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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
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23 - 28 January, 2016,
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA.

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REPORT OF THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
STC ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
WATER AND ENVIRONMENT,
5 – 9 OCTOBER 2015, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA,

**REPORT OF THE FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC ON AGRICULTURE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT,
5 – 9 OCTOBER 2015, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA,**

1. The Ministers' session of the Inaugural Conference of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC¹) On Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment took place at the African Union Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 08 October - 09 October 2015 under the Theme " Advancing Concerted Action for Improved Livelihoods in Africa"

2. Delegations from the following Member States of the African Union participated: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Tunisia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea Bissau, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Guinea, Kenya, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Niger, Republic of Congo,

Senior representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) including Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East Africa Community (EAC), Economic Community of the Western African States (ECOWAS) and Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD),

Representatives of development and international partners: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), US Mission to the AU, the European Union Commission, the World Bank, the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), UNECA, World Food Program (WFP), the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), United Nations Development Programme Africa (UNDP), Economic Development Commission for Southern Africa, Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANPRAN), and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA),

Ministerial Conferences: African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW), African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) and the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET),

A number of Non State Actors: African Women Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP), Maghrébine des Agriculteurs (UMAGRI), Pan African Farmers Organisation (PAFO), East African Farmers Federation (EAFF), General Sudanese Farmers Union, Africa Development Interchange Network, Action Aid, Fresh & Young Brains Development Initiative, European Centre for

Development Policy Management (ECDPM)- Food Security Programme and the Local Development Research Institute.

3. The meeting adopted the Rules of Procedures of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.

4. The following were the major outcomes:

On Environment, Land, Natural Resources, Climate Change, Meteorology, Disaster Risk Reduction, Water and Sanitation.

5. In considering strengthening the role of Science and Technology in Combating Desertification in Africa the Ministers:

- i) Requested each sub-region to work closely with support of the AUC to identify and strengthen at least one centre of excellence to stimulate the exchange of scientific data and enhance collaboration between scientists and policymakers in the sub-regions;
- ii) Requested AUC to strengthen its specialized technical office for Semi Arid Food Grains Research and Development (AU-SAFGRAD) by increasing the human capital in the areas of land degradation, water resources, irrigation, and partnerships to ensure critical mass of expertise for execution of its mandate.

6. On the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI), the Ministers decided:

- i) To Extend this initiative to Southern and Eastern African regions;
- ii) Urge countries to finance the first-step activities and give full support to the Pan African Agency of the GGWSS and the harmonization of projects implementing all actions on the GGWSSI.

7. The Ministers considered and endorsed The African Resilient Landscape Initiative (ARLI) and encouraged AU member states and sub-regional institutions to adopt the landscape approach in their interventions.

8. In considering the Commission's Disaster Risk Reduction Programme for the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Ministers decided that:

- i) The Commission oversee the implementation of the Yaoundé declaration;
- ii) Disaster Risk Reduction Programmes be institutionalized within the AU Commission to ensure effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 on the African continent.

9. On Water and Sanitation, The Ministers:

- i) Adopted the Ministerial commitments, programmes, and partnerships in the water and sanitation sector as tools for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa as well as the Common Africa Position on Post 2015;
- ii) Decided to update the Africa Water Vision 2025 to the 2030 SDGs.

10. On The Production and Marketing of Gum Arabic to address climate change, desertification and women empowerment, The Ministers made the following decisions:

- i) Convene a high policy dialogue for African producer countries to discuss the issues related to Gum Arabic;
- ii) Include Gum, Resin and other Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in National Agricultural Investment Plans.

11. On Climate Change, the Ministers decided to implement the high level work programme on climate Change in Africa as endorsed by the Malabo 2014 and January 2015 AU Summits.

12. Regarding the Implementation of the Strategy on Wild Flora and Fauna, The Ministers decided:

- i) That a Joint-Conference be organized with transit and consumer countries with a view to agreeing on joint action to be carried out to eliminate supply, demand and illegal trade in wild flora and fauna products in Africa;
- ii) That the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) which is scheduled to take place from 2- 5 December 2015 should include issues of wildlife crime as a priority agenda item as well as any other Strategic Partnership fora.

13. On the Project for Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) the Ministers decided that the MESA products from participating regional institutions such as ECOWAS, IGAD,SADC EAC and the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) be utilized in environmental management.

14. With regards to the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology, the Ministers decided to mainstream Meteorology into National Development Plans and a resuscitation of the Programme on Natural Resources Accounting.

15. On the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), the Ministers decided to sustain the activities of this AU project in Member States:

Agriculture, Rural Development, Livestock And Fisheries

16. On the Review of The CAADP National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs) and the Biennial Review Process as part of the Malabo Implementation process, The Ministers:

- i) Adopted the NAFSIP Review Guidelines and the Biennial Review Structure and urged that these processes be swiftly finalized by the Commission.

17. On the Malabo Financing Facility, the Ministers:

- i) Recognized the proposed Malabo Facility as an important financing mechanism for continued technical and financial support at country, regional and continental levels essential for the effective implementation of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods;
- ii) Decided that Member States should have direct access to finance within this facility.

