs, aligning with CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035), UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) recommendations, and other continental Strategies

27. APPROVES the establishment of a Continental Steering Committee (CSC) of 100-Day Priorities for Africa's Food Security Chaired by AUC-DARBE

28. REQUESTS AUC to mobilize resources by collaborating with Member States, Development Partners, Development Financial Institutions (DFIs), resilience-focused funds and private sector actors to co-finance the interventions

29. FURTHER REQUESTS the Commission to institutionalize monitoring and reporting by integrating soil health, seed diversity, fertilizer use, and blue economy indicators into the first CAADP Biennial Review (Kampala Declaration) and other reporting mechanisms

30. TAKES NOTE of the recommendations to consider livestock and aquaculture productivity, environmental sustainability issues, the need to promote South-South Cooperation and align the priorities with the 2nd 10-year implementation Plan of Agenda 2063

On the Presentation of The Senior Officials' and Experts Report of the 6th STC-ARDWE

ENDORSES the Report of the Expert's Session of the 6th STC which was presented by the Rapporteur (Uganda)

On the Strategic Plan for the Resuscitation of the African Fertilizer Development Centre in Harare: Fertilizer Blending Plants in various regions, the STC:

31. ENDORSES the Strategic Plan on the Resuscitation of the African Centre for Fertilizer Development in Harare, Zimbabwe,

32. ENCOURAGES Member States to sign, ratify and deposit the instrument for broader ratification to fully integrate the centre into AU system and structures,

33. URGES Member States and RECs to provide strategic guidance for the establishment and sustainable operations of local and regional fertilizer blending facilities.

On the Guidelines for Accelerating Public Sector Opportunities in Financing Agrifood Systems, the STC.

34. ENDORSES the Guidelines for Accelerating Public Sector Opportunities in Financing Agrifood Systems,

35. TAKE NOTE of the Report on Public Sector Opportunities in Financing Agrifood Systems, and **REQUESTS** the Commission to work with AUDA-NEPAD, and Technical & Development Partners to mobilize resources to support the application of the Guidelines for evidence-based planning and Agric-finance Accelerator Facility development,

36. ENCOURAGES the Commission to enhance continental awareness on the Report and the Guidelines.

On the Guidelines for establishment of the African Union Advisory Board on Drought (AU-ABD), the STC:

37. REAFFIRMS its commitment to a legally binding protocol on drought management and **REQUESTS** African Heads of States and Government to consider elevating the issues of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at the continental level, especially drought through the Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC).

38.. URGES the African Union Commission and other Pan-African institutions to continue providing, political, financial and technical support to the African Group of Negotiators of UNCCD on Drought issues.

39. CONGRATULATES the Republic of South Africa on her nomination as Africa's drought protocol champion, **WELCOMES** its acceptance for the role and **REQUESTS** the AUC to galvanize African Member's States to Co-champion along with South Africa, the global advocacy for the drought protocol

40. REQUESTS the AU Commission to convene an African High-Level Conference on Drought ahead of the UNCCD COP17.

41. ENDORSES the Guidelines on establishment of the African Union - Advisory Board on Drought (AU-ABD)

42. COMMENDS the Commission for efforts to enhance drought monitoring through the Africa Drought Watch under the AMHEWAS programme and for spearheading the establishment of the Africa Drought Advisory Board.

On the Sustenance and effective maintenance of the new AU-PANVAC facility, the STC:

43. ENDORSES the report on sustenance and effective maintenance of the AU-PANVAC New Facility under construction, recognizing it as an important investment in Africa's veterinary health security infrastructure.

44. RECOMMENDS to the AUC to strengthen the human and financial resources to guarantee the sustenance and effective maintenance of the new facility of AU-PANVAC to enable it to fulfil its mission and mandate of vaccine certification and testing for animal disease surveillance in Africa.

