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**CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTRIES
IN CHARGE OF BORDER ISSUES**

**PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS ON
THE AFRICAN UNION BORDER PROGRAMME**

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**SUMMARY NOTE ON THE AFRICAN UNION BORDER PROGRAMME
AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES**

Preventing conflicts, Promoting integration

SUMMARY NOTE ON THE AFRICAN UNION BORDER PROGRAMME AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Regional integration and, generally, the achievement of greater unity and solidarity among African countries and peoples, in accordance with the objectives of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, requires reducing the burden of the borders separating African countries. By transcending the border as barrier and promoting it as bridge linking one State to another, Africa can boost the ongoing effort to integrate the continent socio-economically, to strengthen its unity, and promote peace, security and stability through the structural prevention of conflicts.

2. The present document proposes outlines of principles, objectives, strategy of implementation of the AU Border Programme, in order to facilitate the deliberations of the meeting of governmental experts of member States scheduled for Addis Ababa, from 4 to 5 June 2007, in preparation for the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues, which will take place on 7 June. The issues developed therein will allow the governmental experts to:

- discuss, amend and validate the objectives of the Border Programme of the AU;
- devise ways of implementing the Border Programme; and
- prepare a draft declaration which will be submitted to the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues.

II. POLITICAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

3. Since African countries gained independence, the borders – which were drawn during the colonial period in a context of rivalries between European countries and their scramble for territories in Africa – have been a recurrent source of conflicts on the continent. Most of the borders are poorly defined and not delineated. The location of strategic and natural resources in cross-border areas poses additional challenges.

4. In this connection, it is important to note that the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) enumerates the protection of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of each member State [Article II (1c)], among the Organisation's purposes. The respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each member State, as well as their inalienable right to independent existence, also features among OAU principles [Article III (3)].

5. The 1st session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Cairo (Egypt), from the 17 to 21 July 1964, adopted Resolution AHG/Res.16 (I) on border disputes among African States, throwing more light on the provisions of the above-mentioned Charter. In that resolution, the Assembly, *inter alia*, considering that border problems constitute a grave and permanent factor of dissension, and recognizing the imperious necessity of settling, by peaceful means and within a strictly African framework, all disputes between African States:

- (i) solemnly reaffirmed the strict respect, by all Member States of the OAU, for the principles laid down in Paragraph 3 of Article III of the Charter of the said Organisation; and
- (ii) solemnly declared that all member States pledge themselves to respect the borders existing on their achievement of national independence.

6. The 44th ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU, held in Addis Ababa from the 21 to 26 July 1986, adopted Resolution CM/Res. 1069 (XLIV) on peace and security in Africa through negotiated settlement of border conflicts. Considering that border problems constitute one of the most intricate problems inherited by Africa from its colonial past, and that the struggle for the liberation of Africa from colonialism and its after effects and the establishment of an atmosphere of peace, security and economic and social progress can only be achieved through the total elimination of sources of tension on the borders of member States, the Council of Ministers:

- (i) reaffirmed its adherence to the principle of peaceful settlement of border conflicts between States;
- (ii) reaffirmed the attachment of African peoples and countries to resolution AHG/Res.16 (I); and
- (iii) encouraged member States to undertake or pursue bilateral negotiations with a view to demarcating and materialising their common borders.

7. Meanwhile, in 1981, Nigeria proposed the establishment of an OAU Boundaries Commission [Document CM/1119 (XXXVII) Add.1, 37th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU, Nairobi, from 15 to 26 June 1981]. The proposal was in response to the persistence and worsening of the problems caused by the undefined nature of most of Africa's land borders and the even greater uncertainty about the maritime borderlines. It was against this backdrop that Nigeria thought it was worthwhile to create an OAU Boundaries Commission. It was proposed that the Commission should consider, with the agreement of the parties concerned, all border-related problems not subject to a bilateral agreement. The aim was to de-politicise all border problems so that they could be tackled from a more technical perspective. The Commission was to be made up of experts, with the understanding that all member States of the OAU would have the right to be represented each time matters that directly concerned them are submitted to the Commission for consideration.