18. On the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative Strategy (2015-2025), the Ministers decided that:

- i) Ecological agriculture should be mainstreamed into the agricultural sector programmes and processes at country level.

19. On the Implementation Modalities for the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA), The Ministers:

- i) Endorsed the Implementation Modalities for the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA);
- ii) Noted that Livestock in Africa is not just a way of life, but increasingly a business and decided to support the development of the livestock business sector in Africa through a proven business incubation model.

20. Regarding the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Framework and Reform Strategy in Africa, The Ministers:

- i) Endorsed the guide for implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa including the business incubation frameworks;
- ii) Endorsed the African Fisheries Reform mechanism as the mechanism for the delivery of reforms in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

21. On the Continental Agribusiness Strategy The Ministers:

- i) Endorsed the seven strategic pillars in the strategy which address the key issues for agribusiness in Africa;

- ii) Agreed on the development of incubation models to support new agri-businesses by building the capacity of, especially, the youth and smallholder farmers.

22. The Ministers endorsed the Policy Framework for integrating Tsetse and Trypanosomiass interventions within a sustainable rural development strategy.

23. On the Strategy to improve food security, trade and public health through Aflatoxin Control in Africa, The Ministers:

- i) Endorsed the integration of the Aflatoxin Control model developed by The AUC Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) and making it an integral part of CAADP/Malabo implementation at country level;
- ii) Resolved to increase awareness creation and sensitization on the effects and management of Aflatoxins at farm level to inform and protect, in particular, smallholder farmers.

24. On the Joint Grow Africa and New Alliance Report, The Ministers:

- i) Recognized the role that Grow Africa and the New Alliance play in increasing private sector investment in agriculture and accelerating the execution and impact of investment commitments to enable countries to realize the potential of the agriculture sector for economic growth and job creation, particularly among farmers, women and youth;
- ii) Urged for the implementation of all recommendations contained in the Grow Africa and New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition report to be implemented by all stakeholders mentioned therein including governments, private sector, Non-state actors and RECS.

25. On the African Union Inter- African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC) Strategic Plan 2014-2023 for a better plant health in Africa, The Ministers:

- i) Endorsed the Strategic Plan to serve as a platform for establishing new partnerships in the promotion of continental plant protection matters;
- ii) Decided on the integration of the strategy into national plant protection policies and strategies.

26. On the Progress made in the Implementation of the AU Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges, the Ministers:

- i) Decided on the ownership of and leading land reform processes by strengthening institutions for effective land governance and allocating adequate budgetary resources for policy development, implementation and tracking of progress;

- ii) Adopted the Comprehensive M&E Framework to track progress and share lessons on the status of implementation of land policies in Africa and urged for its immediate operationalization;
- iii) Resolved to continue the use of the AU Guiding principles on Large Scale Land-Based investments in Africa and its use as a tool in monitoring the impact of LSLBI on women's access to and ownership of land;
- iv) Decided on the domestication of international laws and conventions guaranteeing women's access to and control over land and natural resources in national legislations;
- v) Decided on the enhancement of women's role and participation in Land Administration Institutions.

27. On the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) Rural Futures Project, the Ministers:

- i) Decided on the urgent implementation of the Strategies and Frameworks for Rural Transformation identified in the 2013 Cotonou Declaration on Rural Futures.

EX.CL/933(XXVIII)
Annex 1

**Ministerial Report and Resolutions of the Inaugural Conference of
the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on
Agriculture, Rural Development,
Water and Environment**

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**Inaugural Conference of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) On
Agriculture, Rural Development, Water And Environment**

05 October - 09 October 2015

Addis Ababa

ETHIOPIA

STC1/ARDWE/MIN

**Ministerial Report and Resolutions
of the Inaugural Conference of the Specialized Technical Committee
(STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Water and Environment**

08 October - 09 October 2015

**MINISTERIAL REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE INAUGURAL
CONFERENCE OF THE SPECIALIZED
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Ministers' session of the Inaugural Conference of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC²) On Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment took place at the African Union Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 08 October - 09 October 2015.

II. PARTICIPATION

Delegations from the following Member States of the African Union participated: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Tunisia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea Bissau, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Guinea, Kenya, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Niger, Republic of Congo,

Senior representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) included Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East Africa Community (EAC), Economic Community of the Western African States (ECOWAS) and Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Representative of development and international partners: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), US Mission to the AU, the European Union Commission, the World Bank, the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), UNECA, World Food Program (WFP), the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), United Nations Development Programme Africa (UNDP), Economic Development Commission for Southern Africa, Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANPRAN), and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

Ministerial Conferences: African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW), African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) and the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET).

A number of Non State Actors: African Women Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP), Maghrébine des Agriculteurs (UMAGRI), Pan African Farmers Organisation (PAFO), East African Farmers Federation (EAFF), General Sudanese Farmers Union, Africa

² Acronyms are attached as Annex 1

Development Interchange Network, Action Aid, Fresh & Young Brains Development Initiative, European Center for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)- Food Security Programme, Local Development Research Institute and ACORD.

