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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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**REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON GENERAL SUPERVISION
AND COORDINATION ON BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER**

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**REPORT OF RETREAT OF THE JOINT SITTING OF PRC SUB-COMMITTEES ON
GENERAL SUPERVISION AND COORDINATION ON BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, PROGRAMS AND CONFERENCES AND F15
COMMITTEE OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS**

JULY 1-15, 2021

Hybrid of

In-person (Accra, Ghana) and Virtual

REPORT

A. Introduction

1. The Joint Sitting of PRC Sub-Committees on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters (GSCBFAM) and the Technical Experts of the Committee of Fifteen Finance Ministers (F15) was held in Accra, Ghana from July 1 – 15, 2021 to deliberate on the draft AU budget for 2022. It was presided over by the Ghana's Permanent Representative to AU and UNECA, Her Excellency Ambassador Amma A. Twum-Amoah, who is also the Chairperson of the PRC Sub-Committee on GSCBFAM.

B. Attendance

2. The following Member States, F15 Technical Experts participated in the meeting.

GSCBFAM

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Algeria | 28. Mauritius |
| 2. Angola (virtual) | 29. Morocco |
| 3. Botswana (virtual) | 30. Mozambique |
| 4. Burkina Faso | 31. Namibia (virtual) |
| 5. Burundi | 32. Niger |
| 6. Cameroon | 33. Nigeria |
| 7. Central African Republic | 34. Rwanda |
| 8. Comoros | 35. Sahrawi Republic |
| 9. Congo | 36. Senegal |
| 10. Cote d'Ivoire | 37. Sierra Leone |
| 11. Democratic Republic of Congo | 38. Somalia |
| 12. Djibouti | 39. South Africa (virtual) |
| 13. Egypt | 40. South Sudan |
| 14. Eritrea | 41. Sudan |
| 15. Eswatini | 42. Tanzania |
| 16. Ethiopia | 43. Tunisia (virtual) |
| 17. Equatorial Guinea | 44. Togo |
| 18. Gambia | 45. Uganda |
| 19. Ghana | 46. Zambia |
| 20. Gabon | 47. Zimbabwe |
| 21. Guinea | |
| 22. Kenya | |
| 23. Lesotho | |
| 24. Liberia | |
| 25. Libya | |
| 26. Madagascar | |
| 27. Mauritania | |

F15

1. Cameroon
2. Ghana
3. Ethiopia
4. Egypt

5. Morocco (virtual)
6. Nigeria
7. Algeria (virtual)
8. South Africa (virtual)
9. Rwanda (virtual)
10. Tchad

C. Opening Remarks

3. The Chairperson of GSCBFAM welcomed the participants to the meeting and indicated that the purpose of the retreat was to deliberate on the proposed 2022 program budget. She also informed participants that in the course of the retreat, the joint sitting of subcommittee of Programs and Conferences with F15 would sit to consider the Calendar of the Meetings. And the joint sitting of subcommittee on Structures, GSCBFAM and F15 would also meet receive an update on the implementation of Phase1 of the Transitional Plan.

4. She then called on all departments and organs to ensure that the respective draft budgets they were to present should be austerity ones. This was in light of the prevailing COVID-19 situation which affected Member States' capacity to pay to the Union. She concluded by expressing her sincere appreciation to Honorable Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Ghana's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration for making it possible to host the retreat in Ghana.

5. In her opening remarks, H.E. the Deputy Chairperson of the AUC Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa also welcomed participants and thanked the government of Ghana for the hospitality accorded to all Member States representatives at the retreat. She further went to draw the attention of the meeting on the shortcomings affecting the budget. She cited the dwindling of Member States financing of the budget, which affected attainment of targets set by the Assembly through various decisions. She concluded by informing participants that the 2022 budget would focus on consolidating the gains made in the past budgets, including on the operationalizing the Continental Free Trade Agreement.

6. On her part, H.E Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ghana reiteratively welcomed all participants on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Ghana. She commended the Member States and F15 Technical Experts for the excellent work being done over the years for the AU. She went on to remind participants that according to World Bank and IMF, Africa's economy would shrink by 1%. Therefore, she called on the AU to prudently use the resources provided by Member States as they, including Ghana would like to see value for the contributions made to the Union.

D. Adoption of the Agenda

7. Following a discussion that ensued on the matter, the agenda for the retreat was adopted as follows:

Organization of Work / Working Method

a) Adoption of the draft Agenda

i) Overview of the AU Budget 2022 Proposal

- ii) 2022 AU Calendar of Meetings
 - iii) Update on the Implementation of the Phase 1 of the Transitional Plan
 - iv) Matters Arising
 - v) 2022 Budget consideration per Department/ Organ/ Office
- b) Any Other Business

E. Report of the Budget Performance for 2020

8. The Commission presented the Report of the Budget Performance for 2020 was to the joint sitting as recap on the discussion that took place few weeks earlier on the matter. It was purposely presented in order to refresh the minds of participants as they deliberated on the budget.

Comments by the Joint Sitting

9. The Joint Sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Requested to know what elements were likely to impact the 2022 budget.
- ii) Requested that during presentation of respective draft budgets, each department and organ should also indicate to the meeting what their budget execution rates were.
- iii) Recalled that in the 2021 budget, the Member States introduced austerity measures, such as the suspension of capacity building and as well as a reduction of the physical meetings. And proposed that the same should also apply for the 2022 budget.
- iv) Sought clarification on how to deal with 2 organs which did not submit their budget execution reports. Would their draft 2022 budgets be considered?
- v) Reminded the Commission that average execution for the last 3 years be the determining factor for computing the expenditure ceiling.
- vi) Wanted to know about which areas or sections of the budget that did not perform well in the 2020.
- vii) Observed that about a third of the projects were not executed in 2020, and wanted to know the lessons learnt as a result.
- viii) Found out that virtual meetings were very convenient for the senior leadership as they were able to attend multiple meetings in a short space of time.
- ix) Sought clarification on what the Commission was doing to recover outstanding arrears outstanding from the twenty-seven (27) countries that were yet to pay their contributions for 2021.
- x) Observed a gap between the rate of implementation on technical report of activities and the financial execution and wanted to know what caused it.

Responses by the Commission

10. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) The post covid situation will have an effect on the 2022 budget in the same it impacted the 2020 Budget;
- ii) Stated that the virtual meetings also attract huge costs in the form of translation and interpretation costs, among others;
- iii) The Covid 19 impact has weakened the currencies of the African Countries which in turn affected real value of their resources;
- iv) The Budget decision states that the Member States contribution to the union's budget should not go beyond US\$ 250 million;
- v) Political Affairs and Peace and Security departments before their merging did not submit reports for some projects.
- vi) The African GDP will grow by only 3.2% in 2021, due to the effects of Covid 19
- vii) Agreed that the virtual meetings would reduce the cost, but due to their feasibility to arrange has the number of meetings being conducted on the virtual platform.
- viii) Implored with the meeting to consider having some meetings conducted in-person while others would continue taking place virtually.
- ix) Twenty-seven countries were yet to pay their assessed contributions for 2021. Various reminders on the same are sent to concerned Member States on regular basis.

Recommendation/Conclusion

11. The joint sitting concluded as follows:
12. Took note of the report and requested the Commission to consider the comments and observations of the joint sitting during budget preparation and implementation.

F. 2022 Budget Overview

13. The Commission through Her Excellency the DCP presented an overview of the 2022 budget. In the presentation, the meeting was informed that the draft budget for the Union had a total of US\$662,954,695 which was composed of Operational budget of US\$197,975,460, Program Budget of US\$198,755,950 and Peace Support Operations of US\$266,223,285.

14. The meeting was further informed that 100% of the Peace Support Operations and 77% of Programme budget were funded by International Partners and 100% of operational budget and 23% of Program budget are funded by Member States assessed contributions these entails US\$244,328,829 from Member States contributions and US\$418,625,867 from International Partners.

Comments by the Joint Sitting

15. The Joint Sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Appreciated the DCP and her entire team for comprehensive and very insightful presentations and for telling the truth about issues around the budget. Also took note of the achievements highlighted;
- ii) Requested for an explanation of the multiannual framework - what it was, when and who approved it?
- iii) Requested to be provided with a total staff of the Union (regular and non-regular staff).
- iv) Sought to know if funding guarantees were provided by Partners to avoid supplementary budget requests.
- v) There was a need to revise indicators, as some were erroneously placed in departments they were not supposed to be in.
- vi) There was a need to improve the budget provisions for 2022 to 2024 which are the same even though inflation has had impact on the budget estimates
- vii) Requested the Commission to ensure that the Results Based Budgeting, as indicated in the Golden Rules, is implemented;
- viii) Noted there was a 15% increase on operational budget against a 6% increase on programs, and requested for clarification as to which areas caused such an increase from the 2021 budget.
- ix) Requested that all Organs should provide detailed breakdown of their Operational budget.
- x) Supported budget provision for the Theme of the Year.
- xi) Agreed that provision be made to cater for costs related to litigation losses at the Administrative Tribunal Court and Staff responsible for such losses should be made accountable.
- xii) Requested for detailed information on which positions were filled and which positions were still vacant in the Transitional Plan.
- xiii) Observed that the program budget figures were almost the same in all years and as the Union was coming to the end of FTYIP of Agenda 2063;
- xiv) The budget 2022 to continue to be an austerity budget because COVID 19;
- xv) The AMA (has to be operationalized as soon as possible hence provision of operationalizing this key institution has to be made in the budget 2022 instead of ratification
- xvi) Commission should provide the details of the operational budget including the phase 1 details;
- xvii) Having noted the challenges indicated, a moratorium should be put on opening new offices as they will put more strain on funding by Member States
- xviii) Noted that Peace operations are 100% funded by partners which is not acceptable, there was a need to relook at the self-financing agenda, to re-operationalize the revitalized peace fund
- xix) Commission should accommodate at least 50% of the Phase 2 of Transitional Plan in the budget 2022.

- xx) Noted the drop in funding of AUDA-NEPAD programs which was not acceptable, there was a need to review all programs to see where savings could be made for AUDA.
- xxi) Noted with concern that AFCFTA was fully funded by International partners,
- xxii) The 2023 budget should continue to be capped at US\$250 million.
- xxiii) Requested to know which flagship programs would be implemented in 2022.
- xxiv) List of positions to be recruited in 2022 should be provided.
- xxv) Requested explanation as to why the theme of the year and maintenance of AU properties were not included in the budget,
- xxvi) Noted that the involvement of the F15 in the budget process was not utilized in full.
- xxvii) Noted that there was no mention of the effect of covid19 pandemic on Member States contributions e.g. the 0.2% levy and the scarcity of partners funding was not considered.
- xxviii) Requested that the budget analysis should include Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT). It should not be limited to budget execution and implementation reports
- xxix) The cumulative amount of US\$2.2 million dollars allocated to Peace and Security Secretariat (Page 35) had no cost breakdown;
- xxx) Stated that there should be savings from the US\$8.2 million approved for the 1st phase;
- xxxi) Noted that the budget did not take into consideration the Johannesburg decision, for Member States to contribute for 100% of operational budget; 75% of Program Budget and 25% of Peace Support operations;
- xxxii) Requested for explanation for why an austerity budget would have an increase of 6%;
- xxxiii) Noted that the parameters provided were not realistic in the current times of covid19;
- xxxiv) The relevant Decisions should be revisited considering the current times,
- xxxv) Pursuant to Article 18 of the Financial Rules and Regulations and according to Decision 1107 all sources of financing the budget should be provided,
- xxxvi) The focus should be given to the development agenda and peace and security of the continent, not on the staff rights;
- xxxvii) Stated that there was no rush to implement Transitional Plan, due to financial constraints it does not have to be completed in 3 years, it could be extended up to 5 to 7 years;

Responses by the Commission

16. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) The Commission took note of the comments and observations made by Member States;

- ii) Explained that new FRRs were yet to be approved and its provisions could not be adopted at this time;
- iii) The indicators will be corrected, they won't be put under the Deputy Chairperson's Office
- iv) The budget provision for periods 2022-2024 are identical based on Policy Organs decisions. The 2021 budget ceiling capped at US\$250 million limits the budget, and the same ceiling has been used as a basis for the subsequent years, as it cannot be changed, any adjustment to the amount could not be done without prior consultation with Member States;
- v) Confirmed that the 2022 budget was still an austerity budget;
- vi) The budget prehearings were conducted at the Commission's level whereby budget overlaps and crosscutting issues between departments and Organs were addressed;
- vii) A joint sitting meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7, 2021, with the subcommittee on structures and the F15 whereby detailed operational and staff costs will be discussed;
- viii) Confirmed that the information contained in AMERT are detailed, request was made for Member States to use AMERT document;
- ix) Confirmed that the 2022 budget is being presented without gap;
- x) The PSO operations wait for the governance structure to be fully operational before final decision on what has to be done with the 400m
- xi) Advise that the process of approving the supplementary budget lies with the executive council, and cannot be taken into consideration at this time in the 2021 details
- xii) Advised that the Union was facing challenges on setting up of organs, for example the commission was aware that AMA has to be operationalized as soon as possible but it was not clear whether it was to be included in the 2022 budget; it was to be clarified when program budget is considered department by department;
- xiii) There was a need for guidelines from the PRC on which meetings to hold virtual or physical, when we discuss the Calendar of meetings and the Program Budget of departments
- xiv) Informed the meeting that the Results-Based Management structure was already in AMERT system to planning and implementation. As the result, RBM policy has been developed and will be rolled out soon.
- xv) Also informed that 2023 was end of the first ten-year implementation of Agenda 2063, though there were some pitfalls in the implementation by the Member States and lesson learnt will be helpful for the development of the 2nd Ten-Year Implementation Plan.
- xvi) The flagship projects were capital intensive, hence, external resources will be outsourced to finance them.