On Safeguarding Animal Health for Sustainable Agri-food Systems and Socio-Economic Development in Africa, the STC:

45. ENDORSES the Pan African Strategy for elimination of dog-mediated rabies in Africa (PASERA) 2026-2035

46. ENDORSED the Continental Strategy for Sustainable Control and Elimination of Animal Trypanosomiasis in Africa (2026- 2035)

48. REQUESTS the Commission to mobilize resources to support the operationalization of these Strategies

On The Policy Framework for Economic African Feed and Fodder Sub-Sectors and Industries (PFEAFF), the STC:

49. ENDORSES the Policy Framework for Economic African Feed and Fodder Sub Sectors and Industries (PFEAFF).

50. ENDORSES the Guidelines for the establishment of the Dairy Africa Alliance as the apex multi-stakeholder structure to fast-track the expansion of Africa's Dairy sector

51. REQUESTS the Commission to mobilize resources to support the adoption and implementation of the PFEAFF and the Africa Dairy Alliance.

52. ENCOURAGES the Commission to enhance continental awareness on the Policy Framework and Africa Dairy Alliance and support AU member States and Regional Economic Communities for its domestication and implementation.

On the Report on the African Common Position for Sustainable, Resilient and Nature-positive Livestock Food Systems, the STC:

53. ENDORSED the Framework of the African Common Position for sustainable, resilient and nature-positive livestock food systems

54. ENDORSED the establishment and operationalization of an Africa Think Tank as a Network to spearhead synergy and coherence in climate action for livestock food systems and report to existing relevant AU-Structures with no financial implications to the Member States,

55. REQUESTS the Commission to work with Member States and relevant partners in drafting and developing an African Common Position for sustainable, resilient and nature-positive livestock food systems which will galvanize one voice for Africa to advocate for livestock as a solution

On the Report on the Implementation of the Africa Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASBP), the STC:

56. ENDORSED the revised African Seed and Biotechnology Partnership Platform (ASBPP) Operational Guidelines including the transfer of the ASBPP Secretariat from the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) to AUDA-NEPAD; strengthen Thematic Working Groups

57. REQUESTED to convene the Inaugural Extra-ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State & Government Summit on Seed Systems and Biotechnology in 2026.

58.. **ENDORSED** the Farmer Managed Seed Systems Policy Framework, Strategy & Action Plan (2026–2035), aligned to Access and Benefit Sharing and International Treaty for Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Article 9

59.ADOPTED the Continental Framework for Genome Editing Landscape Analysis

60. APPROVED the revision of AU Model Law on Biosafety and AU Guidelines on Biotechnology for Food & Agriculture

61. SUPPORTED the domestication of risk proportionate guidelines (e.g., genome editing, Low Level Presence)

62.APPROVED the establishment of 5 Regional Seedbanks/Gene banks as Centers of Excellence (one host per region)

63. ENDORSED the Templates for Access and Benefit Sharing Legal Instruments transfer terms (Prior Informed Consent, Mutually Agreed Terms, Material Transfer Agreement), including Digital Sequence Information stewardship and third-party rules

64. ENDORSED Africa's draft common position on ITPGRFA GB11 (Lima, Nov 2025) and support five negotiators in various fora

65. ENDORSED the Geographical Indications Policy Framework, Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035)

66. ENDORSED the African Vegetable Biodiversity Rescue Plan (2025–2035).

On Report on the Implementation of Previous STC's Decisions and Recommendations, the STC:

67. TOOK NOTE of the progress and implementation and challenges of previous STC decisions and recommendations.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND BLUE ECONOMY DIRECTORATE (SEBE)

On the AU Green Recovery Action Plan, the STC:

68. COMMENDS the Commission on the implementation of the AU-GRAP and **CALLS UPON** AU Member States, RECs, and other partners to accelerate the implementation of AU-GRAP.

On the Roadmap from COP29 to COP30, the STC:

69. CALLS UPON Member States to continue to speak with one collective voice on climate action at COP30.

On the Second Africa Climate Summit (ACS-2), the STC:

70. REQUESTS the Commission, AU Member States, and other partners to support the implementation of the African Leaders Addis Ababa Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action

71. FURTHER REQUESTS the Commission to develop a Monitoring and Reporting Framework to track implementation of the Declaration of the Second Africa Climate Summit.