The AUC was represented by the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission (AUC-DREA) and its technical offices. The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) was also represented.

III. COMPOSITION OF THE BUREAU

After consultations among the five regions, the Bureau for the Ministers meeting was constituted as follows:

Chair:	Congo
1st Vice Chair:	Senegal
2 nd Vice Chair:	Swaziland
3 rd Vice Chair:	Egypt
Rapporteur:	Sudan

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PROGRAM OF WORK

The Ministers' adopted the agenda and programme of work with some modifications.

V. OPENING STATEMENTS

HE Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, the AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, opened the meeting by outlining DREA's Vision and perspectives for fostering the African Agenda on Agricultural growth and transformation; and sound environmental management. She indicated that the STC would consolidate energies and resources, and reduce duplication across related sectors like crop agriculture, livestock, fisheries, water, land, forestry, wildlife, environment, climate change, meteorology and disaster risk reduction. In setting up the STC, she urged the ministers to consider the following key points and targets:

- a) Africa ceases to be criticised for churning out so many decisions and declarations that are hardly implemented;
- b) Africa does not only boast of having majority of the world's 10 fastest growing economies but also ensures inclusive growth and shared prosperity;
- c) Africa reduces the current unsustainable annual food import bill of nearly USD40 billion;
- d) Africa goes beyond boasting of holding 60% of the world's uncultivated arable land but ensures the current high levels of hunger and malnutrition are drastically reduced;
- e) African agriculture ceases suffering from erratic weather patterns and harnesses the continent's irrigation potential which has thus far been exploited by only 3%;

- f) African households, communities and nations cease complaining of low agricultural production and productivity when we can catch up with other regions of the world in the application of mechanisation and use of fertiliser;
- g) Africa ceases registering high levels of poverty and unemployment especially youth unemployment when in addition to crop agriculture, the potential of other sectors such as livestock and fisheries remains untapped;
- h) Africa ceases to suffer from illegal exploitation of and illicit trade in wild flora and fauna but build capacity to promote and protect as well as sustainably manage its enormous precious natural resources;
- i) African citizens cease being vulnerable to increasing and intensifying disasters, especially natural and climatic disasters and risks, including desertification but build resilience and strengthen adaptation mechanisms;
- j) Africa brings down to the minimum possible level the post-harvest losses that cost the continent nearly USD48 billion annually;

Mr. Degene Habisha, the representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia welcomed participants to Ethiopia and encouraged participants to find ways of operationalizing the Malabo Declaration. He reemphasised the importance of the new STC in maintaining synergy, and avoiding duplication among interrelated sectors.

Brief opening statements were then received from Ministers from Senegal, Swaziland, Congo, Egypt, Mauritania, Sudan and Cape Verde.

VI. PRESENTATION OF EXPERTS REPORT

The report of the expert's session, that preceded the ministers meeting was presented by the rapporteur of the experts and senior official's session, Mauritania, for consideration by the ministers. The report covered three areas as follows:

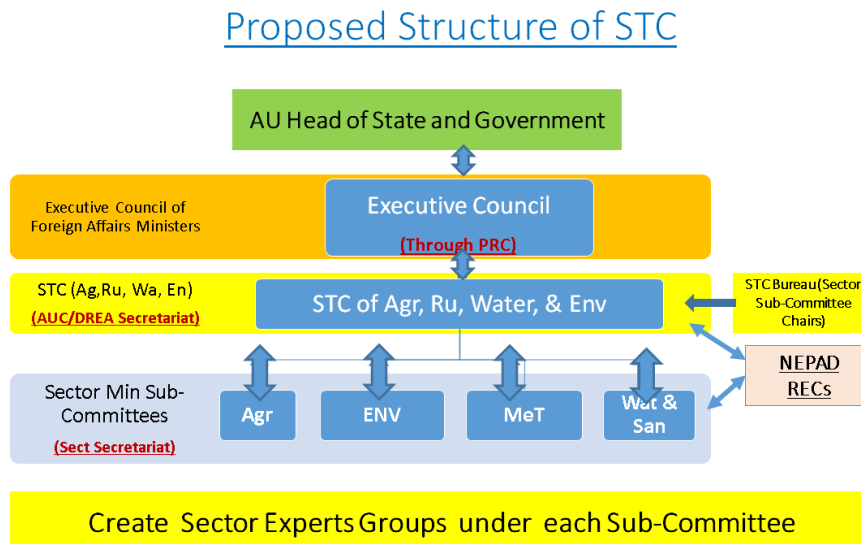
- a) Draft Rules Of Procedure Of The Specialized Technical Committee On Agriculture, Rural Development, Water And Environment;
- b) Environment, Land, Natural Resources, Climate Change, Meteorology, Disaster Risk Reduction Water And Sanitation;
- c) Agriculture, Rural Development, Livestock And Fisheries.