- xvii) The first continental report on the implementation of Agenda 2063 was prepared and presented H. E. President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, the champion of the agenda.

Recommendations/Conclusions

17. Took note with appreciation, the Budget overview report presented for 2022
18. Requested the Commission to avail a detailed breakdown of the 2022 Budget through the Deputy Chairperson's Office;
19. The Commission to respect the austerity measures for 2022 and set priorities of the Budget items
20. The Commission should review and reduce the Operational Budget
21. The Commission should reconsider the proposed budget and effect necessary changes
22. The staff positions in the transitional plans should be made available to the Member States
23. The Commission to explore the options of tapping into the Peace Fund.

G. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

24. In his opening remarks, the Chair of the PRC Sub-Committee on Programs and Conferences, Amb. Eshete commended the Member States for their participation in the joint sitting to consider the draft AU Budget and the Calendar of Meetings for 2022. He provided an overview of the work of the Sub-Committee and informed the joint sitting that the 2022 Calendar of Meetings that is being considered is extracted from the Program Budget.

25. The Head of Programming and Conferences presented the detailed information regarding the calendar of meetings and noted that the calendar of meetings is prepared based on the Guidelines of meetings Assembly Decision 365(XVII);. He mentioned that no meetings will be held in January, May, June and December and all meetings shall be within the approved programs. The number of staff servicing meetings shall also be within international standards. There are 441 meetings to take place in 2022 with a total cost of US\$27.35 million, which is 13.8% of total program budget.

Comments by the joint sitting

26. The Joint Sitting made the following comments and observations:
- i) Requested the details and costs of the meetings highlighted in the Calendar of Meetings
 - ii) Stated that the proposed 441 meetings were not realistic and not achievable considering the number of working days in a year was only 251 days

- iii) Requested the details of the staff numbers of the Conference Department to assess their capacity to manage the proposed meetings in the Commission
- iv) Noted that the cost reflected was very high as most meetings should be held virtual as part of the austerity measures of the Budget
- v) Reiterated that trainings should be done virtually and recalled the Executive Council decision that trainings should be handled with the Africa Capacity Building Fund
- vi) Requested for elaboration on the presentation that the number of staff servicing the meetings should be in accordance with the International Standards
- vii) Questioned the rationale of the trainings costs reflected in the Calendar of meetings
- viii) Proposed that all meetings should be aligned to the Agenda 2063 and those that do not meet the criteria should not be considered
- ix) Sought to have a mechanism that will cap the number of meetings in a year
- x) Proposed that meetings that have the same objectives should be merged across the different Departments
- xi) Requested the Commission to provide cost analysis for each meeting for ease of reference to determine virtual and physical meetings with the emphasis that all trainings should be held virtually
- xii) Asked the Commission for staff availability to undertake these meetings as many meetings had been cancelled in the past due to insufficient staff.
- xiii) Took note of the numbers of meetings and requested for the objectives of the meetings during deliberations.
- xiv) Proposed to discuss the calendar of meetings along with budget discussion since the meetings are part of the budget.
- xv) Questioned the celebrations and events proposals and noted that the only celebration that should be considered in the year should be the Africa Day
- xvi) Called for the rationalization of all the meetings in the Calendar with each department clarifying the category of their meetings.

H. PRESENTATIONS OF THE DRAFT PROGRAM BUDGET

General Recommendations

- 27.** Meetings, workshops, seminars be held virtually
- 28.** Austerity measures of 2021 shall remain in force.
- 29.** The following items be removed from the budget: capital items, trainings, recruitment of staff in organs, no training except in ACBF.
- 30.** All matters of interpretation and translation should be transferred to DCMP without any consequence to their ceiling except for the Bureau of the Secretary General.
- 31.** The Commission should use internal resources on the use of Consultants and Experts except where there are no internal expertise.

32. Recommend to the Commission, taking into account the division of labor and the implementation of the AUDA-NEPAD mandate, to identify and abolish all duplicates by allocating the financing of these programs to this organ
33. Recommends to the Commission to provide a mid-term report on the effective implementation of the measures taken concerning the DCMP and AUDA-NEPAD
34. should refrain from accepting any partner funds with conditions, which were not in line with AU objectives and principles.
35. F15 members shall be involved in the holistic process of budget preparation.

I. Cabinet of the Chairperson

36. The Cabinet of the Chairperson presented the draft budget for 2022.

Comments from the joint Sitting

37. The joint sitting made the following observations and comments:
 - i) Amount of US\$ 44,000 under 3.08 (Strengthen the monitoring and reporting) be deleted capacity building, as well as on translation of US\$ 20,680 (1.01 & 1.02) Need to know what were for. Item 2.01 propose that its funding should come from MS. Page 5 item 3.03 and 3.05 be deleted. Africa Day celebrations be deleted. AU-China partnerships activities - 7.02, 7.04, and 7.05 of US\$ 139,918 for Beijing should be cut by 20%.
 - ii) Observed that there was no monitoring and evaluation of activities. And activities rejected during budget deliberation came back during the supplementary budget.
 - iii) Observed that there was dependency on partners on the activities of Chairperson which may compromising the office's independence.
 - iv) Observed duplication in some activities which are also budgeted for in other departments.
 - v) Any need for the Special Representative on Gender when there is a department of Gender which can do the same.
 - vi) The project 'AUC Chairperson drives results under Agenda 2063' could be implemented without additional costs
 - vii) On project ' Advisory and coordination of peace, security, governance and intelligence item 2.03 of US\$ 8,391, there seem to be duplication with what is done by Member States. Policy implementation was a matter of implementation at Member States level.
 - viii) AU Day celebrations be conducted virtually.
 - ix) Monitoring of consultations – delete
 - x) Capacity building activity -should not be in the budget therefore be deleted
 - xi) Interpretation & translation for reforms unit should be explained as there will be no reforms unit in 2022

- xii) US\$25,000 for member stated coordination be reduced to US\$10,000.
- xiii) AU Representational Office Programmes activities 3.03, 3.05, 4.05 amounting to US\$ 38,000 – falls under operational budget suggest and be deleted
- xiv) Provide for funds in the budget on areas that make the continent move forward.
- xv) Noted that the overall objective of the budget lacks so many things such as governance mechanisms.
- xvi) Budget items related to translation and interpretation could be rationalized or move to DCMP.
- xvii) The CCP oversees the work of Special Envoys and wondered whether all the envoys were taken care of in the budget.
- xviii) In 2022, it is expected of the Commission to review the budget at mid-point of the year.
- xix) Requested for average budget execution rate for the past three years.
- xx) Matters of translation and interpretation be done internally by the DCMP staff.
- xxi) The US\$300,000 provided for the Special Representation was rather on the higher side and needed rationalization.
- xxii) Reiterated that the F15 be put at the center of budget preparation.
- xxiii) Volume 3 under CCP it should include matters of covid vaccines, ...
- xxiv) Activity 1.01 – ‘ Provide up to date information on cross cutting issues’ of US\$ 18,000 on page 2 should be deleted.
- xxv) Page 22 under item 1.01 ‘ TICAD Joint Co-organizers’ Meeting (Japan) ‘ of 15,000 should be deleted.
- xxvi) Item 5.01 on a consultant to participate at the UN of US\$ 41,800- should be deleted and staff at NY can handle that activity
- xxvii) Reduce the Lilongwe office budget by 50%.
- xxviii) Page 7 item 7.01, 7.02 ‘ AU-China partnerships ‘ of U\$ 70,000 are Operational activities and be deleted
- xxix) Support UN in the implementation of 2030 sustainable development agenda and under research there was an amount of US\$14,000 which was questionable and asked if that would be rationalized.
- xxx) Were the figures sent to Finance first or directly from departments and organs to the meeting.
- xxxi) The item on consolidating the peace and security was requested if it could be transferred to the PAPS.
- xxxii) In the context of Covid-19, the Commission was asked to identify the activities that could be removed from the budget.
- xxxiii) Commended the Commission for beginning to include Spanish as part of the languages in the interpretation and wished it would be the same for working documents.
- xxxiv) Sought clarification as to why item 4.06 regarding the diaspora was still under the CCP and not CDCP where it falls.
- xxxv) Suggested that the budget items for travel should migrate to virtual platform.

- xxxvi) Why pay US\$50,000 for translators when the same could be done internally.
- xxxvii) Agreed that there was no problem for activities of CCP to be financed by partners as long as they were well scrutinized and followed
- xxxviii) Getting funding from partners also depended on the nature of the activity.
- xxxix) Proposed that the diaspora activities be removed from CCP as the latter was too busy to also oversee matters of diaspora.
 - xl) Observed the activities of CCP not tangible enough to display what especially Special Envoys would be doing.

Responses by the Commission

38. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) It was mentioned during the presentation of overview of budget that some meetings would be conducted in-person, especially for the elected officials.
- ii) Agreed that there is a need to finance activities of the CCP with Member States funds.
- iii) Concurred with the meeting on the need for monitoring and evaluation of activities.
- iv) Took note of the need to avoid duplications with other departments. As such, the budget of CCP include activities of thematic advisors whose activities may seem to duplicate other departments yet there was a clear demarcation on who did what.
- v) On women activities under item 3.07 and 3.08 totaling US\$ 181,350 are funded by partners.
- vi) Agreed to delete activities for AU Day celebration. However, the celebrations in New York be allowed to take place.
- vii) The matter about Beijing office will be discussed during the subcommittee of Structures.
- viii) Mentioned that unfortunately key positions at CCP are financed by international partners.
- ix) The budget for reforms has been included in order to allow Reform Unit conclude its outstanding assignments.
- x) The rate of execution for the past three years will be made available to participants.
- xi) Confirmed that the Theme of the year has not been lost as it is well covered under the department responsible.
- xii) The CCP working closely with the task force on covid-19, which President Ramaphosa established.
- xiii) Informed the meeting that there were some monitoring activities undertaken at the Brussels with collaboration with ECOSOC.
- xiv) Assured the meeting that activities of CCP fit well with Agenda 2063 under Goal 12 and 19.
- xv) Confirmed that funds were provided for all Special Envoys although it was minimal.
- xvi) Promised to re-word some of the activities so as to reflect the political connotation nature of CCP activities that differentiated with departments.

- xvii) Informed the meeting that there were certain engagements that enabled the Chairperson to undertake physical visits.
- xviii) Agreed to scale down or rearrange some activities earmarked for deletion.

Recommendations/Conclusion

- 39.** Took note of the CCP draft budget and request the Commission to adjust the budget based on comments by Member States.
- 40.** Requests the Commission to adjust all meetings to virtual. All Africa Day celebrations be suspended except for New York.
- 41.** Office of CDCP should establish the monitoring and evaluation team to follow up on the progress of implementation of the programme activities outlined under each budget.
- 42.** In order to save cost, all non-essential travels should be discouraged and where possible, meetings should be held virtually.
- 43.** All translations and Interpretations should be done by Regular Staff of the DCMP taking into consideration the sensitivity of the documents.

J. Office of the Strategic Planning and Delivery

- 44.** The department presented the draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting

Comments by the Joint Sitting

- 45.** The joint sitting provided the following comments and observation
 - i) The evaluation of First decade under activity 1.01 of US\$ 361, 240 would expect AUDA to be involved as they were well equipped to undertake the activity in collaboration with UNECA.
 - ii) Should avoid consultancy as much as possible. Instead staff be recruited to carry out the tasks at hand.
 - iii) Thanked the department for reducing the budget but it should reduce further.
 - iv) Confirmed that the all relevant stakeholders were involved in the in activity 1.01 of US\$ 361,240 " evaluation of Agenda 2063" , including AUDA and UNECA.
 - v) Line 1.02 and 1.03 on the evaluation missions to Member States of US\$70,000 could be done online and reduced by 10%
 - vi) Activity 1.07 " Presentation of the draft report to PRC" – US\$18,000 for presentation to be rationalized
 - vii) Recalled that the Commission was granted US\$10 million for the Phase 1 of the Transition Plan. As such, the Commission should ensure translators were recruited.
 - viii) Item 1.03 of US\$ 50,000 (page 11) validation workshop should be virtual. On page 12 under item 1.02 about AUC Program Implementation Evaluation, the meeting

- wondered why it was to be conducted by consultants again at the cost of US\$69,810.
- ix) Consider conduct the meeting on the sideline of Summit for High Level meeting of Heads of State.
 - x) Page 12 under item 1.07 of US\$ 18,080 ,don't understand the cost as such suggest that it be zero.
 - xi) Suggested that 1.02, 1.03 on the evaluation missions to Member States of US\$70,000 and 1.04 on printing of US\$ 21,000 should not be in the budget.
 - xii) Observed that the budget was only focusing on travel.
 - xiii) Noticed that the presented budget does not have outputs.
 - xiv) Sought clarification on Item 1.02 about countries will be selected for the study.
 - xv) Convinced that the budget could be reduced further. I.e. item 3.01 can be reduced. Print less and the rest would get the document online.
 - xvi) Item 2.02 could be virtually - evaluation of the AUC program implementation of US\$ 69,810.
 - xvii) The Ministerial Committee agreed to have an independent body to undertake the evaluation. This was understanding that implementers could not evaluation its own work.
 - xviii) Questioned the methodology being used to domesticate Agenda 2063. This was on the back of some countries having no idea whether it was domesticated in their countries.
 - xix) Proposed that all budgets related to translation and interpretation be brought under the DCMP.
 - xx) Advised the Commission to desist from making the evaluation of Agenda 2063 selective.
 - xxi) Proposed the budget be reduced further and have majority of meetings conducted virtually.
 - xxii) Consider bringing the budget down to around US\$500,000.