8. In Resolution CM/Res. 870(XXXVII), adopted during its 37th session held in Nairobi from 15 to 26 June 1981, the Council of Ministers recommended that the proposal made by Nigeria be referred to the *ad hoc* Ministerial Committee established in accordance with Resolution CM/Res.860 (XXXVII) and mandated to undertake an in-depth multidisciplinary study of the proposal submitted by the Government of Sierra Leone for the establishment of a Political Security Council, in particular the military, political, legal and financial implications thereof. To that end, the Council of Ministers requested the Secretary-General of the OAU to obtain the views of member States on the establishment of a Boundaries Commission. However, no real progress was made in this regard. The report on the implications of the proposal for the establishment of a

Political Security Council of the OAU [Document CM/127(XLI) Annex 1], submitted to the 41st ordinary session of the Council of Ministers, held in Addis Ababa from 25 February to 5 March 1985, proposed that the Boundaries Commission should be established as a technical subsidiary organ of the new Council or as one of its permanent committees. However, the 41st ordinary session of the Council of Ministers, “recognizing that it was premature and inopportune to establish a Political Security Council under the prevailing political and economic situation”, ended the mandate of the *ad hoc* Ministerial Committee to which the proposal for the establishment of a Boundaries Commission had been submitted [CM/Res.958(XLI)].

9. The proposal for the establishment of an OAU Boundaries Commission was re-tabled by Nigeria during the 54th ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers, held in Abuja from 27 May to 1 June 1991 [Document CM/1659(LIV) Add.2]. This document made specific proposals on the structure of the proposed Commission, its objectives, operating principles and financing. It also proposed that member States establish National Boundaries Commissions, while Regional Commissions would be established at the level of Regional Economic Communities (RECs). However, there was no follow-up to this proposal.

10. The Memorandum of Understanding on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA), adopted by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Durban in July 2002 [Decision CM/Dec.666(LXXVI)], contains specific provisions on the border problems, considering that they continue to threaten the prospects of peace and security in Africa. More specifically, the Memorandum, in conformity with Resolution AHG/Res.16(I), provides for the delineation and demarcation, of inter-African borders by 2012, with the assistance of the UN Cartographic Unit where required. The documents resulting from such an exercise will be deposited with the AU and the United Nations. Prior to 2012, there should be biannual review of the state of implementation.

11. Article 4(b) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union lists respect of borders existing on achievement of independence among the principles of the AU. At the same time, the Constitutive Act stipulates that the objectives of the African Union include achieving greater unity and solidarity among African countries and peoples, accelerating the political and socio-economic integration of the continent, and promoting peace, security and stability.

III. DEFINITION AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE BORDER PROGRAMME

i) Definition

12. In view of the foregoing, it is necessary to design a new and pragmatic way of managing borders to establish not only an environment of peace, security and stability, but also to facilitate integration and sustainable development in Africa. To achieve this, African borders have to be identified and the process of their delineation and peaceful demarcation by the Africans states themselves accelerated. This way, the border as a barrier would be transformed into a bridge of solidarity and mutual trust; and cross-border areas would become zones for shared and concerted planning and development.

13. This is the background informing the Border Programme, which constitutes one of the components of the Plan of Action 2004 – 2007 of the AU Commission, as it emanates from the Vision and Mission, as well as the Strategic Framework, accepted in principle by the 3rd ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union held in Addis Ababa from the 6 to 8 July 2004 [Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.33(III)]. During the 8th ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa from 29 to 30 January 2007, the Commission was encouraged to pursue its efforts with regard to the structural prevention of conflicts, including through the implementation of the AU Border Programme [Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.145(VIII)].

ii) Justification

14. Three elements justify the AU Border Programme.

a) The persistent nature of the border problem

15. As indicated above, the inviolability of the borders inherited from colonization is considered a principle for Africa, and their demarcation and delineation a priority. The resolve made by the African leaders to retain their inherited borders should not be taken to mean a desire to confine each country within its own designated territory. On the contrary, it means that border delineation and demarcation is a condition for successful integration. A non-defined border is susceptible to being a source of contention, and even conflict. Border delineation and demarcation, in a way, removes its potential nuisance; it opens the door rather than closes it; it allows for a healthy process of cooperation and integration.