VII. RESOLUTIONS OF THE MINISTERS DURING THE INAUGURAL STC

The inaugural STC decides and resolves as follows:

(1) ON THE RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE STC

1. Adopt the following structure for the STC



2. Note that the implementation of AU Assembly's decision on STCs is overarching in terms of the operationalization of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.
3. Further note that the STC Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment should be a framework for coordination and harmonisation of the implementation of on-going programmes related to the Sectors
4. Resolve that the STC should be comprised of Ministers of the sectors Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment supported by senior officials, experts as well as NPCA, and the RECs.
5. Resolve that the sub-committees to be established under the STC should be representative of the sectors of this STC, namely, Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.
6. Recommend the Establishment of the following Sub-Committees:
 - Agriculture, Rural Development, Livestock and Fisheries;
 - Environment and Natural Resources;
 - Meteorology, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction;
 - Water and Sanitation.

While noting that in accordance with the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of this STC, other Sub-Committees and ad-hoc working

groups, may be set up as it deems necessary and shall determine their mandate, composition and functioning;.

7. Adopt and endorse the revised draft of the Rules of Procedure (available separately as an annex to this document) to be presented for consideration by the high-level session of the STC for further legal processing by the STC for Justice and Legal Affairs and adoption at the next AU Executive Council meeting in January 2016

(2) ENVIRONMENT, LAND, NATURAL RESOURCES, CLIMATE CHANGE, METEOROLOGY, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION WATER AND SANITATION

On strengthening the role of Science and Technology in combating desertification in Africa

1. Urge continental, regional and national institutions to facilitate the collaboration between STCs, NFPs and policy makers
2. Request each sub-region to work closely with support of the AUC to identify and strengthen at least one centre of excellence to stimulate the exchange of scientific data and enhance collaboration between scientists and policymakers in the sub-regions.
3. Request the AUC, RECs, Member States and development partners to facilitate, promote and provide the necessary resources for strengthening the role of science and technology in combating desertification in Africa.
4. Request AUC to strengthen its specialized technical office for Semi Arid Food Grains Research and Development (AU-SAFGRAD) by increasing the human capital in the areas of land degradation, water resources, irrigation, and partnerships to ensure critical mass of expertise for execution of its mandate.

On the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI)

1. Extend this initiative to Southern and Eastern African regions.
2. Urge countries to finance the first-step activities, give full support to the Pan African Agency of the GGWSS and the harmonization of projects implementing all actions on the GGWSSI
3. Request AUC support from partners to undertake similar initiatives in Southern and Eastern Africa to address the increasing challenges of land degradation in these regions.
4. Members States should strengthen the AUC to play its full role as the political coordinator of the initiative.

5. Request AUC to accelerate the mainstreaming of the Pan African Agency as per the decision of the 14th session of AMCEN in 2012.

On Sustainable Land and Water Management: African Resilient Landscape Initiative (ARLI)

1. Endorse the African Landscape Action Plan and Africa Resilience Landscape Initiative.
2. Encourage AU member states and sub-regional institutions to adopt the landscape approach in their interventions.
3. Encourage actions to strengthen governance in natural resources management, transparency and the rule of law while also empowering communities and recognizing the rights pertaining to land and water resources.
4. Request technical and financial partners to support African countries on the implementation of the Resilient Landscape Initiative through investment in integrated landscape management and land restoration.

On the AUC/DREA Disaster Risk Reduction Programme: Effective implementation of the Sendai Framework

1. Request the AUC to oversee the implementation of the Yaoundé declaration, including by implementing the decision on the stepped approach to institutionalize DRR within the AUC to ensure effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 on the African continent.

On Water and Sanitation

1. Resolve to adopt the Ministerial commitments; programmes; and partnerships in the water and sanitation sector as tools for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa as well as the Common Africa Position on Post 2015 and the Africa Water Vision 2025 (which should be updated to 2030 SDGs).
2. Requests the water and sanitation sector to fully operationalize the harmonized monitoring and reporting system in order to report on the state of water resources management, uses and sanitation in Africa.
3. Observe the necessity of an integrated approach for water management.

On Production and marketing of Gum Arabic to address climate change, desertification and women empowerment

1. Call on AUC and partners to support the development of the Common Regional Strategy on Arabic Gum & Resin and other Non-Timber Forest Products (NTPFs).
2. Asks the AUC to convene a high policy dialogue for African producer countries to discuss the issues related to Gum Arabic.
3. Resolve to support the implementation of the Regional Strategy on Gum, Resin and other NTFPs.
4. Urge Members States to consider Gum, Resin and other NTFPs in the National Agricultural Investment Plans.

On Climate change

1. Urge member states to implement the high level work programme on climate change in Africa as endorsed by the Malabo 2014 AU Summit and the January 2015 AU Summit.

Wild flora and fauna

1. Urge that by way of domestication, the strategy is taken to the member states and technical facilitation provided to support them in its implementation.
2. Resolve that the African Union holds a joint-conference with transit and consumer countries with a view to agreeing on joint action to be carried out to eliminate supply, demand and illegal trade in wild flora and fauna products in Africa.
3. Resolve that the following Forums should include issues of wildlife crime as priority agenda item: the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) to be held on 2-5 December 2015 as well as nine other strategic partnership fora.
4. Requests relevant organs to create synergies with other AU STCs, mainly the STC on Defense and National Security.