Responses by the Commission

46. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Took note of the comments and promised to consider relooking at the cost of consultancy, although doing so may pose a risk of not covering all countries.
- ii) There is a joint task in which all key stakeholders participate.
- iii) On 1.01, 1.03 ' on the evaluation of Agenda 2063 ' of US\$ 411,240 validation forms part and parcel of internalizing the outcomes of evaluation results.
- iv) The Commission would like to evaluate a sample of its own program as such 1.02 is different from 1.01.
- v) Selection of Member states for rollout are identified according to regions.
- vi) Paying of DSA is part of cost of consultancy.

- vii) The output, outcome not present in the document under discussion. Such were found in the logframes.
- viii) There was no need to outsource the services of translators and interpreters if there is sufficient capacity in house.
- ix) Agreed to undertake some activities virtually.

Recommendations/Conclusion

- 47. Took note of the presentation.
- 48. Requests the department to rationalize the budget in light of Covid-19 situation

K. Women, Gender and Youth Development

- 49. The department presented the draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments by the Joint Sitting

- 50. The joint sitting provided the following comments and observation:
 - i) The budget should be rationalized, looking particularly at the number of meetings (34 for the year 2022) which was very high and should be conducted virtually as much as possible, thus cutting costs;
 - ii) Some of the activities should be deleted, namely: 1.01, 1.03, 104, 2.03 on the African women's leadership and participation of US\$ 427,900 ;
 - iii) Most of the costs contained in the proposal relate to interpretation and translation, there is need to rationalize;
 - iv) The department should ensure to take into consideration quota policy when selecting youth for programs such as Youth Volunteers Corps;
 - v) The department should consider making use of the Gender Champion and African first ladies for advocacy campaigns;
 - vi) Cost related to capacity building should be centralized with the ACBF;
 - vii) Request was made to know if the decision regarding the centralization of capacity building activities to ACBF involved only the AU or youth volunteers as well;
 - viii) Clarity was sought on what is being done with youths after they have been mobilized:
 - ix) Sought clarification as to why the 2022 draft budget doubled from 2021 approved budget;
 - x) Activity 3.02 on AUYVC Program Coordinator should be removed from the program cost and be put under operational budget as it is related to staff salary;
 - xi) There is need to reduce dependency on partners funding;
 - xii) Request was made for the Commission to consider fast tracking recruitment of required staff for the Department;

- xiii) The Commission has a well-furnished library, which is almost unused, request made to know how the department connects the youth to the library to enable them advance their studies;
- xiv) Proposal made for the department to consider temporarily putting on hold the recruitment of youth volunteers during the period of COVID 19 and the austerity budget;
- xv) Suggestion was made that since the ceiling was respected, the budget proposed should supported;
- xvi) There was decision that this department should be funded at 100% by Member States, was the decision implemented, and how far was it implement as the proposed budget is highly funded by partners;
- xvii) Suggestion that some budget lines funded by partners should not be reduced even during this austerity measures period, as it will be difficult to go back to partners to ask for the original amount of funding if what they have approved is reduced;
- xviii) Support of the department and urge the Commission to complete the recruitment of at least 50% of the department structure during phase 2;

Responses by the Commission

51. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Although most there are a lot of meetings scheduled for 2022, most of the meetings will be held virtually and the 8 trainings are in relation to youth engagement. The costs associated are with respect to interpretation and translation and support in the form of a stipend for the youth;
- ii) Some of the travel costs on the proposal relate to the deployment of youths from their various countries to their duty stations. Although with the COVID 19 situation, some youth were deployed virtually, this solution might ne always be effective;
- iii) The quota policy is being considered when selecting youth volunteers;
- iv) The budget increment is as a result of the fact that the department has been merged with the youth division;
- v) With regards to the recruitment of coordinators, the Commission takes note and will align with the reform decisions;
- vi) The OLC clarified that the decision on capacity building involves the youths as well;
- vii) Appreciate the delegation of Ghana for the support of Gender Champion to the work of the Department;
- viii) The department mobilize and train the youth so that their voices can be raised and can be seen as the custodian of their development;
- ix) The department welcomes the idea of deploying the youth in the DCMP to support as a measure to reduce the shortage of translators and interpreters;
- x) The activities were the details were not indicated, are activities to support GIMAC and PAWO programs, and it is done through technical assistance;

- xi) The department took note and welcomed all the suggestions and recommendations made by Member States.

Recommendations/Conclusion

- 52. Took note of the presentation made and commended the work done despite the limited resources pertaining to staffing;
- 53. Requested that the directorate takes into consideration recommendations made especially with ensuring that the champion and first ladies are solicited for advocacy campaigns;
- 54. The budget was adopted as presented.

L. Information and Communication Department

- 55. The department presented the draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments by the Joint Sitting

- 56. The joint sitting provided the following comments and observation:
 - i) There was full support of the budget with minor suggestions;
 - ii) Suggestions for communications tools used by the directorate to share information as well as information regarding the AU Library to know happening in the library;
 - iii) Requested for clarity in terms of costs relating to educational video and books be split/broken down;
 - iv) Suggested that the Commission to be aggressive in selling the Union to the continent;
 - v) Observed with concern that partners were putting more funding to programs than from Member States;
 - vi) Recommended that the efforts for visibility and advocacy campaign on the AU and Agenda 2063 should be extended to the island states and not only the continent.
 - vii) Sought clarification on the difference between activity in 1.01 'Promote AU Mandate and key programmes' of US\$ 242,000 and the AU broadcasting TV.

Responses by the Commission

- 57. The Commission responded as follows:
 - i) The Directorate took note of the feedback it will look on how to expand the cooperate engagement through Instagram;
 - ii) Steps would be taken to educate the youths about what actually Agenda 2063 was all about and education awareness will be championed to know more about the AU, symbol, logo and other organizations like AfDB, etc;

- iii) Clarified that consultations have been ongoing with the Education, Science and Technology Department to see how ministries of education can be engaged, to include agenda 2063 in educational curricular;
- iv) Confirmed that as of now, there is no visibility of the activities of the PRC for citizens to know that the PRC is really doing, but the suggestion will be taken into account and the directorate will see how to make the activities more visible;
- v) Clarified that DCMP was responsible for publications while DIC was responsible for providing the ISBN numbers for publications;
- vi) Informed the meeting that Infrastructure and Energy Department will provide information on Africadot.com initiative;
- vii) There was a proposal that the AU should have its own radio and TV stations as it was 30 or 40 years ago. The broadcasting TV under activity 1.01 is different those are TV stations in different countries;
- viii) Welcomed suggestion from Zambia to have contact persons for national press and promised to engage island states citizens for visibility.

Recommendations/Conclusion

- 58.** Took note of the presentation on the draft budget;
- 59.** Endorsed the proposed budget as presented;
- 60.** Urged the department to take into consideration comments and observations made by the joint sitting, especially on visibility and use of social media handles to promote the AU mandate and Agenda 2063.

M. Office of Internal Oversight

- 61.** The department presented the draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments by the Joint Sitting

- 62.** The joint sitting provided the following comments and observation:
 - i) Request for clarification was sought on the reason behind the high turnover (resignation) of staff as observed by the directorate;
 - ii) Requested for clarification on the nature of the conference whether it was virtual or physical;
 - iii) Expressed the sentiment that audit should be done internally;
 - iv) Strongly support the budget;
 - v) Expressed concerns that the budget was 90% funded by partners, given the sensibility of the function and the fact that such sensitive documents should not be shared with partners.
 - vi) Suggested that since the amount was relatively small (186,004.00 the relevant departments (PMRM) should explore possibility for the budget to be fully funded by Member States;

- vii) Commend the director for the good work well done in light of the challenges due to high resignation rate, and made an appeal to the DCP to prioritize the staffing of the department;
- viii) Questioned how the directorate was able to meet their annual target when they are understaffed;
- ix) Suggested that a case tracking software to track how money was spent should be included in the budget.

Responses by the Commission

63. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Expressed appreciation for the Member States support for the Budget;
- ii) Clarified that the six staff have resigned from Office of Internal Audit from 2018 to 2020 and that the resignations are mainly from staff on Short Term contract who do not have good package at the African Union;
- iii) Confirmed that OIO does regular case management and tracking and that they are working closely with MIS on the tracking of expenditure as proposed by Ghana;
- iv) Further clarified that the directorate balances its target with the number of staff they have, these staff work under pressure and prioritization is done to urgent audits;
- v) Informed the meeting that there is a standard format used by internal auditors and external auditors also have their standard format to conduct audit;
- vi) Responded to the meeting that some partners demand audit investigation report when they fund activities. However, as per the rule, reports are only availed for activities provided by partners, not the entire report.

Recommendations/Conclusion

- 64.** Took note of the budget and commended the Director for the effort made.
- 65.** Adopt the budget.
- 66.** Requested the office to take note of the comments and recommendations from the meeting.
- 67.** Request the Commission to see how Member States can fully fund the budget of this directorate.
- 68.** Also requested the Office to consider expanding their mandate to include the forensic audit services as part of their mandated work instead of such services being outsourced to the External Audit firms.

N. Office of Protocol

69. The department of Protocol presented the draft budget for consideration by the Joint sitting.

Comments by the Joint Sitting

70. Following the presentation, the joint sitting made the following comments and observations were made:

- i) Sought clarity on items contained under 3.01 'Purchase of ceremonial carpets, visitors signing books' of US\$ 15,000 given that physical meetings no longer hold;
- ii) Sought clarification on activity 4.01 ' Liaison meetings with Host Country every Quarter ' Of US\$ 37000, on what it is entailed, especially in terms of liaison meetings with the host country, as well as the relation between the protocol and the Sub-Committee on Host Agreements;
- iii) Proposal made for the liaison meetings with host country be extended to regional groups as well;
- iv) Proposed that the Protocol services undertake a form of induction with various protocol attachés at embassies in order for them to be acquainted with Union budgetary matters;
- v) There was a need to include a budget line for protocol officials accompanying the Chairperson on official missions, as well as the midyear coordination meetings;
- vi) Request was made to know whether the diplomatic list of members of all permanent missions was updated and availed to all Member States;
- vii) With regards to the understaffing of the Office of Protocol, clarity was sought on the end of tenure of the seconded protocol officers deployed to Accra and Lesotho respectively;
- viii) Line 2.01. ' AU Protocol Manual ' of US\$ 12,000 on translation of protocol manual could be done internally and need to be removed from budget;
- ix) The passport production cost has not been captured in the proposal;
- x) The Department should make use of staff who were responsible for the production of passports, to train the staff who will be in charge of the function at the Protocol services directorate;
- xi) A detailed breakdown was required for the additional US\$25,000 requested for the training of protocol staff on passport production, and if approved, should be catered by member States funds and not IPs.
- xii) Proposal was made to transfer all recurrent items to the operational budget;
- xiii) Protocol services encouraged to make use of youth volunteers and interns services, to support their activities;
- xiv) Protocol should include the production of flags to their budget;
- xv) Clarity was sought on the quality of passports especially in terms of international standards, taking into consideration security related issues; it was proposed that the Commission seeks the expertise of Member States immigration services;

- xvi) Request was made for the availability of AU protocol services at the airport of the host country, so as to assist diplomats whenever there were issues to resolve;
- xvii) There is need to have a protocol manual and Member States should be consulted in the elaboration of the said manual
- xviii) The diplomatic list should be regularly updated and made available on a dedicate page on the AU website;
- xix) Translation and interpretation related activities should be centralized to the DCMP;
- xx) There was need for protocol to ensure that the concerns of Member States were addressed during coordination meetings between the Commission and the Sub-Committee on host agreement;