16. Nearly half a century after the political liberation of the Continent, the delineation and demarcation of the borders inherited from colonization still faces technical and major financial problems. Subject to an inventory to be made, it is estimated that less than a quarter of African borders have been defined; this shows the magnitude of the work that African States have to accomplish in order to attain the objective set in the CSSDCA Solemn Declaration, which is, the delineation and demarcation of those African borders that have not been defined by 2012, at the latest.

17. Clearly, this situation is fraught with risks. Indeed, the lack of definition gives rise to “undefined zones” within which the application of national sovereignty poses problems. In these zones, a simple contention between two communities can lead to inter-State tensions. When these zones harbour natural resources (water, forest, petroleum, or any other resource), their management could prove to be difficult and a source of misunderstanding.

18. This situation also constitutes a real obstacle to acceleration of the integration process. In fact, it is a very concrete obstacle to the facilitation of customs and police procedures necessary for the regional free movement desired by African States, which, apart from the central role it plays in regional integration, also contributes to the structural prevention of conflicts. Without clear definition of the borders between two national territories, it is technically difficult to put in place, for example, joint control posts.

b) The gains of integration in Africa

19. Integration seems to be the best way to accelerate the socio-economic development of African countries and to promote sustainable peace and stability: because, on one hand, the common will to move closer and to integrate and the ensuing concrete actions on the ground naturally lessen and even eliminate sources of violent conflicts; and, on the other, the expansion of national markets and the harmonisation of regulatory frameworks promote the creation of an environment conducive to beneficial investments on the African continent. Evidently, other measures are necessary to overcome poverty and to find a way to accelerate Africa's self-driven development. However, integration is an indispensable strategy in the face of extreme globalisation and regionalisation, which often leaves States as individual entities without a hold on History, without weight in contemporary power relations.

20. The promotion of integration, which is nurtured by the aspiration of the African peoples to unite, has been and still is a permanent quest for African leaders since the accession of African countries to independence. It is within this context that African States want to forge among themselves as close relations as possible, including through the establishment of cooperation and integration organisations. Africa has gone through several experiences of institutional integration on the sub-regional and regional levels. In this regard, the existence of the following RECs, which are recognized as the pillars of integration, should be noted: AMU - Arab Maghreb Union; CEN-SAD - Community of Sahelo-Saharan States; COMESA - Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; EAC - East African Community; ECCAS - Economic Community of Central African States; ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States; IGAD - Intergovernmental Authority on Development; SADC - Southern African Development Community.

21. The existence of these organizations testifies to the commitment of African leaders to build horizontal relationships of solidarity and to reinforce regional and sub-regional complementarities. This political will is today translated into substantial progress in the field of peace and security, regional infrastructure, economic and monetary cooperation, commercial transactions, free movement, harmonization of legislations, etc. Furthermore, numerous large scale regional initiatives have been implemented, giving a concrete meaning to the interdependency among the African countries in the field of common management of river basins, transport or, better still, electricity, scientific research, health, etc. These are achievements that would definitely be consolidated by the implementation of the Border Programme.

c) Development of cross-border integration dynamics

22. In the last four decades, the African population has multiplied by more than three times, passing from 320 million in 1965 to a billion in 2005. Demographers predict that the 1.5 billion mark will be attained in less than 25 years. This population explosion is marked by increasing population densities along borders and in cross-border areas. In these areas, the increase in number and size of villages and towns leads to the rapid development of trade and social relations, and reinforces old bonds.

23. These areas give birth to a grassroots form of integration sustained by the people themselves. The locally elected leaders promote this trend by multiplying cross-border twinning. Central governments, through their services in the cross-border areas, do the same thing: in most cases, the health centres receive nationals as well as people from neighbouring countries living nearby; the same goes for schools; the border markets are shared by traders of two or more proximate countries, etc. In the field of peace and security, it is not uncommon to see cross-border associations formed to work daily against criminality and to maintain good neighbourliness.

24. These initiatives are developing in more and more cross-border areas in Africa, notably in those where regional organisations or programmes such that manage common river basins, transport corridors, or other resources, exist. However, due to lack of legal frameworks and appropriate financial instruments, they cannot attain the strength they deserve, including in the area of structural prevention of conflicts.