On the Project for Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa, MESA

1. Note the success stories in the participating regional institutions (CEMAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, IOC, SADC, EAC and ACMAD) and we urge member states to use these MESA products in environmental management.

On the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology

1. Urge Regional Economic Communities and Member States to mainstream meteorology into their national development plans.

On the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA)

1. Resolve to sustain the activities of the AU project on Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Member States.

On Natural resource accounting

Requests the AUC to revive its programme on Natural Resource Accounting.

(3) AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES.

On the Review of National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans (NAIPs/NAFSIPs) and the Biennial Review Process as part of the Malabo Implementation process

1. Appreciate the draft guidelines, tools and instruments that have been developed for the roll-out of the CAADP-Malabo implementation plan.
2. Note that the first biennial review process report will be presented to AU Heads of State and Government in January 2018.
3. Adopt the draft NAIP/ NASFIP Review Guidelines and the Biennial Review Structure and urge that these draft plans be swiftly finalized by the AU.
4. Request each Member State to domesticate the Biennial Review and NAIP/ NASFIP Review processes and adapt the CAADP Results Framework at country level.
5. Resolve that Member States make the NASFIP/NAIP Review Process consultative and inclusive in order to have all relevant stakeholders concerns accounted for; including women, non-state-actors, farmers including smallholder farmers, youth, private sector.

On the Malabo Financing Facility

1. Laud the proposed Malabo Facility as a important financing mechanism for continued technical and financial support at country, regional and continental levels.
2. Support the integration of other existing financial mechanisms and the creation of a more adequate financial mechanism.
3. Resolve that Member States should have direct access to finance within this facility.

4. Member States should participate in the finance preparatory and steering committees.
5. Urge the widening of financing coverage to RECs and Non-State Actors.
6. Urge the AUC to consider the set-up of financing coordination units of RECs and Member States as part of the design of the Malabo Facility.

On the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative Strategy (2015-2025)

1. Recognize the importance of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) as a continental initiative by the AU Heads of State and Government Summit in 2010.
2. Resolve that ecological agriculture should be mainstreamed into the agricultural sector at country level.
3. Note the draft strategy.

On the Implementation Modalities for the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA)

1. Endorse the Implementation Modalities for the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA).
2. Call upon technical and development partners in the livestock sector and other stakeholders to mainstream their interventions through LiDeSA implementation mechanisms in order to attain the realization and impact intended by LiDeSA and the Malabo declaration.
3. Note that Livestock in Africa is not just a way of life, but increasingly a business. Ministers resolved to support the development of the livestock business sector in Africa through a proven business incubation model.

On Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Framework and Reform Strategy in Africa:

1. Note that the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture supports best practices for sustainable fisheries management and responsible aquaculture development.
2. Endorse the guide for implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa.
3. Endorse the African Fisheries Reform mechanism as the mechanism for the delivery of reforms in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
4. Develop and strengthen regional cooperation in the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture.

5. Develop business incubation frameworks for fisheries and aquaculture as part of the framework.

On the Continental Agribusiness Strategy:

1. Note the critical importance of the Continental Agribusiness Strategy which seeks to develop a dynamic, inclusive agribusiness sector in Africa by facilitating a conducive environment for increased (domestic) private sector investment and business in Africa's agriculture.
2. Support the development of incubation models to support new agribusinesses by building the capacity of, especially, the youth and smallholder farmers.
3. Endorse and agree with the seven strategic pillars in the strategy which address the key issues for agribusiness in Africa.
4. Urge the finalization of the document in consultation with stakeholders.

On the draft policy framework for integrating Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis interventions within a sustainable rural development strategy

1. Endorse the framework for integrating tsetse and trypanosomiasis (T&T) intervention programmes in sustainable rural development strategies.

On the Strategy to improve food security, trade and public health through Aflatoxin Control in Africa

1. Reaffirm the importance of managing and controlling Aflatoxins, a public health threat in Africa, which also threatens agriculture, food security, trade, nutrition and health of millions of Africans.
2. Endorse the integration of the Aflatoxin Control model developed by AU Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) and piloted in six (6) African countries, into the NAIPs/NAFSIPs of Member States making it an integral part of CAADP/Malabo implementation at country level.
3. Urge wider and deeper partnerships with all stakeholders under PACA.
4. Urge increased awareness creation and sensitization on the effects and management of Aflatoxins at farm level to inform and protect, in particular, smallholder farmers.

On the Joint Grow Africa and New Alliance Report

1. Recognize the role that Grow Africa and the New Alliance play in increasing private sector investment in agriculture and accelerating the execution and impact of investment commitments to enable countries to realize the potential of the agriculture sector for economic growth and job creation, particularly among farmers, women and youth.

2. Note the comprehensive report on the progress, results and impacts achieved by in the implementation of the Grow Africa and the New Alliance over the last year.
3. Urge the implementation of all recommendations contained in the Grow Africa and New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition report to be implemented by all stakeholders mentioned therein including governments, private sector, non-state actors and RECS.