Responses by the Commission

71. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) The protocol services department was mandated to keep an updated list of all Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives accredited to the AU;
- ii) The department will engage with the host country on all recommendations made by the meeting on matters affecting diplomats accredited to the AU;
- iii) The printing budget contained in the proposal was on the basis of consultations with the DCMP who emphasized that documents exceeding 10 pages ought to be paid for, hence the need to cater for the printing;
- iv) Budget for printing came in on recommendation by the DCMP that any document with pages beyond 10 were to be outsourced;
- v) Decision on the secondment of staff was made on a 6months basis, so far, protocol staff being seconded are at their 3month after which, they will return to the Headquarters;
- vi) The department will liaise with PBFA with regards to activities to be transferred to the operational budget;

Recommendations/Conclusion

In conclusions, the Joint sitting made the following:

72. Took note of the presentation made;

73. Endorsed the budget proposed and called on the Commission to ensure activities related to statutory expenses be transferred to the operation's budget;

74. Requested the department to revise their submission based on comments and observations made;

75. Also requested that all the protocol manuals be uploaded as soon as possible on the AU website;

76. Further requested the PBFA to work with the protocol services on the detailed breakdown on the additional US\$25,000 request and submit for consideration of the joint sitting;

O. Ethics, Integrity and Standards

77. The presentation was made by the Secretary to the Administrative tribunal.

Comments by the Joint Sitting

78. Following the presentation, comments and observations were made:

- i) The proposed budget contains cost related to travels, as well as cost for interpretation and translation, request to rationalize;
- ii) Activity 1.01 of US\$ 7, 831 entails training, clarity sought on the necessity of such trainings;
- iii) Clarity also sought on the reasons for the increase of cases to be adjudicated.
- iv) Requested the Commission to put in place measures that will help reduce the number of cases, and sensitization carried out by the department to ensure compliance to rules and regulations;
- v) Proposal made for sessions of the Administrative Tribunal to be held virtually;
- vi) Budget submitted with gap, need to effect cuts to ensure it is not under gap;
- vii) Delete activity 1.02 on the review and address complaints of US\$ 7801;
- viii) Clarity on the reasons for organizing extraordinary sessions whereas ordinary sessions are not organized;
- ix) All outstanding cases to be adjudicated should be cleared;
- x) The figures contained in AMERT were different from those contained in the report availed to Member States, they need to be harmonized;
- xi) The need to have sensitization workshop was emphasized especially with ethics, conflict of interest, harassment;
- xii) Sought clarification as to whether if the current cases had litigations;
- xiii) Requested for confirmation if there was sufficient human resource capacity to carry out stated projects.

Responses by the Commission

79. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) The DCMP outsources the translation of documents exceeding 12 pages;
- ii) Cost of trainings relate to sessions of the international judges organized for experience sharing;
- iii) The travel related costs are for the judges of the tribunal, who provide services without remuneration, they have to travel from their base to the AU headquarters, and are being paid tickets, honorariums/DSA;

- iv) With regard to staff compliment, the department was still to be setup and there was an office dedicated for resolving disputes etc.;
- v) Some of the activities under gap were mandated by Executive Council's decision;
- vi) The discrepancies in numbers are as a result of activities under gap, once removed, they will be the same;
- vii) Physical sessions are being organized to avoid concerns of linked information as the Tribunal deals with issues of confidentiality nature;
- viii) Ethics and Integrity were key to the overall functions of the entire Union, hence critical for Agenda 2063 aspirations;
- ix) Revision of the statute will be done in October 2021;

Recommendations and Conclusion

- 80.** Took note of the report, and commended the department;
- 81.** Recognized the importance of the Department and encouraged the latter to do more to resolve grievances in order to avoid litigations;
- 82.** Endorsed the proposed budget with the rationalization of the translation and interpretation costs;

P. Office of the Secretary to the Commission

- 83.** The presentation was made by the Ag. Secretary to the Commission

Comments by the Joint Sitting

- 84.** The following comments and observations were made:
 - i) The staff cost contained in the proposal was recurrent and should move to AHRM;
 - ii) Sought clarification on the cost of translation and interpretation cost contained in the budget.
 - iii) Activity 1.01. of US\$ 3552 on the Directors meetings can be transferred to the operational budget;
 - iv) Item 2.02 of US\$ 19,008 should be transferred to DCMP with the clause that DCMP should prioritize all translation and interpretation requests from the OSC;
 - v) Understaffing issue was a concern;
 - vi) The DCMP should use internal resources to ensure translation services regardless of the size of documentation;
 - vii) The OSC was requested to address documentation, human resources as well as connectivity issues;
 - viii) There was need to do a full restructuring of the Office. It was recommended that priority be given to the OSC for recruitment of staff in order to reinforce the Office;
 - ix) Staff under the current short-term positions need to be regularized in accordance with the SRR;

- x) Clarity sought on the budget availability for Spanish language;
- xi) The reporting format of the commission should be standardized;
- xii) Given that the OSC was a strategic office and work has to be done, it was vital that the budget on interpretation and translation be maintained in its budget as an exemption;
- xiii) There was a general consensus that the budget be approved as presented.

Responses by the Commission

85. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Expressed appreciation for the support provided to the OSC;
- ii) Highlighted the importance of the Communication Officer who not only covers strategic confidential issues, but goes beyond the expertise contained in his TOR, to assist the Office with its daily work;
- iii) With regard to internet connectivity, the OSC informed of dedicated staff from the MIS and the host country who regularly support the Commission and Member States with the said connectivity issues;
- iv) With regard to the availability of funds for the Spanish language, the meetings was informed that a protocol still needs to be ratified and the Constitutive Act amended to include Spanish as an AU working language;

Recommendations/Conclusion

86. Took note of the submission made;

87. Commended the Ag. Secretary to the Commission for his commitment and dedication in the good work being done with the limited availed resources;

88. Endorsed the proposed budget with amendment to transfer identified activities to the operational budget;

89. Called on the Commission to ensure that the office was properly staffed.

90. The Commission should ensure that translation services be made available for the OSC.

Q. Partnerships Management and Resource Mobilization

91. The Ag. Director of PMRM presented the budget of US\$10,282,033 for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments from the joint sitting

92. The joint sitting made the following comments and:

- i) The Member States inquired about the overall short term staff strength to enable resolve quota issue.

- ii) Proposed adoption of the budget and appreciated the directorate for Agenda 2063. However, it's ideal to use internal translator rather than external translators.
- iii) Informed the meeting that any new partnership should be carefully interrogated by the Member States before final engagement with the partners. Hence, new skillful negotiators should be recruited.
- iv) Asked for the total number of staff funded by partners and the rational for activity 1.02 of US\$ 33,000 since it will take place in Addis Ababa.

Responses by the Commission

93. The directorate responded as follows:

- i) Thanked the Member States for supporting the budget presented and informed that HRMD will respond regarding staff to be recruited.
- ii) Explained that contract duration was 2 years for the staff funded by partners but it's now 1 year in consultation with HRMD. All GS staff have been removed as recommended by the partners.
- iii) Also explained that no MoU has been signed without involvement of the Member States.
- iv) Regarding Agenda 2063, the function of the directorate is in the area of mobilizing resources for the agenda.
- v) Clarified that Expo 2020 is not only about UAE but an occasion where champions of the world meet to discuss business and it'll be an opportunity to make Africa more visible.

Recommendations/Conclusion

94. Took note of the presentation and commended the directorate for services provided;

95. Adopted the budget with amendment to include comments and observations of the Member States.

96. The SRR should be applied in the recruitment of short term staff.

R. Cabinet of Deputy Chairperson

97. The Commission presented a draft of US\$353,784 for year 2022.

Comments by the joint sitting

98. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations

- i) Proposed that activity 3.05 ' . Effective implementation of F15 mandate' of US\$ 30,000 should be moved to the F15 secretariat.

- ii) Activity 4.01 " Leadership guidance in the harmonization of AUC'of US\$ 70,000 should be conducted through administrative memos and does not require a budget.
- iii) On item 4.04 ' Joint Program of UNECA ' of US\$ 18,000 , the meeting sought clarification on the support the Commission provides to the joint program with UNECA, and which activities it supported.
- iv) Activity 6.01 – can move to partnership, of mobilization of US Stakeholders of US\$ 57,422
- v) On page 24, under item 1.01 ' Coordinate completion process of Other reform clusters ' of US\$ 48,000 wondered why the budget for consultant was being requested when supplementary budget on the same was approved for the reforms.
- vi) Requested that item 6.04 'Institutional Capacity Building development'be carried in house.
- vii) The budget should be rationalized.
- viii) The budget for the DCP just like that of CCP should be fully funded by contributions from Member States.
- ix) Proposed that item 3.05 on the mandate of the F15 should carried out using internal expertise of US\$ 30,000
- x) Proposed to move item 2.02 on the ' basic staff complaints ' of US\$15,000 to Ethics department .
- xi) Cash management planning should be introduced.
- xii) Observed that item 5.03 ' Strengthen drafting team capabilities ' no budget allocated to it and suggested that it be funded.
- xiii) Sought clarification on item 6.02 'Spearhead activities on analysis of risks or opportunities ' about what the regular honorarium was meant for and to whom was to be paid
- xiv) Hiring of consultants was not encouraged as such did not agree to hiring them for FRRs and SRRs.
- xv) Sought clarification on why it was important to travel to Bahir Dar to look at implementation of the audit report
- xvi) Observed some elements of duplication and proposed that the budget be reduced by 20- 30%;
- xvii) The budget presented did not observe the austerity nature of the budget,

Responses by the Commission

99. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Clarified that the Cabinet provides oversight to departments at political level.
- ii) As part of reform implementation there was a need for the CDCP to undertake travels to different organs to understand issues.
- iii) Under item 6.01 of US\$ 52,500, supporting Regional Offices, it was important to reach out to the AU Regional offices and address pending issues.

- iv) Clarified that the Cabinet was not there to micro manage department but to provide high level oversight to support them perform properly.
- v) The project proposed was a foundation for the office as such it was very important that it took place;
- vi) Clarified that item 3.03 ' SoPs for the operationalization of the FFRs and SRRs ' of US\$ 24, 300 was not about SRR and FRR but about developing standard operating procedures. As such there was a need for someone external to produce the procedures;
- vii) Regarding issues of consultants and meetings it was explained that there were no more than five consultants and there were no more than five meetings.
- viii) Appealed to the Member States to give the office the benefits of doubt instead of micro manage it;
- ix) Assured the meeting that the Cabinet would rationalize its budget and have some items move to operational budget except that of the CDCP;

Recommendations/Conclusions

- 100.** The joint sitting took note of the presentation and commended the Cabinet for the work they are doing.
- 101.** Adopted the budget with minor amendments.
- 102.** The office was requested to rationalize its budget.

S. Presentation by Operation Support Services

- 103.** The draft budget for Operation Support Services for the consideration of the joint sitting.

Comments by the joint sitting

- 104.** The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:
 - i) Sought explanation of the salary of the Event Coordinator.
 - ii) Encouraged the OSS on the use of Youth for innovations.
 - iii) Forklift operator has to be hired not trained;
 - iv) Items in printing should be taken away;
 - v) Training should be virtual;
 - vi) Travel budgets should adopt the AU rates;
 - vii) Interpretation and translation should be internally sourced;
 - viii) Proposed to defer the purchasing of five vehicles until the austerity is lifted.
 - ix) US\$120,000 speedy lazer scanner be rationalized and so too was US\$42,000 for Event Coordinator.
 - x) Wanted to know the possibility of getting funding from the international partners since US\$36,000 was apportioned to partners.