On the Africa Action Plan on Carbon Markets, the STC:

72. REQUESTS the Commission, AU member states, RECs, and the African Climate Commissions to mobilize resources to implement the Action Plan.

On the Africa Climate Commissions, the STC,

73. REQUESTS the AUC in collaboration with the Africa Climate Commissions to establish a coordination mechanism that will facilitate development of programmes, resource mobilization, monitoring and reporting.

On Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev- Africa) Programme the STC:

74. REQUESTS the ClimDev partners AUC, AfDB, Afeximbank and UNECA to fast-track the resource mobilization and implementation of the programme.

On the Support to the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change, the STC

75. REQUESTS AUC to strengthen coordination among CAHOSCC, AMCEN and AGN on matters of climate change

76. REQUESTS the Commission to fast-track consultations with CAHOSCC AMCEN, National Focal Points of all Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), in order to deepen reflection on and operationalise the institutionalization of all African Groups of Negotiators (AGNs) under the same structure, and make a proposal, including clear Terms of Reference (ToRs) cost implications, to the Summit of Heads of States by the next session of the AU Executive Council.

77. REQUESTS the Commission to mobilize resources for the purpose of supporting climate change negotiations.

On the Support on Reporting under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement the STC

78. REQUESTS the Commission to mobilize resources for capacity enhancement on NDCs tracking and to develop a long-term strategy for providing sustained support to member states.

On the AU AIP Multi-country GCF Readiness Support project the STC

79. URGES the GCF to approve the Second Phase of the project which is targeting the following 10 Member States: Angola, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, Tanzania and Zambia.

On the Support African Youth in Climate Change Negotiations and Diplomacy the STC

80. REQUESTS the Commission to develop a dedicated programme for scaled support of the African youth negotiators on climate change and diplomacy.

On Climate Action Innovation Hub, the STC.

81. REQUESTS the Commission and its partners to link African youth and women innovators with investors and entrepreneurs, provide mentorship and training, and to upscale the initiative across the continent.

On the Regional Climate Resilience Project (RCRP2), the STC:

82. REQUESTS the Commission to address the current constraints and accelerate implementation of the RCRP-SOP2 programme

On the Africa Climate Action Programme, the STC

83. REQUESTS the Commission, UNDP and other partners to mobilize resources and support the implementation of the Africa Climate Action Programme.

On Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services), the STC:

84. REQUESTS the AU Commission, in collaboration with RECs National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, Regional Climate Centres, and partners to strengthen collaboration with the Caribbean Region through the Regional Climate Outlook Forum for the Atlantic Ocean Coastal and Island States.

On the Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) Programme the STC.

85. WELCOMES efforts of the AU Commission, RECs and RCCs in establishing and strengthening climate-sector nexus platforms, particularly Climate-Agriculture, Climate-DRR, Climate-Health, Climate-Water platforms, and **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with RECs, RCCs, partners and relevant sectors to facilitate establishment / strengthening and operationalization of similar platforms in other climate-sensitive sectors including but not limited to infrastructure, tourism, and pastoralism, etc.

86. REQUESTS the AU Commission, RECs and partners to mobilize resources for improved development and delivery of existing sector-specific weather and climate information services, and expansion of the scope of climate information services to other climate-sensitive sectors.

On the Space for Early Warning in Africa (SEWA) Initiative, the STC

87. WELCOMES the Space for Early Warning in Africa (SEWA) Initiative and appreciated the European Union for the financial support

88. REQUESTS the AU Commission to ensure coordinated and coherent implementation of the SEWA Initiative for strengthening early warning systems on the continent.

On the Report of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology, the STC.

89. TOOK NOTE of and **ADOPTED** the report including the reports of AMCOMET's 6th Session and 7th Bureau Meeting.

90. WELCOMES and ADOPTS the Implementation and Resources Mobilization Plan for the implementation of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (2021-2030) and **URGES** the AU Commission, Member States, and development partners to continue resource mobilization efforts to support the implementation of the Strategy.