On the African Union Inter- African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC) strategic plan 2014-2023 for a better plant health in Africa

1. Endorse AU-IAPSC developed the Strategic plan 2014-2023 for better Plant Health in Africa that serves as a platform for establishing new partnerships in the promotion of continental plant protection matters.
2. Recommend the integration of the strategy into national plant protection policies and strategies.

On the Progress report on the AU Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges

1. Note that African Heads of State and Government adopted the AU Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges (AU Declaration on Land) in July 2009 to take ownership of and lead land reform processes by strengthening institutions for effective land governance and allocating adequate budgetary resources for policy development, implementation and tracking of progress.
2. Resolve to establish and capacitate the African Land Policy Centre to provide leadership, coordination, build partnerships and promote policy advocacy in support of member states.
3. Adopt and operationalize the proposed comprehensive M&E framework to track progress and share lessons on in the implementation of land policies in Africa.
4. Start mobilizing resources and actualize a fund for land policy from partners and members states to support implementation of land programs, policies, plans and other actions by member states and other actors.
5. Resolve to continue to use the AU Guiding principles on Large Scale Land-Based investments in Africa.
6. Recommend member states to move towards allocation of 30% of land to women to improve the rights of women to land through legislative and other mechanisms.

On the NEPAD Rural Futures

1. Note that rural development requires a people-centred rural transformation based on equity and inclusiveness and further note that Rural Futures project is promoting multi-sectorial approach for to rural transformation and employment creation.
2. Note the strategies and frameworks for Rural Transformation identified in the Cotonou Declaration at the inaugural Africa Rural Development Conference.
3. Note that rural transformation requires youth employment.

Annex 1: ACRONYMS

2M4M	Programme for Universal Access to Water Supply and Sanitation in Africa
ACMAD	African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development
ACP	African countries
ADB	African Development Bank
ALAP	Africa Landscape Action Plan
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on Environment
AMCOMET	African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology
AMCOW	African Ministerial Conference on Water
ARI	African Restoration Initiative
ARLI	African Resilient Landscape Initiative
AU-IAPSC	AU Inter-African Phytosanitary Council
AU-IBAR	AU Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
AU-PACA	AU Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa
AU-SAFGRAD	AU Semi Arid Food Grains Research and Development
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUC-DREA	AUC - Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture
AWEP	African Women Entrepreneurship Program
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Plan
CEMAC	Economic Community of Central African States
COMESA	Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa
CoP	Conference of Parties
CST	Committee on Science and Technology of the UNCCD
DPs	Development Partners
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of the Western African States
EOA-I	Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative
EUC	European Union Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FOCAC	Forum for China-Africa Cooperation
GGWSSI	Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIZ	German Technical Cooperation
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
KAP	Kigali Action Plan
LiDeSA	Livestock Development Strategy for Africa
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MESA	Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa
NAFSIP	National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans
NAIP	National Agricultural Investment Plans
NAP	National Action Plans
NFP	National Focal Point
NGARA	Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa

NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
NTPF	Non-Timber Forest Products
REC	Regional Economic Community
S&T	Science and Technology
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SAFGRAD	Semi Arid Food Grains Research and Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SLWM	Sustainable Land and Water Management
STC	Specialized Technical Committee
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNSDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction
USAID	US Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Program

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Annex 2

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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RE15767

DRAFT
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SPECIALIZED
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

PREAMBLE

The Executive Council,

Having regard to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, and in particular Articles 14, 15 and 16,

Having regard to Decisions Assembly/Dec. 227 (XII) and Assembly/Dec.365(XVII) on Specialized Technical Committees,

Recognising that the development of Agriculture, support for Rural Development, protection of Environment, management of Water Resources and Disaster Risk Management are important elements for achieving the overarching goals of Africa as encapsulated in the Agenda 2063 and guided by the 10-year implementation plans;

Recalling that the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment provides a strategic platform of the African Union for the coordination relevant strategic goals, facilitating mutual accountability identifying synergies, linkages and complementarities and integrating on-going agriculture, rural development, water and environment related initiatives in Africa;

HAS ADOPTED THESE RULES OF PROCEDURE:

RULE 1 Definitions

In these Rules:

“**Assembly**” means the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union;

“**Chairperson**” means the Chairperson of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment;

“**Commission**” means the Commission of the African Union;

“**Constitutive Act**” means the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

“**Executive Council**” means the Executive Council of Ministers of the African Union;

“**Member State**” means a Member State of the African Union;

“**STC**” means a Specialized Technical Committee of the African Union;

“**STCs Coordination Mechanism**” means the Bureaus of all STCs of the African Union;

“**Union**” means the African Union established by the Constitutive Act;

“**Vice-Chairpersons**” unless specified otherwise, means the Vice-Chairpersons of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.

RULE 2

Status

The STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment is an Organ of the Union in accordance with Article 5 (1) (g) of the Constitutive Act. It shall be responsible to the Executive Council.

RULE 3

Composition

1. The STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall be composed of Ministers in charge of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water, and Environment, Disaster Risk Reduction, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture, from Member States or such other Ministers or authorities duly accredited by the Governments of Member States.
2. The STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment includes Experts from Member States responsible for sectors falling within the areas of competence of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, whose meetings shall precede the Meetings at Ministerial level. Unless specified otherwise, meetings of Experts shall be governed, *mutatis mutandis*, by relevant provisions of these Rules.