- xi) Requested the Commission to update the meeting at to when it would Phase out contract with Chinese from maintaining Commission buildings;
- xii) Sought clarification on why the Commission wanted to review the Travel Policy when it was approved recently;
- xiii) Wanted to know why the department budgeted for deployment of ticket and refund tracking system (TARTAR) appearing on page 97 under item 2.06;
- xiv) Wanted to know if the budget for replacing the vehicles (item 2.02) of US\$ 100,000 was to come from the Maintenance Fund;
- xv) Explanation was sought on provision for purchase of 50 solar panels at US\$50,000;
- xvi) Wanted to know if a material that had passed its life time and depreciated if the Commission still kept them for reuse;
- xvii) Proposed that the budget for GPS devices be moved to partners;
- xviii) The department could use African youth entrepreneurship for GPS panels

Responses by the Commission

105. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) The Government of China gave the Commission a US\$1 million every year for maintenance, as such if the Union ought to take over the maintenance of the building it should be ready to provide the US\$1 million annually for the purpose;
- ii) Explained that once the new SRR was approved would have impact on the travel policy as such it would only be proper to review it as well;
- iii) Explained that international partners will not be interested in renovating buildings. Attempts are underway enter into partnership with a local firm in Addis Ababa to renovate the buildings;
- iv) The scanner was necessary as it facilitated the inventory process;
- v) Explained that the GPS was meant to be installed to 21 vehicles and 17 generators in order to tract them on daily basis at a cost of US\$120,000;
- vi) Agreed to reduce the consultancy cost by reducing the duration of consultancy.
- vii) Agreed that training for ticket trucking could be done virtually but the project itself was ideal for cost saving;
- viii) The solar panels were going to be purchased in order to supplement electricity from the grid and save costs. The Commission was spending US\$8,800 per month on electricity bills. The solar panels would reduce such a cost drastically.
- ix) Confirm that there was no item for capital expenditure (capex) in the budget;

Recommendations/Conclusions

- 106.** The joint sitting takes note of the presentation and commended the department
- 107.** The Department should rationalize the budget items and revise the cost
- 108.** The budget is adopted subject to amendment as suggested by Member States

T. Enterprise Resource Planning

109. The Commission presented the draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting for consideration.

Comments and observations by Joint Sitting

110. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Wanted to know if the issue of quality control was not considered when SAP system was procured.
- ii) Sought clarification on the US\$300,000 budgeted for quality assurance;
- iii) Recalled the findings in the forensic audit that there were subsystems in SAP that were not being used;
- iv) Wanted to know what the US\$2.4 million for SAP Hanna was for and suggested that the said budget should be spread over a three-year period.
- v) Wanted to know if the funds coming from partners were a grant or a credit facility.
- vi) Wanted to know if the US\$2.1 million was over and above the acquisition of the SAP Hanna system.
- vii) There was a need to merge the SAP at Headquarters and the AUDA NEPAD's

Responses by the Commission

111. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) The SAP has been in place since 2009 and the system gets upgraded regularly as the requirement comes and new modules are added or enhanced as required.
- ii) The Commission is working to have one platform for the entire African Union;
- iii) The procurement for the purchase of application will through an open tender and Member States participate;
- iv) It was reported that the system had a module for predictive reporting;
- v) A cloud solution is considered to replace the data center

Recommendations/Conclusion

112. Took note of the presentation and requested that the budget be rationalized;

113. The budget was adopted.

U. Management of Information System

114. The Commission presented to the joint sitting the draft budget for considerations.

Comments by the joint sitting

115. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Item no. 3 and item no. 4 “ Enhance Data Center Technology ‘ of US\$ 235,000 are appearing under ERP budget just discussed and proposed that the work of the two departments be aligned;
- ii) Sought assurance from the Commission on the security of the system if its budget was fully financed with partner funds.
- iii) Proposed that items 3.01, 3.03, “ Innovative Solutions implemented “ of US\$ 485,000 and 4.01 “ Deployment of Decision making tools of US\$ 60,000 under IMIS be rationalized.
- iv) Sought clarification on whether the procurement of items was based on set benchmark mark.
- v) Wanted to know if there was any synergy between the ERP and MIS.
- vi) Requested for information if the Commission had prepared email addresses for Member States.
- vii) Wanted to know about what the Commission does with disposed equipment, such as computers;
- viii) Commended the department for the work done for the electronic voting system
- ix) Observed that items 3.01, 3.02, 4.01 on Integrated Information Systems amounting to 545,000 seemed to overlap with ERM, and should be rationalized.
- x) Sought clarity about item 1.01 “ To Develop, review and implement clearer Policies “ of US\$ 50,000 on page 98 as to who would develop the policies;

Responses by the Commission

116. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) The activities were not the same as that of ERP, the two departments share priorities as they were the same department before the split.
- ii) The funding of World Bank and all other International Partners come in the form of grant;
- iii) Explained that computers were acquired in 2015 and were only replaced once in 2020.
- iv) Assured the meeting the MIS work tirelessly to keep the AU IT systems safe from hackers.
- v) Confirmed that the Commission prepared one email address per diplomatic mission.

Recommendations/Conclusions

117. Took note of the presentation and commended the department for the good work.

118. Requested the Commission to align ERP and MIS activities where applicable;

119. The budget was adopted with amendments

V. Medical & Health Services Directorate

120. The 2022 Budget of Medical & Health Services Directorate was presented by the Ag. Director

Comments from the joint Sitting

121. Following the presentation, the joint sitting made the following comments and observations were made:

- i) Supported the Budget and noted the importance of the work of the Medical Center to all the AU Embassies.
- ii) Sought clarity as to why the AUC took only 1 swab whereas private clinics took 4 swabs and there was instance where there were false positive results and the next day would register a negative result.
- iii) Asked for the reasons for the challenges of delays in supplies to the Medical Center.
- iv) Urged the Commission to improve relationship host government on medical and health issues.
- v) Sought clarification on the amount presented on the document of US\$240,000 and the one presented by the Ag. Director of US\$189,000
- vi) Expressed concern on the modest budget presented by the Medical Services and requested that more budget be added to the Covid-19 response efforts.
- vii) Queried why the sensitization sessions was only earmarking the western region.
- viii) Commended the work of the department during the covid-19 pandemic and the achievements registered.
- ix) Noted the improvement in the electronic medical service system in the AU Medical Center.
- x) Sought clarity on the activity about sensitization of AU staff as to why it had travel budget.

Responses by the Commission

122. The Commission responded as follows

- i) Informed that AU Lab and PANVAC were certified by EPHI and recognized/accredited by several health institutions.
- ii) Procurement list was presented to the suppliers but if they do not have the supplies, it may delay service delivery.
- iii) Customs clearance takes at least 14 days as compared to private health facilitates and UN that take 2 or 3 days to clear goods from the port.
- iv) Stated that the PANVAC laboratory was certified by the Ethiopian Public Facilities and has ISO certification of level 4 or 5.
- v) Indicated that the PCR test takes a minimum of 4 hours and was reliable.

- vi) Explained that the US\$240,000 was the initial budget which was later reduced to US\$198,000 following the internal pre-Budget session. The activity removed was the World Aid day which will be conducted virtually
- vii) The medical supplies have to be authorized by the Ethiopian Medical authorities and the Customs clearance takes 2 weeks at the airport

Recommendations/Conclusion

- 123.** Took note of the Medical Budget Presentation
- 124.** Commend the entire Medical Department for the excellent work done
- 125.** The Budget is adopted with a few amendments

W. Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining

- 126.** The Budget 2022 was presented by the Ag. Director of Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining.

Comments from the joint Sitting

- 127.** The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:
 - i) Reiterated that the interpretation and translation budgets should be transferred to DCMP.
 - ii) Noted the large number of consultants reflected in the department as unnecessary and should be rationalized.
 - iii) Requested the sensitization for ratification activity should be moved to the Legal Counsel.
 - iv) Wondered why the department wanted to generate reports which were also published by the United Nations system.
 - v) Asked on the rationalization of the number of meetings which need to be held all online.
 - vi) Requested the fast tracking operationalization of the African Mineral Center in Guinea and allocation of the budget in 2022.
 - vii) Expressed concern on the number of consultants in the budget of the departments and requested for rationalization.
 - viii) Concerned with the amount of US\$146,000 for preparation of report and needed to know what it was meant for.
 - ix) On activity 2.01, ' AU Member States in strengthening Export Capacity ' of US\$ 101, 700, expressed concern on its implementation as Member States were also working on the same matter '
 - x) Noted that the consultants were consuming almost 70% of the budget and asked that the amount be revised downwards since the budget activities could be implemented internally by the staff.

- xi) Challenged the department to be more ambitious on item 1.02 about advocacy on the signing of the legal instruments.
- xii) Stated that the terminology 'non state actors' was not appropriate as reflected in the document and should be replaced.
- xiii) Requested for the harmonization of the activities with AUDA NEPAD and AfCFTA in several of the budget lines.
- xiv) Sought clarification on what constituted the 'Fridays of the Commission'.
- xv) Proposed if the Commission could in the interim accommodate the AMDC as it was the case with AfCFTA.
- xvi) Urged the Commission to consider having a political champion for the mining function in Africa.
- xvii) Reminded the department to transfer all interpretation and translation costs to DCMP.
- xviii) Noted that no action has been taken by the AUC for the operationalization of the AMDC in Guinea.
- xix) Requested to conduct consultancy internally to avoid double costing as 75% of the budget is consultancies related and proposed rationalization of all consultancies.
- xx) Also proposed to support the budget with a caveat to rational the budget and move translation and interpretation costs to DCMP.
- xxi) Supported the establishment of trade observation and operationalization of the AMDC.

Responses by the Commission

128. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Informed the meeting that undertaking research was essential for external perspectives to support the publications.
- ii) The advocacy was not just for the champion but for the Member States at the local levels. It was a political issue and not technical approach.
- iii) It's a technical service to work with Central Bank of Nigeria for the establishment of the African Central Bank along with Africa monetary fund. All African financial institutions have to be harmonized in line with the African Central Bank. The e-payment has been presented to the STC for consideration. There are STC on finance and integration, and STC on trade and industry.
- iv) Hoped that moving these translation and interpretation costs to DCMP won't increase the ceiling of the Directorate.
- v) A working visit is pending for Guinea regarding the rectification and operationalization of the center.
- vi) When it comes to research and policies, an external consultant is need
- vii) Internally we produce a number of reports
- viii) Underscored the issue of rationalization. Ratification is a policy issue, not a political issue

- ix) PRC can serve as a link between the Commission and the Member States on the ratification of the instruments, however, we are open to the legal counsel interpretation
- x) The Ministers of Finance, the strategy should be presented to the Summit for adoption on the Monetary union
- xi) If we transfer all amount of translation & interpretation, then the Budget ceiling has to be revised upwards
- xii) It would be difficult to acquire interpretations services urgently if the funds would be with the DCMP.
- xiii) The ratification of the Mining Center – only 2 countries have ratified. There was no legal basis for the center.
- xiv) We have a plan to push the issue of ratification and urge the Member States to fast track.
- xv) The Department has a large mandate concerning economic development, trade, industry and mining and there are only 5 regular staff.
- xvi) Requested that some of the funds were required for the unfunded items from Member States.

Recommendations/Conclusion

- 129.** Took note of the budget presentation by the department.
- 130.** Items related to translation and interpretations budgets should be moved to the DCMP.
- 131.** Requested the department to rationalize the budget and make the necessary adjustments by focusing on the African Center for Minerals Development and allocating budget to the Center for ratification purposes.
- 132.** Allowed the department time to source for funding until August 2021.
- 133.** Budget adopted subject to funds mobilized to fill the gap by August 2021.
- 134.** Encouraged to work with the AU Champion to attain the highest level of efficiency

X. Office of Safety and Security

Comments from the joint Sitting

- 135.** Following the presentation, the joint sitting made the following comments and observations were made:
 - i) Queried the airtime cost item highlighted in the Budget.
 - ii) Requested for alignment in the budget lines of the department.
 - iii) Supported the budget as presented.
 - iv) Agreed on the procurement of the equipment but the capacity of the staff needed to be there.
 - v) Wondered why there was reduction of budget from US\$644,000 to US\$467,000

- vi) Noted that the fire detection system budget was grossly exaggerated and called for rationalization.
- vii) Requested for clarification on the budget the line 1.03 ' Install raising bollards at the HQ main entrance ' of US\$ 100,000 an its alignment
- viii) Items 1.02' Install and integrate fire detection' have to be clarified and why the amount was US\$100.000
- ix) Requested the transfer of budget line 2.01 of US\$ 3360, radio communication equipment, to the operational budget.
- x) Clarity on the global amount and why there was reduction.

Responses by the Commission

136. The Commission responded as follows

- i) Establishment of the detection systems at headquarters' building C and B will be at the main entrance and exit as 2 projects and planed US\$120,000.
- ii) The Speed ramps were installed by Ethiopian government and the Commission was installing and raising bollards at the headquarters main entrance and exit gates to prevent vehicle forced entry and VBIED attacks.
- iii) Fire detection system at the old building was a big one. The previous system was not working.
- iv) Stated that in 2019, the department had a budget of US\$1.3 million, but with an austerity budget this reduced to US\$191,000.
- v) The budget being presented was US\$266,000.
- vi) On the Integrated fire detection system, it was mentioned that a study was done on Julius Nyerere building.
- vii) The funds secured in the budget was only US\$266,000.

Recommendations/Conclusion

137. Took note of the presentation and commend the Office of Security and Services

138. Budget was adopted with minor amendments

139. Urged to work with Finance to reconcile and rationalize the Budget

Y. AUDA-NEPAD Coordination Unit

140. The Commission presented a draft budget for the Unit for the consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments from the joint Sitting

141. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Found the budget to be too small considering that the Unit was a secretariat of subcommittee on NEPAD, which had critical activities to undertake. As such, requested for a budget of US\$75,000 as was approved by its subcommittee to be supported by Member States funds.
- ii) Rationalize items 1.02 and 1.01 on recruitment of technical staff of US\$ 4744 and also proposed that item 1.04 of US\$ 28,800 be removed as it is part of WGY.
- iii) Propose to adopt the budget with amendments to the new ceiling of US\$75,000.
- iv) Observed lack of planning looking at the way the activities were presented.

Responses by the Commission

142. The Commission responded as follows

- i) Explained that with the new structure, the Unit now has a head of unit and a P2 officer which was still lean for the Unit.
- ii) The department requested for the services of the volunteers in order to supplement the work of Unit.
- iii) Provided a budget of US\$150 a month for those using their personal internet for working from home.
- iv) Proposed to bring in freelancers to beef up the work of translation.
- v) Provided budget for volunteers because when such was requested from the Youth unit often they would request for the budget to support the volunteers.
- vi) Cautioned the meeting on the treatment of some budget items such as volunteers in which it was advised to provide budget in the appropriate department to undertake the recruitment.