91.REQUESTS the AU Commission, in collaboration with the AMCOMET Secretariat to expedite the operationalization of a robust monitoring and mechanism for the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather, Water and Climate Services) and provide the status report at the next STC.

On Development of the New Africa Water Vision and Policy, the STC:

92. TAKES NOTE of the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy as adopted by the Sectoral Ministerial Committee on Water and Sanitation (AMCOW) to provide strategic guidance to the building of resilient within the water and sanitation sector

93. FURTHER TAKES NOTE the 2024 Annual Report of the Commission on the implementation of the July 2008 Assembly Declaration on the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa (Assembly/AU/ Decl.1 (XI)).

94. RECOMMENDS it for endorsement of the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy by the 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government: (i) as a continental implementation framework for achieving the goals of Agenda 2063; and (ii) as Africa's Common Position and input to the UN 2026 Water Conference to accelerate the implementation of SDG 6.

95. TASKS the AMCOW Secretariat, working with the AUC; AfDB; AWF; and UNECA, and consultation with Member States: (i) to develop the First Implementation Plan 2026-2033 of the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy (FIP 2026-33) to launch efforts to realise the vision by 2063. And (ii) to organise – on the margins of the 2026 African Development Bank Annual Meeting

96. REQUESTS the President of the African Development Bank to facilitate the hosting of the International Conference on Financing the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy on the margins of the Bank’s Annual Meetings in 2026.

97. FURTHER REQUESTS the AU Commission to facilitate the launch of the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy at the 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government in February 2026.

98. REQUESTS the AU Commission in collaboration with the AMCOW Secretariat and the African Development Bank to organize for the launch of the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy Implementation Plan (2026 – 2033) at the International Financing Conference to be hosted on the margins of the AfDB's Annual Meetings in 2026 for the purpose of mobilizing resources.

99. REQUESTS Member States to domesticate the Africa Water Vision and Policy into their national frameworks to facilitate implementation.

On the First Africa PIDA Water Investment Scorecard Report, the STC.

100. ENDORSED the First Africa Report on the AIP PIDA Water Investment Scorecard.

101. REQUESTS Member States to take actions to address the gaps that are identified by the Scorecard.

102. REQUESTS the AIP High-Level Panel on Water Investment for Africa to continue mobilising political leadership for water investments in Africa

AU Theme for 2026

The African Union (AU) adopted ***"Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063"*** as its theme for 2026 to address urgent and strategic challenges facing the continent, and it will be launched at the 39th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in February 2026.

On the AU Theme for 2026 the STC.

103. ENDORSED the Action Framework for the Implementation of the AU Theme for 2026 “Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063”

On the First AU AIP Africa Water Investment Summit the STC.

104. COMMENDS H.E Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and current G20 President, for successfully hosting the first Africa Water Investment Summit and

105. REQUESTS the African Union Commission to prepare an implementation plan for the African Leaders Cape Town Declaration on Africa Water Investment and Call to Action.

106.FURTHER REQUESTS the Africa Union Commission to follow up on the pledges made during the Summit and mobilise additional resources to support the implementation of the Declaration.

On the Development of National Climate Resilient Water Investment Programme, the STC.

107. REQUESTS the AU Commission, the AIP High-Level Panel on Water Investment for Africa, and the AIP Secretariat to upscale the support provided to Member States to develop National Climate Resilient Water Investment Programmes.

On the AU Partners Coordination Platform (PCP) the STC:

108. REQUESTS the AU Commission and AMCOW to continue strengthening the PCP.

On The Blue Africa Transboundary Water Management Action, the STC.

109. REQUESTS the AU Commission to engage with the EU to explore possibility of funding successor programme**,** to ensure continuity of support, sustainability of results and scaling up of the Blue Africa Transboundary Water Management Action.

On The Third Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water, the STC.

110. CONGRATULATES the Republic of Zambia for successfully hosting PANAFCON-3

On the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) the STC.