RULE 4

Designation of delegates

Delegations of Member States to sessions of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall be duly designated and accredited representatives of Member States.

RULE 5

Powers and Functions

1. Prepare Projects and Programmes of the Union and submit it to the Executive Council. In addition to the functions provided for in Article 15 of the Constitutive Act of the Union, the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall, inter-alia:
 - a) review, examine and consider adoption of policies and strategic frameworks designed for the development of African agriculture, the rural economy, water and the environment;
 - b) follow up and review progress on, and provide strategic guidance for, the implementation of relevant AU Decisions, policies, strategies and action plans on agriculture, rural development, water and environment;
 - c) initiate, develop and promote African common positions on strategic areas and themes in matters that concern agriculture, rural development, water and environment, and advocate for Africa's representation with a united voice in global negotiations;

- d) follow up and advocate for the alignment and harmonization of national policies and strategies with continental policies, frameworks and strategies adopted by the AU in the areas of agriculture, rural development, water and environment;
 - e) ensure harmonization and coordination of initiatives, policies, programmes and strategies espoused by various actors at continental and regional levels in the areas of agriculture, rural development, water and environment; and ensure that overall political guidance and coordination is provided by the African Union;
 - f) review and examine strategic partnerships in the areas of agriculture, rural development, water and environment with a view to ensuring effectiveness of the partnerships and mutual accountability;
 - g) carry out any other functions assigned to it by the Executive Council or the Assembly.
2. The STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment may set up such Sub-committees and ad-hoc working groups, as it deems necessary and shall determine their mandate, composition and functioning.

RULE 6 **Venue**

1. The Sessions of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall be held at the Headquarters of the Union, unless a Member State offers to host any such Session.
2. In the event the session is held outside the Headquarters of the Union, the host Member State shall be responsible for all extra expenses incurred by the Commission as result of holding the session outside the Headquarters.
3. In conformity with Rule 5 (3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, Member States offering to host sessions of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall not be under sanctions and shall be required to meet pre-determined criteria, including adequate logistical facilities and a conducive political atmosphere.
4. Where two (2) or more Member States offer to host a session, the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall decide on the venue by simple majority.
5. Where a Member State that had offered to host a session of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment is unable to do so, the session shall be held at the Headquarters of the Union, unless a new offer is received and accepted by Member States.

RULE 7
Convening of Sessions

1. The Bureau in collaboration with the Commission shall be responsible for convening and servicing all the meetings of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.
2. The sub-committees shall be convened by the respective bureau and the modalities for their holding shall be determined by the STC taking into account the specificity of each Sub-Committee.

RULE 8
Quorum

1. The quorum for a Ministerial session of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall be two-third majority of the Member States eligible to vote.
2. The quorum for meetings of Experts, Sub-committees or ad-hoc working groups of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall be a simple majority.

RULE 9
Ordinary Sessions

The STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall meet in ordinary session once every two (2) years.

RULE 10
Agenda of Ordinary Sessions

1. The STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall adopt its Agenda at the opening of each session.
2. The Provisional Agenda of an ordinary session shall be drawn up by the Commission in consultation with the Bureau of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment and may include item (s) proposed by Member States. The Commission shall communicate it as well as the working documents to Member States at least thirty (30) days before the opening of the session.
3. The Commission shall communicate the draft annotated Agenda to Member States at least 60 days before the meeting.
4. Amendments to the Agenda should be communicated to the Commission at least 30 days before the commencement of the meeting.
5. Any additional agenda item, which a Member State wishes to raise at a session of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, shall only be considered under the agenda item "Any Other Business". Such agenda items shall be for information only and not subject to debate or decision.

RULE 11
Extraordinary Sessions

1. The STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall meet in an extraordinary session, subject to availability of funds, at the request of:
 - a) the policy organs of the Union;
 - b) the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment itself;
or
 - c) any Member State, upon approval by a two-thirds majority of the Member States.
2. The extraordinary sessions shall be held in conformity with Rule 6 above.

RULE 12
Agenda of Extraordinary Sessions

1. The Commission shall communicate the Provisional Agenda and working documents of an extraordinary session to Member States at least fifteen (15) days before the opening of the session.
2. The Agenda of an extraordinary session shall comprise only of the item(s) requiring the urgent attention of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.

RULE 13
Open and Closed Sessions

All the sessions of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall be closed. The STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment may, however, decide by simple majority whether any of its sessions shall be open.

RULE 14
Working Languages

The working languages of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall be those of the Union.

RULE 15
Bureau

1. The STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall, on the basis of rotation, geographical distribution and sectoral distribution elect, a bureau after due consultations, a Chairperson and other members of the Bureau, namely, three (3) Vice-Chairpersons as well as a Rapporteur.
2. The Members of the Bureau shall hold office for a period of two (2) years.