Recommendations/Conclusion

143. Took note of the budget and commended the Unit for the good work.

144. Adopted the budget with minor adjustments.

145. The interpretation and translation should be transferred to DCMP

146. Recommended the Finance department to revise the budget as presented by Algeria, Chair of the Subcommittee of AUDA-NEPAD.

Z. F15 and the Contributions Unit

147. The budget was presented to the joint sitting for consideration.

Comments from the joint Sitting

148. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Recommended budgets for in-person meetings and recruitment of the staff within the structure and appealed that activities 1.01-1.06, under Member States Contributions including the scale of assessment project' of US\$ 22,600 be held physically.
- ii) Realized that over 90% concerns translations and interpretations.
- iii) Proposed for the F15 to be fully involved in the budget process beginning with drafting budget framework paper and finalizing the budget.
- iv) Suggested transferring staff cost to operational budget in activity 3.01
- v) Informed that F15 faces challenges year on year as F15 is sideline in budget preparation and re-echoed the involvement of F15 in the budgeting process.
- vi) Fully supported the budget and encouraged physical attendance of meetings; proposed to revise the budget and recognize the efforts of the F15.
- vii) Also proposed to ensure that there are substitutes at capitals for continuity and effectiveness.
- viii) Align the translation and interpretation meetings to be part of the physical meetings on a quarterly basis
- ix) Appreciated the work of the F15 team and recognize their significant role in the Commission
- x) Noted that the budget has not adequately addressed the role of the F15
- xi) Emphasized that the F15 Experts should be considered in the Budget process and that the Secretariat should support its work effectively
- xii) The Commission should involve a little more in overseeing the budget preparation process
- xiii) Requested to know why ECOWAS was not included in some of the technical meetings of the F15

Responses by the Commission

149. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Informed that first meeting was a visit to ECOWAS for experience sharing and found that some mechanisms could hardly operate as it took ECOWAS 11 years to implement. So there is mechanism to explore.
- ii) Reminded that the Member States banned travel since 2020 and the Commission is abiding by your decision; so decision in 2020 and 2021 should be repeated in 2022. Besides, meeting is once a month and they have their own jobs at capitals. F15 is only involved in budget process but to follow up on implementation as well.
- iii) Costs of translations and interpretations should be moved to DCMP.
- iv) Will do utmost best to hold physical meetings when necessary.
- v) Supported staffing the F15 secretariat and appreciated the support to the secretariat.

- vi) Why ECOWAS; the 1st meeting was with ECOWAS and it was 1st task and found that there are many some mechanisms could not start and it took 11 years for it operate
- vii) The Member States recommended that we should remove costs for the physical meetings as part of the austerity measures
- viii) The Sub-Committee Meetings have never been held without the involvement of the F15 Experts
- ix) As per your recommendation, we are going to involve the F15 in the entire Budgeting process of the Union
- x) The F15 had a role to ensure the implementation of the 0.2% by the Member States
- xi) The F15 Experts should work with their F15 Ministers for them to travel to attend meetings at the AU HQ.
- xii) Noted that the F15 Secretariat has now been shifted now been shifted to the BDCP and we will try to continue assisting to get the best mechanism to support the Experts

Recommendations/Conclusion

150. Took note of the presentation and commended the F15 Secretariat for the good work done.

151. Align the budget and move the translation and interpretation budgets to the DCMP.

152. Adopted the budget with amendments including holding of physical meetings of the F15, whenever necessary.

153. The Commission should prioritize the recruitment of the staff of the secretariat during the phase 2 of the transitional plan.

154. The Secretariat is requested to work closely with the F15 Experts to ensure their full involvement in the budget process from inception to the very end.

AA. Human Resources Management

155. The Commission presented the draft budget for the department for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments from the joint sitting

156. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Sought clarification on the additional budget requested for the skills audit, and wanted to know what it involved.
- ii) Proposed that the skills audit to wait until the earlier planned skills audit was finalized. As too were matters of training.
- iii) In 2021, US\$1.5 million was allocated to the department and not sure if the money was used.

- iv) If the skills audit could not be undertaken internally by Commission staff and that brings about the question of competency.
- v) Wanted to know if there was an HR strategy at the Commission.
- vi) Sought clarification on how far the Commission has gone with the recruitment of HR Director.
- vii) The meeting wanted assurance from the Commission as to whether the funds requested will be utilized.
- viii) Item 1.02 could be supported and it be conducted concurrently with study on ethics.
- ix) Do not see the budget for retirement regime.
- x) Item 3.03 and 3.04 , e-learning system & staff development framework of US\$ 102,000 need to be merged in order to save some money.
- xi) Item 1.01 of US\$ 180,000 be decreased since the R10 done some work on it. And so 1.02. of US\$ 84,000 , culture study For 1.04, of US\$ 54,000, track personnel records, should be done in house.
- xii) Page 91, 3.05 and 3.04 of US\$ 198,500 , wanted to know the difference between them. The budget could be decreased.
- xiii) Proposed to have a dedicated meeting with the Commission to discuss HR matters.
- xiv) Proposed if the Commission could consider that certain elements of Phase 2 of Transitional Plan be a part of 2022 budget. Doing so would assist the DCP with people that will assist with implementation of envisaged reforms.
- xv) Development of the strategy be done in-house.
- xvi) Item 3.01 can be rationalized on Member states.
- xvii) Agreed to the engagement of consultants on matters that were technical in nature.
- xviii) Sought clarification on the amount the Commission can spend on skills audit.

Response by the Commission

157. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) True the skills audit was approved in the supplementary budget as such the budgeted figure will be reviewed.
- ii) The Commission confirmed that it did not have the HR strategy. All matters of HR were done haphazardly.
- iii) Since 2018, over 800 staff were recruited, and the number of staff left the Commission were over 1,000 in the age group of 39-50 years.
- iv) People leave the Commission for various reasons, including lack of progression, and leadership problems.
- v) Justified the need for consultants that they provide an independent opinion on matters that could assist improve things.
- vi) Budget for improving records was necessary to bring sanity to record keeping.
- vii) The Commission welcomes any assistance that may be provided by Member States.
- viii) Clarified that recruiting a consultant will be cheaper than maintaining the R10.

Recommendations/Conclusions

158. Took note of the budget submission and commended the department for the job well done
159. Adopted the budget with amendment suggested by the meeting specifically related to costs for the skills audit.
160. Encouraged Member States to provide expertise to the Commission on matters of HR at no cost to the Commission.
161. The department be allowed to recruit consultants who will support to improve systems and functions of the Union.
162. Agreed on the need to have a special meeting on the challenges of the Human Resources and related issues in the African Union to be organized by the CDCP.
163. Need for rational recruitment in phase 1 to ensure departments are equipped.

BB. Citizens and Diaspora (CIDO)

164. The Commission presented the draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments from the joint sitting

165. The joint sitting made the comments and observations as follows:
 - i) Observed that the activities proposed were missing those that would help the department to involve stakeholders strategically and in addressing challenges with their work.
 - ii) Sought clarification on the different figures in Budget Overview paper and on the detailed document
 - iii) Observed the matter of consultancy was recurring on this budget too.
 - iv) Item 1.05 ‘ Organize interfaith Dialogue Forum on Violent Extremism ‘ of US\$ 30,000 can be done virtually in order to serve money.
 - v) Requested the budget execution of past budgets.
 - vi) Expected that the budget for translation would be taken out of the budget.
 - vii) Wanted to know if ground transportation was the responsibility of Commission or hosting government.
 - viii) Sought clarity on how the department interacted with diaspora organizations in Member States.
 - ix) Raised concern about making the department’s presence to the diaspora.
 - x) Proposed that the budget be reviewed upwards.
 - xi) Wanted to know if the department was executing its mandate as expected.
 - xii) Requested the departments to transfer budgets for interpretation and translation to DCMP.
 - xiii) Requested for the ceiling for the department.

- xiv) Observed an increased in budget from 2021 of 126%, as such wanted to know if there was capacity to consume such budget.
- xv) Item 1.03 'Towards Operationalization of the diaspora legacy projects - African diaspora investment Fund' of US\$ 35,000 how does the department plan to engage Member States because the latter are not aware of such an initiative.
- xvi) Requested that all meetings and other engages be virtual.
- xvii) Observed that Africa representation offices have not been used properly to champion diaspora agendas.
- xviii) Observed that in 2021 US\$35,000 and it has gone up in 2022 to US\$235,127. While the ceiling was only US\$35,000. Besides, there is CIDO funds under the operational budget.

Responses by the Commission

166. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Explained that few years ago with World bank funding it came with conditions that were not in line with AU principles. Upon getting advice from Member States the support was cancelled.
- ii) Confirmed that there was consistent engagement with the national diaspora focal persons on all matters AU diaspora program.
- iii) Confirmed that the budget was indeed US\$235,127 as secured funds.
- iv) On item 1.06 clarified that ECOSSOC is now stand alone and relocated to Lesotho.
- v) The department mentioned that it has diaspora officers in AU offices which on regular basis interacted with diaspora programs in locations there were in.
- vi) The department engages with diaspora focal points in Member States through workshops that are organized around a topic.
- vii) Confirmed that the department engages with anyone outside the government system.
- viii) The total budget of CIDO (Page 42 of AMERT document) which reads US\$235,127 CIDO will be able to prioritize its activities with the given budget.
- ix) Pleaded with the meeting to add a little more budget to enable the department carry out its activities optimally.
- x) Item 1.05 of US\$ 20,600 can be taken virtually but maintain the budget for translation and interpretation.

Recommendations/Conclusions

167. Took note of the presentation and commended the department for the job well done.

168. The budget was adopted with amendments and requested the department to take into considerations comments and observations by Member States.

CC. Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI)

169. The Commission presented the draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments by the joint sitting

170. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Translation and interpretation budget be moved to DCMP.
- ii) Noticed that awards still appear in the budget, any secured funding for them.
- iii) Encouraged the department to hold the meetings virtually.
- iv) Proposed that there be only one report on impact of covid-19 other than having several reports.
- v) Page 91 items 5.01 – 5.06 , under Upscaling gender intelligent skills and increased resilience for girls and women on the move, of US\$ 211,000 wanted to know if there were no duplication with other departments. Sought to know if activities 1.04, 1.05 of US\$ 210,415 , under Education and training policies, standards, systems, and programming , were Pass-through Funds.
- vi) Page 94 (f) items 2.03 and 2.09 appear to be the same. Page 95 4.01 wanted to know the relationship between this and the Space University in South Africa,
 - i) Page 96 (f) items 6.01, 6.02 and 6.03 could spread over three years on the boosting African Innovation programme of US\$ 480,984.
 - ii) Observed that the execution rate was only 55% and this needed improvement.
 - iii) Page 240 of cost details item 3.06 of US\$ 26500 can be done in-house.
 - iv) Page 241 of cost details there was a consultancy which need to be rationalized.
 - v) Page 256 item 3.02 of US\$ 41,150 about workshop be conducted virtually.
 - vi) Page 260 item 3.07 also be conducted digitally.
 - vii) On the GMES sought clarification on what the agency was doing in as far as GMES was concerned.
 - viii) What has the department done to implement the Theme of year for 2022.
 - ix) Clarify the term Pass-through funds if they had specific conditions attached to them.
 - x) To what extent were partners committed to provide the funds that appear in the budget to avoid bloating it.
 - xi) Requested for information on grants and scholarships to be shared with Member States.
 - xii) Item 5.01 of US\$ 36500 wanted to know as to how far youth in rural settings can benefit from the digital platforms.

Responses by the Commission

171. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Agreed that the Commission was phasing out the Mwalimu Nyerere awards. An amount in the budget are to facilitate the phasing out process to cater for students already in institutions.
- ii) There is a drive to develop Africa's own covid-19 vaccine which was part of the budget.
- iii) Agreed to rationalize the meetings and that meetings will be virtual.
- iv) On Theme of the year the meeting was informed that plans were underway to ensure elements of arts are properly included in the conceptualization.
- v) The department has two flagship projects, whose strategy for especially space agency was development internally.
- vi) The Pan Africa Virtual University clarity would be provided when the responsible unit would present its budget.
- vii) Included in the budget to cater for innovation so as to help contain the influx of people to Europe.
- viii) On pass-through funds are funds mobilized from a partner on behalf of a recipient and is considered as a grant which is sub-granted to a recipient.
- ix) Urged Member States to work together with the Commission in order to sustain the Mwalimu Nyerere scholarship program.
- x) The PAU could undertake income generating activities, such as carrying out consultancy work, etc

Recommendations/Conclusions

172. Took note of the report and commended the department for the work done.

173. Encouraged the department to focus on their priorities.

174. Adopted the budget with the necessary amendment based on comments and observations by the meeting.

175. Encouraged the departments of the Commission to use internal expertise from Member States at no cost, for specific tasks unless the skills required were not available in house.

The Department should engage Member States in prioritizing their programmes.

DD. Finance Directorate

176. The representative of the directorate presented the budget of US\$854,355 for consideration but US\$602,355 has been allotted for 2022.