111. REITERATED Decision EX.CL/Dec.1234(XLIV) of February 2024 of the Executive Council which directed the African Union to allocate Annually 1 million USD (1,000 000) for the implementation and operationalization of the AMHEWAS Programme and therefore URGES the AUC to accelerate the operationalization of the Decision.

112. REQUESTS the Commission to work with the PRC Sub-Committee on Structural Reforms and the PRC Sub-Committee on General Supervision, Budgetary and Administrative Matters in facilitating the creation of permanent positions for AMHEWAS within the structure of the Commission

113. FURTHER REQUESTS the Commission to mobilise resources for the full implementation of the AMHEWAS programme

On the Africa Urban Resilience Programme (AURP) the STC.

114. URGES Member States to support and accelerate the implementation of the Urban Resilience Programme

On the Sahel Resilience Project, the STC.

115. REQUESTS AUC to work with government of Sweden and other partners to ensure sustained funding for the Sahel initiative, while scaling it up beyond the Sahel region and supporting the establishment of similar initiatives across Africa.

On Disaster Risk Governance, the STC.

116. REQUESTS the Commission to engage with the EU to explore possibility of funding successor programme**,** to ensure continuity of support, sustainability of results and scaling up of the DRR governance programme

On the Progress in Establishment of the Continental Civilian Capacity Mechanism for Disaster Preparedness and Response (3CMDPR) the STC:

117. TAKES NOTE of the Progress Report on the implementation of the 5th STC-ARDWE decision regarding the Mechanism

118. COMMENDS the Commission on the progress made so far in the establishment of the 3CMDPR and **URGES** the AUC to allocate and accelerate resource mobilization for the implementation of the activities in the roadmap,

119. REQUESTS AU Member States and Partners to **SUPPORT** the timely operationalization of the Mechanism.

On the Establishment of the Network of Centres of Excellence for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa the STC.

120. ENDORSES the establishment and operationalization of the Network of Centres of Excellence for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa (NCoE A-DRR),

121. FURTHER ENDORSES the Term of Reference and Action plan of the Network of Centres of Excellence for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa

122. REQUESTS the African Union Commission to mobilise resources to support the operationalization of the Network of Centres of Excellence of Disaster Risk Reduction

On the Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the Africa Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the STC.

123. APPROVES the Resource Mobilization Plan of the Africa Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

On Strengthened Environmental Governance and Coordination, the STC.

124. REQUESTS the Commission to strengthen the coordination in the implementation of MEAs programmes

On the Inaugural Africa Biodiversity Summit, the STC.

125. ENCOURAGES all relevant Ministers and Expects to participate in the inaugural Africa Biodiversity Summit.

On the First Conference of Parties to the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Maputo Convention), the STC:

126. TAKES NOTE of the preparations for the first Conference of the Parties on African Convention on Nature and Natural Resources scheduled to take place on the margins of the Inaugural Africa Biodiversity Summit to take place on 2-5 November 2025 in Gaborone, Botswana.

On the Implementation of the Continental Circular Economy Action Plan for Africa, the STC:

127. REQUESTS Member States to domesticate the Circular Economy Action Plan into their national frameworks to facilitate its implementation.

On the 20th Ordinary Session of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the STC:

128. TAKES NOTE of and **ENDORSES** the report and recommendations of the 20th Ordinary Session of AMCEN

On Africa's Engagement and Preparations for the UNCCD COP-17, the STC:

129. RECALLS the AU Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1234(XLIV)** of February 2024 adopting the Report on Development of an African Common Position Towards a Legally Binding Protocol on Drought,

130. REAFFIRMS its commitment to a legally binding protocol on drought management ahead of and at the UNCCD COP -17 and, to elevate issues of drought to the level of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government through the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC)

131. URGES the African Union Commission and other pan-African institutions to continue providing financial and technical support to the African Group of Negotiators on UNCCD for the development of a common position and the organization of African preparatory meetings in 2026,

132. CONGRATULATES the Republic of South Africa on its nomination as Africa's drought protocol champion and **REQUESTS** the AU Commission, in collaboration with, Africa's Drought Champion, Co-champions, UNCCD, relevant stakeholders and partners to convene an African High-Level Conference on Drought ahead of the UNCCD COP17.