25. It is worthwhile to closely examine the European model of cross-border cooperation, which could be a source of inspiration, without reproducing it in its entire form. Cross-border cooperation initially developed spontaneously in Europe before the official integration policies absorbed and formalised it. The INTEREG programme is one of the essential instruments of the European Union (EU) to help the border areas through cross-border development strategies or plans. The Community budget devoted to cross-border cooperation for the period 2007-2013 amounts to 7.75 billion Euros, which allows the implementation of numerous programmes. Almost 120 European regions implement cross-border cooperation programmes; most of these are members of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), which publishes a hand-book on cross-border cooperation, covering aspects as varied as the experience and programs of the EU, existing legal instruments and the technical constraints encountered, the stages of cross-border cooperation and its different structures, as well as examples of good practices. These last years, AEBR has shown a real interest in the development of cross-border cooperation in West Africa.

26. West Africa is committed to developing cross-border cooperation. ECOWAS, with the assistance of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, is executing a Programme of Cross-border Initiatives that has already facilitated the emergence of four pilot operations. Moreover, a draft convention on cross-border cooperation has been submitted for adoption by the Community.

27. It is also in West Africa that the policy concept of cross-border areas (*pays-frontière*) was given official endorsement. The concept was defined at the Sikasso (Mali) Seminar, held in March 2002, as designating geographical areas straddling the border lines of two or more neighbouring States and inhabited by people linked by socio-economic and cultural relations. This definition was adopted by ECOWAS in Accra, Ghana, in January 2004. A cross-border area is, in fact, a homogenous geographical entity characterized by the everyday-life interaction of the local populations. Based on this everyday-life interaction, a genuine feeling of regional belonging is built. In other words, cross-border areas refer to geographical-historical entities that were divided by two or more borders – the border inherited from the colonial era, defined with the effect of separating or splitting coherent geographical regions inhabited by populations that are united by many bonds of history, culture and socio-economic life.

28. The Nigerian experience should also be highlighted, considering the interest it holds for continental efforts. In this regard, it is worth mentioning, *inter alia*, the initiation and hosting, in the late 80s and early 90s, of a series of cross-border cooperation workshops with each of Nigeria's neighbours, the negotiation of cross-border cooperation treaties, and the strengthening of existing institutions for cross-border cooperation.

29. Other initiatives have also been trying to involve the people, as well as private and public operators in the setting up of new regional solidarities. In Southern Africa, the Maputo Development Corridor offers, undoubtedly, the most successful experience in "spatial development corridor", which aims to make Maputo (Mozambique) the principal seaport of Swaziland and the eastern part of South Africa, thereby strengthening the integration between the countries concerned. Within this framework, cross-border projects elaborated with local public and private actors were identified and implemented. The "Zambezi Heartland" project is also an example of regional cooperation based on cross-border agreements of local communities with the objective of protecting wildlife and the fragile ecosystem of this zone shared by Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The United Nations Centre for Regional Development, through its Africa Office in Nairobi, conducted an in-depth research on cross-border cooperation in Eastern and Southern Africa, leading to the holding of two international workshops in Zimbabwe (in 1995, at Kariba, and in 1996, at Mutare, respectively on the borders with Zambia and Mozambique).

30. The importance attached by the member States of the Northern region to the joint development of their shared border regions should also be mentioned. Other initiatives geared towards "popular regional integration" exist in other parts of the continent, that compel being identified and enlisted.

31. The challenge today is to facilitate the elaboration and implementation of cross-border projects directly managed by local actors with the support of the States, the RECs and the AU. Indeed, cross-border cooperation has real added value. From a political point of view, such efforts contribute largely to regional integration, confidence building, good neighbourliness, as well as to the implementation of the principles of subsidiary and partnership. In institutional terms, its added value is found in the active participation of citizens, local government authorities, and social groups on both sides of a border. Finally, from an economic point of view, it makes possible the mobilisation of home-grown development potential, additional development in border areas, and sustainable improvement in territorial development and regional policies.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE BORDER PROGRAMME AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

32. The general objective of the AU Border Programme is the structural prevention of conflicts and the promotion of regional integration which, itself, is a tool in the structural prevention of conflicts. Specifically, it aims at:

- delineating and demarcating African borders where this exercise has not yet been conducted, so that they may cease to be potential sources of problems, thereby allowing African States to develop cross-border cooperation;

- strengthening institutional integration dynamics within the framework of the RECs and other important regional initiatives such as those related to the common management of river basins, transport corridors or other domains, as factors of structural prevention of conflicts;
- developing, within the framework of the RECs and other important regional cooperation initiatives, cross-border programmes, including cross-border intercommunity cooperation, cooperation between State services, between civil society associations and NGOs, as instruments for the structural prevention of conflicts and the promotion of the integration process; and
- capacity building with the view of training decision-makers in the field of border management, cross-border cooperation and, more generally, regional integration orientation.

33. The expected outcomes are the following:

- identification, delineation and demarcation of African borders where this has not yet been done;
- deepening of regional integration processes;
- implementation, within the framework of the RECs and other important regional cooperation initiatives, of cross-border cooperation programmes;
- elaboration of legal frameworks geared towards cross-border cooperation in Africa;
- putting in place of continental or regional mechanisms for capacity building;
- mobilisation of resources in Africa and from AU partners for the implementation of the Border Programme.

V. MODALITIES OF IMPLEMENTATION

i) Principles and mechanisms of subsidiarity

34. The AU Border Programme will be implemented at several levels: national, regional and continental. The responsibility at each of these levels must be defined on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity, notably for aspects concerning delineation/demarcation and cross-border cooperation.

a) Delineation and demarcation of borders

35. The onus for delineation and demarcation of borders is first and foremost on the States concerned. The RECs and the AU have also an important supporting role to play.

36. States: Delineation and demarcation of borders depend on the sovereign decision of the two States sharing a common border. It is the responsibility of African States to take all necessary measures to attain the objective of delineating and demarcating African borders where this has not yet been done, in conformity with the Solemn Declaration of the CSSDCA and on the basis of the Cairo resolution on the inviolability of the borders inherited from colonialism. In this regard, the least costly procedures for delineation and demarcation of borders should be resorted to. African States, whenever feasible, should also explore possibilities of joint exploitation of cross-border resources.

37. The RECs should conduct a general inventory of the status of borders and to follow-up on the evolution of the situation of Community borders. They should support States in the mobilisation of the resources needed and even create specific regional funds, as well as encourage exchange of experiences and promote the least costly methods of delineation/demarcation of borders. They could establish “Councils of Elders”, whose role would be, in case of dispute, to prevent lengthy and costly court hearings at the International Court of Justice or through other legalistic mechanisms.

38. The African Union has not only a crucial role to play in helping African States to conclude the delineation and demarcation of their borders where this has not been done, but also in coordinating the efforts of the RECs. The African Union, within the framework of its Border Programme, could launch a major political initiative geared towards the sensitisation of the international community on the necessity to mobilise the required resources, in order to meet the deadline set in the Solemn Declaration of the CSSDCA on border delineation and demarcation. In view of the high cost of such an endeavour, the Commission could propose an initiative called “Borders for Peace” to African partners. This initiative would target, as a priority, borders that have not been delineated and/or demarcated and that have potentials for dispute, based on a continental diagnosis.

b) Cross-border cooperation

39. The promotion of cross-border cooperation is to be based on a more complex subsidiarity involving local actors and authorities, States, RECs, and important regional initiatives and, finally, the AU.

40. The local actors - those that bring about local initiatives - include the local representatives of the State, the locally elected leaders, and civil society in the broader sense of the term. They must be the direct initiators of cross-border cooperation projects, proposal presenters and actors in their implementation. With the support of the concerned States, NGOs or any other appropriate structures, these local actors should be able to formulate cross-border cooperation programmes regrouping a certain number of projects at various territorial levels.

41. The States have an essential role to play. Besides facilitating local initiatives, it is their responsibility to intervene at the initial stages to give the official stamp essential to cross-border cooperation. In other words, for the local actors to discuss and cooperate, the States concerned should give their green light through structures such as “Joint Commissions for Cooperation”. This way, the State is placed at the centre of a system of which it is the political engine. In fact, cross-border initiatives reinforce the legitimacy of

States in regional construction, bringing together the people in the process of regional integration triggered by the State actors.