Comments by the Joint Sitting

177. After the presentation, the below comments and observations were made:

- i) Recommended to conduct training for new diplomats to acquaint with the operation of the budget as done by UN.

- ii) Requested to transfer translation and interpretation costs to DCMP while consultancy should be deleted and activity done internally.
- iii) Noted that 3.06 3.07 and 3.08 of US\$242,980, Under Oversight activity, fall under the action of the F15 secretariat to avoid duplication and most departments are complaining of inadequate staffing.
- iv) Asked whether the Accounting Procedures Manual & the review of the Payables & receivables cannot be done in house by the staff of Finance.
- v) Queried whether there is need for physical oversight visits to the Offices is required and if can be done virtually.
- vi) Requested that the list of the staff capacity in the Departments be presented to the Sub-committee for assessment by Member States.
- vii) Questioned the budget line on the development of scale of assessments and asked if these can be done in-house
- viii) Proposed advertisement of all regular positions for freelancers & translators in DCMP Directorate to solve the issue of translation & interpretation services
- ix) Also proposed that the theme of the year be domiciled in each department and litigation costs be placed under the Finance Directorate.

Responses of the Commission

178. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Noted the observations and recommendations of the Member States and Stated that the oversight visits are essential to adequately supervise AU regional and Liaison Offices in ensuring accountability and proper financial management.
- ii) Informed that external expertise is required for the development of the Accounting and Procedures Manual, as in-house development might not meet international standard.
- iii) An expert is required for the development of scale of assessment because it involves review and discussions with the international organizations such as AfDB and World Bank

Recommendations/Conclusions

179. Took note of the presentation and commended the directorate for their work.

180. Endorsed the budget with a caveat to include the comments and observations made.

181. Requested the Cabinet of the Deputy Chairperson to guide the theme of the year in consultation with technical departments and Finance Directorate.

182. Instructed the fast-tracking of recruitment of senior positions to avoid any delay in the process.

183. The Internal Budget Committee should meet with all the Heads of Organs to discuss issues relating to duplication of activities among organs/departments of the African Union Commission.

184. Request the Office of the Deputy Chairperson to provide guidelines on the Theme of the Year, in consultation with the technical department and the department of finance, so that it would be considered and adopted with its roadmap and financial implications by the policy organs.

EE. Directorate of Conference Management and Publication

185. The Ag. Director of the Directorate presented the budget of US\$155,000 for the consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments of the Joint Sitting

186. The joint sitting made comments and observations as follows:

- i) Stated that this is an important directorate and asked to review document on a case by case basis.
- ii) Proposed to scale down translation to 2 working languages in case of heavy workload and capacity constraints - understaffing. DCMP is obliged to deliver in the face of challenges and being flexible, though reducing the number of translation is not solving the problem of recruiting 104 positions in the new structure. The directorate is encouraged to plan effectively.
- iii) Recalled receiving weekly calendar of meetings from DCMP and requested the directorate to continue this good practice by sharing with the Member States.
- iv) Noted the budget ceiling of US\$155,000 but presented the budget of US\$455,000.
- v) Proposed to include university youth volunteers in its program as part of the training of the students in Africa
- vi) Requested the directorate to work with Finance Directorate to harmonize interpretation & translation costs to avoid overlapping of meetings.
- vii) Suggested to have consolidated budget after all departments have transferred to DCMP.
- viii) Also suggested to develop collaboration with universities with a view of attracting new staff.
- ix) Informed that translation and interpretation costs have been centralized in DCMP; therefore, the Budget may be revised subsequently.

Responses of the Commission

187. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) The limit of 12 pages does not depend on high level decision but an international standard practice.

- ii) The calendar of meetings will be shared with the Member States once it's obtained from Office of the Secretary General of the Commission.
- iii) The proposal for 32 staff is temporary while await recruitment of 104 staff in the new structure.
- iv) The Directorate has hosted students from Senegal, Ghana and Cameroon and they are part of the pool.
- v) Clarified that activities 103 and 108 totaling US\$ 15,000 , under usage of conferencing strengthened are different subscriptions.

Recommendations/Conclusion

188. The meeting took note of the good work done and all the challenges encountered in the directorate.

189. Requested the directorate to explore all options in solving these challenges.

190. Endorsed the budget with the amount presented excluding translations and interpretations costs from other departments to be harmonized with Finance Directorate.

191. Emphasized that all allocated budgets of translation and interpretation shall have no effect on the DCMP ceiling

192. Also requested DCMP to share in advance the Calendar of Meetings with the Member States.

193. DCMP should take necessary measures to ensure continuity of service provided to Peace and Security meetings.

194. To explore the possibility of utilizing eligible youths from the Pan African University for translation and interpretation services.

195. Request the department of Finance to provide technical assistance in the management of the interpretation funds allocated to DCMP and to facilitate the disbursement measures in order to enable to ensure the continuity of the services of the different departments

196. Request DCMP to develop a comprehensive calendar of meetings indicating the ones that the regular translators and interpreters will be available to cover. Where there are gaps in the availability of staff, supplementary request for funds can be considered.

FF. Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development

197. The department presented its draft budget for the consideration of the joint sitting.

Comments from the Joint sitting

198. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) The budget for HHS was full of interpretation and translation costs, transferring this costs to DCMP would result to a reduction of more than 85% of the budget.

- ii) There was need to have a budget allocated for the operationalization of the AMA in line with Assembly decisions.
- iii) Additional information should be provided on the recruitment of the drug control officers and why the costs shouldn't be in the operational budget.
- iv) Activity 1.07. of US\$ 11,376, Wanted to know the relevance of the Member States' participation in the protocol on the movement of people. This needed to be aligned to the recent conclusions made from the recent regional consultations on identifying the bottlenecks and challenges on the ratification of the legal instruments relating to AMA.
- v) Activity 3.01, of 13,791 , The advocacy can be held virtual considering the recent consultations held.
- vi) The supplementary budget will only be considered once in a year and there was need to stay within the rules.
- vii) The budget for the theme of the year should be included in the budget for the 2022.
- viii) The bureau of states parties of AMA should be fast tracked including the governance board and ensure the first meetings to be held physically.
- ix) Additional information should be provided on why the assessment missions to southern and eastern region are not provided
- x) A matrix should be prepared of the countries that have relaxed the VISA regime and on how each member states has eased the free movement of people.
- xi) The Health dept. doesn't provide any link with working with CDC on sensitization
- xii) Additional information should be provided on the progress made on returning to Africa the cultural and heritages items that were taken away during the colonial times
- xiii) Most of the activities of the dept. are financed by partners and they are pertinent.
- xiv) The construction of the Museum in the temporarily site has not been budgeted and needs to be catered for.
- xv) Some of the sources of funding in the budget are not secured and violates the AU golden rules on the predictability of funding.
- xvi) The structure should be approved in the next meeting of the policy organs.
- xvii) The issue of IDP's in the budget should be considered by the relevant subcommittee
- xviii) No provision has been made on the participation on the global forum on humanitarian.
- xix) Ancient history should be trained in our schools on glorious Africa history other than colonial and slavery history.
- xx) The dept. is commended on their support and engagements with the Member states on the ratification of the protocols on AMA.

Response from the Commission

199. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) The department complied with the directive to hold meetings virtual.
- ii) The AfCFTA will be included in the border visits to the respective missions
- iii) The department of HHS has policy and technical ties with Africa CDC.
- iv) The three positions related to drug control were to be funded by the US government who were to fund the positions. The recruitments have been finalized with support from HRM.
- v) There were only 2 regular positions within the drug control unit and the funds have been received in the Commission.
- vi) The CELTHO office and ACALAN required budget allocated to the office so that the staff could be involved in the programs
- vii) The financing of the Sport Council activities would be supported with funds from the Africa Games collections amounting to \$400,000.
- viii) The funding for sports was available.
- ix) The African Museum operationalization will require the ratification of the legal instruments by the policy organs waiting the next STC for considerations
- x) Algeria has set a temporary site while Algeria has donated some land to construct a permanent building and will be done in 2022.
- xi) The use of the Swahili was being regarded as part of the AU languages as the ACALAN office is also training various people on interpretation and translations
- xii) On the cross border languages there were continued efforts to have them considered as cross border languages within the AU.
- xiii) The AU Commission provided a support of \$150,000 in periods of calamities and disasters to the AU member states.
- xiv) All the visits to the borders are approved by the subcommittee on borders and the details of the 2022 budget will be considered in due course.
- xv) The department was commended for its support and engagements with the Member states on the ratification of the protocols on AMA.
- xvi) There was a budgetary allocation for activities relating to IDP's and refugees in the operational budget.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- 200.** Took note of the presentation of the department.
- 201.** The Budget was adopted as presented with additional US\$100,000 budget to be added for the IDP's, migration
- 202.** Requested the department to allocate additional US\$100,000 for the humanitarian situations (IDP's, migration, refugees...etc)
- 203.** Requested the department to consider revising the budget based on amendments raised by Member States regarding the construction of the museum.
- 204.** The Commission was advised to plan and budget for the operationalization of the AMA in 2022

GG. African Migration Observatory (Morocco), African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration (Mali) and Continental Operational Centre (Khartoum)

205. The Commission presented the draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting. The request for supplementary budget was noted.

Comments from Member States

206. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) There was no support from international development partners in order to implement programs and activities
- ii) The centre is not yet operational as it will be inaugurated in October 2021
- iii) The source of funds is well noted and its inauguration
- iv) Sought additional information on how the centers would be operationalized taking into account the issue of seconded staff.
- v) Sought clarity on the synergy around the different centers of Migration as presented in the document.
- vi) Noted that there was a lot of interpretation and translation in the budgets.
- vii) Noted that there was a conflict between the AfCFTA budget amounts and the Migration Centers budgets.
- viii) Expressed support for the proposed budget.
- ix) Sought to know why partners were not solicited to finance activities related to migration.

Responses by the Commission

207. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) There has been request from partners to finance the centers but this will compromise on the sovereignty of the African member states
- ii) Support from partners will only be sourced once the centers are fully operationalized.
- iii) The limitation of financing to member states will ensure ownership of the activities
- iv) Due to the lengthy process of recruitment the HRM will be requested to second the critical staff to support the operationalization of the centres.
- v) Seconded staff were already sent to the Morocco observatory.

Recommendations/Conclusions

208. Took note of the presentation and commended the good work done.

209. Adopted the budgets with amendments based on comments from Member States.

210. The Commission should ensure that data collection is owned and funded fully by Member States only.

211. We recognize the pivotal role of the Migration Centers and request acceleration of their operations as well as the recruitment process without further delay.

HH. Political Affairs and Peace and Security

212. The Commission presented the draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments from Member States

213. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

214. AGA-APSA Synergies Project

- i) The member states requested for a revised list of the staff funded by the JFA and this should be provided before the budget is adopted
- ii) Details should be provided on the staff costs included in project AGA-APSA synergies.
- iii) Activity 5.01 'Support the implementation of the workplan of the PRC Sub-Committee ' of US\$ 23,760 should be further elaborated on the existence of the subcommittee
- iv) The preventive diplomacy missions of the subcommittee should be handled together with the PSC members.
- v) Activity 3.01 of US\$ 33,300, assistance to Gambia and other member states should take into consideration the recovery period with emphasis on eliminating any emergence of emergencies during recovery.
- vi) The partner's contribution to matters of political and peace security does not give the African member states an upper hand compared to MS
- vii) Additional resources should be provided on warning early projects and programs.
- viii) Confirmation should be provided on whether the budget submitted is an austerity submission. There should be no increase in the budget compared to the 2021.
- ix) Some of the items requiring consultancy should be implemented by staff within the department.
- x) All capacity building activities should be transferred to ACBF in line with Council decisions.
- xi) What achievements have been made on preventive diplomacy missions carried out in the previous years.
- xii) The closure of the liaison office in Liberia was required to have the office converted into a post conflict reconstruction office.
- xiii) Item 6.11 Staff support towards the implementation of Program (JFA staff) should either be covered by Partners (under PMRM) or sent to the operational budget and details pertaining to this activity should be provided.
- xiv) Clarity sought on which Sub-Committee was involved in activity 5.03 on conducting preventive diplomacy missions with the leadership of PRC Sub Committee and AGA Platform and whether PSC members were involved.
- xv) The preventive diplomacy missions should be further explored on whether it should be carried out with the subcommittee on diplomacy or the PSC.