133. COMMENDS the Commission for its effort to enhance drought monitoring and early warning in the continent through the launch and operationalization of the Africa Drought Watch under the AMHEWAS programme and **FURTHER COMMENDS** the Commission for spearheading efforts to establish the Africa Drought Advisory Board

On the Implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative and Its Ten-Year Strategy, the STC.

134. TAKES NOTE of the draft Coordination Mechanism for the Implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative; and

135. WELCOMES the planned High-Level Dialogue and Steering Committee Meeting on the Great Green Wall Initiative

On Guidelines and Policy Recommendations on Tree-Use Rights for Land Restoration the STC.

136. TAKES NOTE of the Report on Secure Tree Use Rights for Landscape Restoration and Livelihoods in Africa, and the draft *Policy Guidance on Secure Tree Use Rights for Landscape Restoration and Livelihoods in Africa and its Three-Tiered Challenge to Solution Framework for Africa's Landscape Restoration,*

137.ENCOURAGES Member states to **r**ecognise and formalise the rights of all stakeholders including secondary rights-holders, harmonise legal frameworks, and to simplify administrative processes and reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and deploy low-cost and transparent permit documentation systems and **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** Member States to establish equitable benefit-sharing schemes,

***138.*REQUESTS** the Commission and its Partners to support Member States in cross-sectoral and participatory approaches to promoting agroforestry systems and ensuring equitable rights to tree planting, management, harvesting and benefiting from trees as a means of accelerating land restoration and resilient livelihoods

On the Report of the tenth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW) the STC.

139. TAKES NOTE of the report and **ENDORSES** the report of the Council of Ministers of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall

140. REQUEST the Commission to convene a proposed meeting with Ministers in charge of the Great Green Wall Initiative

On the Africa Ocean Governance Strategy, the STC:

141. REQUESTS the African Union Commission to support member states in mobilizing technical, financial, and institutional resources necessary to conduct a comprehensive assessment of aquatic and freshwater resources.

142. TAKES NOTE of the Africa Ocean Governance Strategy and its implementation Plan and requests that the strategy be immediately circulated to AU Member States for consideration and be presented at the next STC

143. TAKES NOTE of the proposed establishment of an African Group of Negotiators for Ocean (AGN Ocean) and requests that the composition of the negotiating group be circulated immediately, to AU Member States for consideration and be presented at the next STC.

On the Extension of the Africa Decade of Seas and Oceans the STC.

144. ENDORSES the extension of the decade and Commemoration of the Africa Day of Seas and Oceans (25 July) for another 10 years (2026 -2036).

145. REQUESTS the AU Commission to allocate sufficient financial resources to support the annual commemoration of the Day of Seas and Oceans.

On the African Fisheries and Aquaculture Database (AFADATA), the STC.

145. TAKES NOTE of the report Conserving and Restoring Africa's aquatic ecosystems and fish stocks for a Blue Economy-driven sustainable livelihood and inclusive socio-economic growth/ The African Fisheries and Aquaculture Database (AFADATA)

146. ENDORSES the Continental strategy on nature-based solutions for conservation, restoration and sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems and fish stocks.

147. ALSO ENDORSES the Africa Fisheries and Aquaculture Database (AFADATA) to support evidence-based decision making for the management and conservation of Africa's aquatic ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture.

148. REQUESTS the Commission to mobilize resources to support the operationalization of the Continental Strategy on nature-based solutions and the database (AFADATA).

149. REQUEST the Commission to enhance continental awareness on the Continental Strategy and the database (AFADATA) and support AU member States and Regional Economic Communities for their domestication and implementation.

On Reports from other Ministerial Meetings, The STC:

150. TOOK NOTE of Report of the 8th Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

On the Adoption of the Ministerial report, the STC:

160. ADOPTED the Ministerial Report.

Done in Addis Ababa on the Twenty Fourth day of October Twenty -Twenty Five and remained ceased in all matters.