

**DECLARATION ON THE PROCLAMATION BY THE AFRICAN UNION OF A CAPACITY
BUILDING DECADE IN AFRICA**

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We, Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union meeting in Durban, South Africa, from 9 to 10 July 2002.

RECOGNIZING the vital importance of Capacity Building for our countries and having taken and continuing to take measures to make Capacity Building a clear and intersectoral priority of our development policies, strategies and programmes,

CONSCIOUS of the efforts deployed by the international community to promote the strengthening and/or consolidation of the capacities of various sectors in Africa,

BEARING IN MIND the objectives and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organization of African Unity of 25 May 1963, particularly its Articles I, II and III,

CONSIDERING the 3 June 1991 Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, and the various other decisions, declarations, resolutions and joint declarations aimed at promoting the economic, social and cultural integration of our continent,

RECALLING the Sirte Declaration of 9.9.99 adopted by the Fourth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government,

RECALLING ALSO the adoption of the Constitutive Act of the African Union by the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Lome, Togo, from 10 to 12 July 2001, as subsequently ratified by two thirds of Member States,

ALSO BEARING IN MIND the New African Initiative (now renamed NEPAD) adopted in July 2001 and MINDFUL of the determination of Africans to eradicate poverty and to commit their countries, individually and collectively, to sustainable growth and development, while taking an active part in the world economy and in decision-making fora,

COGNIZANT of the enormous capacity needs in the public and private sectors, as well as in the civil society of our respective countries, which constitute a major impediment to participatory development,

TAKING NOTE of the emergence of new actors on the political, social and economic scene of our respective countries, whose participation would be crucial in the reduction of poverty, promotion of sustainable development and strengthening of good governance,

MINDFUL of the fact that Capacity Building constitutes a vital link that is missing in the implementation of effective development strategies in Africa,

CONVINCED that capacity building in our respective countries and within the Regional Organizations will guarantee peace and security, and make it possible to attain high growth rates,

ANXIOUS to preserve our attachment to the development and utilization of the continent's human resources for the general well-being of our peoples in all areas of human endeavour,

ALSO COGNIZANT of the need for all African States and International Organizations operating in Africa to strengthen coordination and harmonization of their activities and enhance development for the benefit of our Member States,

NOTING that efforts so far made in the area of Subregional and Regional cooperation have produced encouraging results as far as the continent's socio-economic development is concerned,

CONSIDERING the tremendous results already achieved by multilateral institutions, particularly African-based institutions, notably the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in the area of socio-economic policy analysis development and development management on the Continent,

DESIROUS to pursue such efforts, as evidenced by the establishment of the African Development Forum which brings together all the stakeholders with a view to reaching a consensus on Africa's development policies and priorities; the creation of the Joint African Institute whose role is to train officials from Member States in financial and economic matters, as well as in other development matters; and the implementation of the Capacity Building partnership in Africa (PACT) which offers a new framework for the provision by the international community for additional resources for Capacity Building on the continent,

ALSO CONSIDERING that these efforts will be critical in the promotion of tripartite dialogue and national coordination between the public and private sectors, and the civil society; will help strengthen capacities for regional cooperation and integration; and facilitate integration of African countries in the world economy,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the need for African countries to take ownership of their development policies, strategies and programmes, and to pursue an effective partnership between Africa and the international community,
HEREBY:

DECIDE to proclaim 2002–2011 the “DECADE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN AFRICA” and solemnly:

AFFIRM our determination to ensure that local Capacity Building features prominently in the development policies of our respective countries;

AGREE to demonstrate greater commitment to Capacity Building on the continent by pooling our resources and capacities, and allowing our people to take ownership of their development process;

FURTHER AGREE to promote the multilateral organisations, particularly those based in Africa, namely the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) whose task is to strengthen and develop capacities on the Continent;

CALL ON the international community to respond positively to this Resolution by supporting financially and otherwise our Capacity Building efforts; and

MANDATE the Council of Ministers to review, each year, the progress made in the implementation of this Resolution with a view to ensuring the success of the DECADE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN AFRICA.