42. The RECs should provide the necessary legal guidance. The elaboration of regional conventions on cross-border cooperation would give States a framework which would facilitate the development of cross-border cooperation projects. The RECs also have an important role to play in the field of funding cross-border cooperation projects. In fact, it seems that it is necessary to establish special regional funds for the financing of cross-border cooperation projects because, on the one hand, the major funds intended for regional cooperation are not meant to finance local initiatives; on the other, the national funds are meant to finance activities in only one country.

43. The African Union has a strategic and political role to play. The AU is in fact the only structure capable of putting cross-border cooperation on the priority agenda of the continent, given its direct relevance to the issues of concern for the African Union, such as peace, migration, food security, etc. The AU should also work hard to convince donors to include cross-border cooperation in the major international initiatives launched in favor of the continent. In addition, the AU must be capable of assuming roles of coordination, and ensuring information and good practices exchange between the RECs.

c) Capacity building

44. The AU Border Programme must pay particular attention to a dimension which, so far, has been rather neglected. The European experience, to a large extent, shows that regional integration cannot be achieved without proactive sensitisation of the stakeholders involved, technical training and exchange of experiences in the fields of border management, delineation/demarcation, management of regional funds, implementation of field operations, the fight against cross-border criminality, twinning of border settlements and communities.

45. Research and training centres specialised in the subject already exist in Africa. However, these centres are ill-equipped to deal with the needs expressed in the RECs and States. The programmes for capacity building funded by the RECs rarely provide for training focused on border problems and cross-border cooperation.

46. In this regard, the AU Border Programme should, based on close coordination between the different levels involved (national, regional and continental), ensure that:

- an inventory is carried out of African centres that offer training programmes in this subject, as well as of resources required for building existing capacities at the level of RECs;
- the potentials for collaboration with training centres situated outside Africa are assessed;
- a programme for capacity building in the area of border management and cross-border cooperation is elaborated on the basis of these findings.

ii) Governance of the programme

47. Centred on the structural prevention of conflicts and promotion of regional integration, the AU Border Programme is based on an approach fundamentally anchored on the issue of governance in Africa. In conformity with the Vision of the AU, it rehabilitates the role of States, while giving regional integration an enlarged and popular base. For this reason, the Programme must:

- at continental level, associate States, RECs and continental organisations representing civil society, particularly the local leaders; and
- ensure that similar principles are applied in managing the regional funds envisaged for financing cross-border cooperation and development projects.

iii) Partnerships

48. To this day, all the reflections on the implementation of the AU Border Programme point towards the necessity of developing new partnerships with numerous actors, notably:

- the European border movement, particularly AEBR, with the objective of benefiting from the experience of local European actors, notably in legal and financial matters, including the development of a new Afro-European cooperation that would bring linkages between European border regions and border regions in Africa;
- the European Union Commission in order to integrate delineation/demarcation of borders and cross-border cooperation, in the programming of the European Development Fund (EDF);
- other world experiences on cross-border cooperation, notably in Asia, North America and South America, in the context of exchange of experiences and good practices;
- cooperation agencies interested in developing local initiatives in the African regional construction;
- organisations having experience regarding the mobilisation of regional funds in Africa, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and development banks; and
- NGOs capable of being an interface between the local actors and the regional funds for financing cross-border cooperation.

VI. MEASURES FOR THE LAUNCHING OF THE BORDER PROGRAMME

49. Once the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues has considered and validated the Border Programme, it will be appropriate to immediately take the necessary measures for its effective implementation. In this regard, a Task Force may be put in place within the AU Commission that would conduct the following tasks, soonest possible:

- launching of a pan-African diagnosis of the borders and identification of borders that have a potential for dispute, as well as elaborating the “Borders for Peace in Africa” Initiative, meant to facilitate the delineation and demarcation of these borders;
- identifying pilot regions or initiatives (river basin organisations, transport corridors, etc), for the rapid development of regional support programmes on cross-border cooperation, as well as support for the establishment of regional funds for financing cross-border cooperation and development;
- defining modalities of cooperation with other regions of the world, to profit from their experience and build the necessary partnerships;
- initiating an assessment with regard to capacity building; and
- launching a campaign for the mobilization of the resources required for the implementation of the AU Border Programme.