3. The Bureau will meet at least once every year.

RULE 16
Duties of the Chairperson

1. The Chairperson shall:
 - a) Convene the meetings of the STC in collaboration with the Commission;
 - b) preside over all the proceedings of the Ordinary and Extraordinary sessions;
 - c) open and close the sessions;
 - d) submit for approval the records of the sessions;
 - e) guide the proceedings;
 - f) submit to a vote matters under discussion and announce the results of the vote taken;
 - g) rule on points of order.
2. The Chairperson shall ensure order and decorum of the proceedings of the sessions.
3. In the absence of the Chairperson or in case of a vacancy, the Vice-Chairpersons or the Rapporteur in order of their election shall act as the Chairperson.
4. The Chairperson shall attend the sessions of the Executive Council and take part in the annual meeting of the STCs Coordination Mechanism.

RULE 17
Attendance and Participation

1. In accordance with Rules 3 and 4, Ministers in charge of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water, and Environment from Member States or such other Ministers or authorities duly accredited by the Governments of Member States shall attend the sessions. In the event that they are not in a position to attend personally, duly accredited representatives shall represent them.
2. The Representatives of the relevant Organs of the Union and of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) shall be invited to attend the sessions of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.
3. The Chairperson of STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment in consultation with the Bureau may invite, as Observer, any person or Institution to attend its sessions. Such Observer may be invited to make written or oral interventions but shall not be entitled to vote.

RULE 18
Majority Required for Recommendations/Decisions

1. The STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall make all its recommendations by consensus , failing which:
 - a) at the Ministerial level, , by a two-thirds majority of the Member States present and eligible to vote;
 - b) at the Experts' level, by a simple majority of the Member States present and eligible to vote.
2. Decisions on questions of procedure shall be taken by a simple majority of Member States eligible to vote.
3. Decisions on whether or not a question is one of procedure shall also be determined by a simple majority of Member States eligible to vote.
4. Abstention by a Member State eligible to vote shall not prevent the adoption by the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment of decisions by consensus.

RULE 19
Amendment of Recommendation/Decisions

1. A proposed decision or amendment (s) thereof may at any time, prior to it being submitted to a vote, be withdrawn by the initiator.
2. Any other Member State may reintroduce the proposed decision or amendment that has been withdrawn.

RULE 20
Point of Order

1. During deliberations on any matter, a Member State may raise a point of order. The Chairperson, in accordance with these Rules, shall immediately decide on the point of order.
2. The Member State concerned may appeal against the ruling of the Chairperson. The ruling shall immediately be put to a vote and decided upon by simple majority.
3. In raising a point of order, the Member State concerned shall not speak on the substance of the issue under discussion.

RULE 21
List of Speakers and Use of the Floor

1. The Chairperson shall, subject to Article 23 of the Constitutive Act, during the debate, grant the use of the floor in the order in which the speakers indicate their intention.
2. A delegation or other invitee shall not have the floor without the consent of the Chairperson.
3. The Chairperson may, during the debate:
 - a) read out the list of speakers and declare the list closed;
 - b) call to order any speaker whose statement deviates from the issue under discussion;
 - c) accord the right of reply to any delegation where in his/her opinion a statement made after the list is closed justifies the right of reply; and
 - d) limit the time allowed to each delegation irrespective of the issue under discussion, subject to sub Rule 4 of this Rule.
4. The Chairperson shall, on procedural questions, limit each intervention to a maximum of three (3) minutes.

RULE 22
Closure of Debate

When a matter has been sufficiently discussed, the Chairperson shall close the debate at his/her discretion.

RULE 23
Suspension or Adjournment of the Meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a Member State may move for the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted. The Chairperson shall immediately put such motion to a vote.

RULE 24
Order of Procedural Motions

Subject to Rule 21 of these Rules of Procedure, the following motions shall have precedence in the order listed below, over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

- a) suspend the meeting;
- b) adjourn the meeting;
- c) adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;

- d) close the debate on the item under discussion.

RULE 25
Voting Rights

1. Each eligible Member State shall have one vote.
2. Member States, subject to sanctions under Article 23 of the Constitutive Act, shall not have the right to a vote.

RULE 26
Consensus and Vote on Decisions

After the debate has been closed, and there is no consensus, the Chairperson shall immediately put the proposal with all the amendments to a vote. The vote shall not be interrupted except on a point of order related to the manner in which the vote is being taken.

RULE 27
Vote on Amendments

1. When there is no consensus, the Chairperson shall put all amendments to a vote.
2. A proposal shall be considered as an amendment to a text if it adds or removes there from.

RULE 28
Methods of Voting

The methods of Voting shall be determined by the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.

RULE 39
Reports and recommendations

The STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment shall submit reports and recommendations arising from its deliberations to the Executive Council for consideration.

RULE 30
Implementation

The STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment may lay down guidelines and supplementary measures to give effect to these Rules.

**RULE 31
Amendments**

The STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment may propose amendments to these Rules to the Executive Council for consideration.

**RULE 32
Entry into Force**

These Rules shall enter into force upon their approval by the Executive Council.

Adopted by the.....Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held

2016

Report of the first ordinary session of
the STC on agriculture, rural
development, water and environment,
5 – 9 October 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

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