- xvi) The guide on mediation should be shared with member's states
 - xvii) Explanation should be made on the delays from the establishment of the Africa Museum.
 - xviii) The revenues from the investments on the peace fund can be used to cater for the salaries on the JFA staff.
 - xix) The JFA staff costs to be funded by Member States to be moved to the operational budget.
- 215. Democracy, Elections & Constitutionalism project**
- i) The activities under the democracy elections and constitutionalism project should be rationalized to those of APRM.
 - ii) Activity 1.05 of US\$ 45,200 should be moved to ESTI department.
 - iii) Most of the activities are financed by partners and this contravenes the interest of Member states and a lot of resources should be on assessed contribution
 - iv) A list of the number of elections to be held in 2022 should be provided.
 - v) Activity 2.05 of US\$ 126,200 should be expounded on the support to political parties on whether they have already identified the political parties to be support.
 - vi) Activity 2.01 and 2.03 of US\$ 78,965 should be rationalized and be consolidated and extra resources to be put in activity 2.05.
 - vii) Nine elections have been provided in the budget even though additional elections may be carried out and the budget may not be sufficient.
 - viii) The support from partners on the project is welcome but strategies should be implemented to ensure there is no interference from partners.
 - ix) Additional information should be provided on the support of technical assistance on member states and who is responsible.
 - x) Activity 1.03 of US\$ 45600 should be supported by member states and not partners in order for the member states to influence the appointment of Africa candidatures in International System and C-10.
 - xi) Explanations should be provided on why the budget for the construction of the African Memorial Building
 - xii) Activity 10.12 of US\$ 66500 should be held virtually and not physical
 - xiii) Activity 1.02 of US\$ 50650 should be considered in the context of the project on mediation
 - xiv) Activity the international committee on follow-up is enough mechanism instead creating a new mechanism.
 - xv) Activity 9.16 of US\$ 398,500 on silencing the gun's budget was not enough as it is a flag ship project with no participation of the high representative
 - xvi) The budget on early warning and conflict prevention should be expressed in to two parts.
 - xvii) The subscription on online resources should be rationalized even if the support is coming from partners.

- xviii) The activities have direct impact on the AU member states and should be supported
- xix) The budget on 1.09 of US\$ 115300 should be revised upwards in order to support the mediation process in Mali in line with the Bamako declaration.
- xx) Activity 7.03 of us\$ 365,800 should be revised upwards considering the amounts provided are insignificant.
- xxi) The support proposed to non-state actors in SS should be explained in order to ensure no conflicts arise from the support.
- xxii) The activity on briefing the counsel of the wise should be held online.
- xxiii) The United nations proposed to support a virtual platform for the genocide and the Commission is requested to ensure implementation of the request.
- xxiv) Activity 2.07 and 2.08 of US\$ 126,365 should be merged into one activity.

216. Institutional Effectiveness and Coordination

- i) The issue of Saharawi Arab Republic should be taken on board considering the Commissioner of PAPS was elected by all 55 MS which is an indication of unanimity.
- ii) The mission proposed in decisions 683 should be implemented on the re-establishment of AU liaison offices.
- iii) Activity 10.6 of US\$ 369,812 should be reviewed downwards and the savings allocated to other budget lines.
- iv) Activity 2.01, 2.02 and 2.03 , amounting to US\$ 32,650 budget should be revised upwards if the issues covered in the budget are of importance to the Commission and the PSC.
- v) The liaison offices are set-up for a specific period of time to handle any conflicts.
- vi) Activity 5.14 of US\$ 69,850 should be reviewed and additional resources be provided to increase the budget.
- vii) Any AU liaison offices that will be closed the related budget should be channeled to AULO in Mali.
- viii) AFRIPOL and ACSRT should have their own separate budgets as specialized offices of the AU

217. Post-Conflict Reconstruction & Development, SSR/DDR

- i) There should be a budget provided for de-mining on mines and to deactivate explosives left post-conflict
- ii) The PRCD budget should be reviewed upwards.

218. Promotion of Good-Governance and Human Rights.

- iii) More information should be provided on the member states to be involved in the Africa transitional justice policy activity
- iv) Not all MS are part of the APRM structure and efforts should be put in place to ensure no MS is left behind.

- v) Additional information should be provided on the resource Centre is all about and who is financing it.
- vi) Proposes to have the budget approved without any amendments.

219. Silencing the Guns

- i) Activities related to engagement with women and youth should be included in order to realize the benefits of silencing the guns
- ii) Activity 2.03 of us\$ 36,980 on the consultations should be clear on the expected objectives.
- iii) Activity 1.01 and 2.03 totaling US\$ 156300 need to merged and rationalized.
- iv) A budget line should be included on prevention on the proliferation of small arms illegally within the continent.

220. Women, Youth and Children project

- i) The budget should be adopted as presented.

Response from the Commission

221. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Challenges are experienced during elections and there is an increasing request from MS to support the member countries which result in avoiding conflicts.
- ii) Support is provided to public administration and management in developing in laws on provisions of services.
- iii) The Commission always strives not to interfere with internal matters of member countries.
- iv) Most of the meetings of the department are held virtually.
- v) The MOU may need to be signed urgently in order to support the government of SS in recovery phase.
- vi) The budget was prepared bearing in mind the need to have austerity measures. Travel were removed from the budget.
- vii) The JFA staff costs were split in each of the projects where the staff are working and only includes the current staff in line with the moratorium by the policy organs.
- viii) There exists a subcommittee on diplomacy which guides the preventive missions and other peace driven initiatives but works hand in hand with the Peace and Security Council.
- ix) There was a subcommittee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance which carries out various activities relating to human rights.
- x) On conflict prevention, all bodies involved in peace matters are brought together with direction from Peace and Security Council.
- xi) The budget line on capacity building in the peace and security department has been removed from the budget and the cost details for the staff under JFA has been distributed to each of the thematic areas.

- xii) There is synergy between the Commission and the APRM in working together in achieving common objectives.
- xiii) Candidatures is all about sovereignty which is competitive between Africa and the rest of the world.
- xiv) The elections observations planned in year 2022 will be 15 and contingency planning has been put in place for unplanned request.
- xv) The project on the African charter on rule of law and constitutionalism trainings was developed by the department and this will involve the ESTI in the implementation of the programs.
- xvi) Election monitoring involves both the pre-election period and post-election missions in providing technical assistance on areas of governance.
- xvii) The technical assistance is provided not only by staff in the department but also other external expertise from the African member states.
- xviii) The issue of budget ceiling has affected the inclusion of the Africa memorial project to be spread for a period of 3 years with \$1m per year. Partners have expressed their willingness to sponsor the project.
- xix) The issue of budget allocation is handled by resource mobilization with the department involved in planning of activities.
- xx) The assessment of the political situation in Mali is carried out by the AU monitoring mission in Mali which meets frequently due to the fluid situation in Mali.
- xxi) The budget on silencing the gun is hampered by the budget ceiling and the austerity nature of the budget as activities need to be re-prioritized.
- xxii) Support for ACRST in Algiers is needed more than before as terrorism has evolved over time and has spread to other areas of the continent and not just within the Sahel Region.
- xxiii) The proposal from the United Nations to have the virtual website on genocide is welcome but ownership should be by the member states.
- xxiv) The funds from the revitalized peace fund cannot be used as the financing mechanism has not been concluded.
- xxv) The Commissioner of Peace and Security assured the meeting that all conflict situation in Africa including Saharawi Arab Republic will be addressed and none will be left behind.
- xxvi) Based on the decision 693, the Commission will engage a consultant to undertake the review of all the AU liaison offices to establish those that should continue and those that need to be closed.
- xxvii) The matter relating to the establishment of the hybrid court will be parked pending further consultations with respective authorities in SS and signature of the MOU.
- xxviii) The CLB has no structure and is staffed by seconded from friendly countries in addition to other 4 regional logistics bases that have not been operationalized hence limiting the effectiveness of the military aid donated by different partners.

- xxix) The logistical bases should be financed by member states and ensure that the structure of the base is fast tracked.
- xxx) The Liaison offices are not indefinite but were for a specific period and those offices should be closed subsequent to a decision from the PSC following an evaluation of the need of their existence.
- xxxii) The cost of external audit of the liaison offices is supported by partners and does not preclude the internal audit by the OIO.
- xxxiii) Provision will be made on the activities relating to demining including the participation of various institutions and players.
- xxxiv) The resource Centre is based in the Commission and funded by partners entirely.
- xxxv) The support for implementation of transitional justice should continue until all processes are completed especially to The Gambia. Countries like Mali are also in the process of receiving the support and others that may be required.
- xxxvi) The APRM carries out the peer review on matters related to governance, democracy.
- xxxvii) The AGA-APSA synergy was being reviewed to ensure better working methods with other structures.
- xxxviii) Activity 3.02 was carried out under the supervision of the high representative.
- xxxix) The participation of women and youth are included in the participants to be involved in the consultations and it is encored on priority 8 of the silencing the gun's project.
- xxxix) Support towards the implementation of Programmes (JFA staff) is allocated between Member States and partners

Recommendations/Conclusions

- 222.** Took note of the report presented and commend Acting Director for the good work he and his team are doing.
- 223.** The list of JFA funded staff should be provided
- 224.** Some budget lines including activities related to quick impact projects in political transitional countries notably Mali among others and PCRDR should be reviewed upwards.
- 225.** The digital virtual memorial should be operationalized.
- 226.** Budget of PAPS is adopted
- 227.** The budget should be rationalized
- 228.** All capacity building activities should be channeled to ACBF to ensure proper budget/funds management.

II. Infrastructure and Energy department

- 229.** The Ag. Director for the Infrastructure and Energy Department presented the proposed budget of US\$5,289,455

Comments from Member States

230. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

231. Develop Energy Resources and Increase Energy Access in Africa

- i) The funds managed by KfW should not be considered as pass through funds
- ii) Activity 4.02 of US\$ 10,000 on the preparation of the EU-AU summit should be deleted from the project
- iii) Will the recruitment of consultants be subjected to the quota system?
- iv) The department should focus on few and tangible benefits which can also support peace and security
- v) Activity 2.06 of US\$ 69,890 meeting should be held virtually
- vi) Activity 2.07 of US\$ 36,890 should be rationalized and use of online sources
- vii) Interpretation and translation to be moved to DCMP
- viii) Consultancy should be rationalized and be implemented within the department.
- ix) There is need to have clarity on the synergies between the department and the other AU organs.
- x) Activity 3.06 of US\$ 36,590 on the activity related to island states should require particular attention from the department and the reason why no resources were allocated to the activity.
- xi) The activities presented are not aligned towards the achievement of the objectives of Agenda 2063 with a lot of resources being funded from partners and revision is required.

232. Facilitation and Harmonization of Transport Systems in Africa

- i) The conclusion of the works of the reform unit will provided clarity on the roles and responsibility towards implementation of infrastructure projects.
- ii) All the interpretation and translations should be channeled to DCMP.

233. Facilitation of Programs Development & Harmonization of Policies and Regulation for Telecom/ ICT & P

- i) Activities related to translation and interpretation to be moved to DCMP
- ii) Implementation of the African Union Cybersecurity Programme
- iii) Inga Hydropower Project, AU Flagship Project of the Agenda 2063
- iv) The study on demand assessment and transmission plan for Inga project should have been carried out in the initial stage

Response from the Commission

234. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) The request for consultancy is for specialist services that have a definite period of time.
- ii) The EU-AU activity is meant to support to provide awareness of the programs of the dept. and showcase achievements of the programs.

- iii) The PIDA was one of the key projects that are tangible and can be noted all across the continent.
- iv) The department is involved in regular meetings with all organizations involved in infrastructure especially AUDA NEPAD, AfDB and other organs.
- v) The budget for interpretation and translation should move to DCMP.
- vi) All the activities for the department are embedded on the Agenda 2063 and all resources are negotiated on this basis.
- vii) The available resources from Member States was never enough to finance all the budget requirements for the department
- viii) The department responsibility was to ensure harmonization of policies and rules across the continent to necessitate the implementation of Agenda 2063 projects.
- ix) The budget had only activities and workshops and doesn't indicate the achievements to be achieved in 2022.
- x) The demand assessment and transmission plan for Inga project activity with a budget of US\$199,200 should be deleted as it doesn't fit in the project and the funds to re-allocated to other areas.
- xi) The activity on conducting feasibility on the Integrated High Speed Train Network, AU Agenda 2063 Flagship Project with a budget of \$225,000 should be reallocated.
- xii) The department should be able to develop strategies and policies that will assist to ensure improvement of infrastructure projects.
- xiii) There has been changes on the partners selected by DRC to support implementation of the INGA dam.
- xiv) There was lack of consistency on the engagement of all stakeholders in the INGA dam project.

Recommendations/Conclusions

235. Adopted the budget with amendments.

236. Budget to be rationalized based on comments from member states.

JJ. Office of the Legal Counsel

237. The Commission presented the draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments from Member States

238. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations

239. Strengthening the legal capacity of the AU and its Member States.

- i) The cardinal principle of equality should be applied across the Union and the legal associates program should be increased to 2 per region.
- ii) There was a need to have the legal counsel directorate to have the right and qualified staff to ensure there is no conflict of decisions made by policy organs.

- iii) The publication of the official Journal of the African Union and the Legal Opinions of the Office of the Legal Counsel should be done online.
- iv) there are cases that have been lost at the AU and there is need to draw lessons from those cases.
- v) The OLC was requested to explore the possibility to engaging a Champion to assist with lobbying for signing of treaties.
- vi) Pro-bono lawyers or legal experts from the Member States can be explored to support the OLC due to the limitation number of staff.
- vii) Activity 1.02 on organizing of the AU law Week should be conducted virtually.
- viii) Additional information should be provided on the electronic voting system on whether there is need replace the system which seems to be working well.
- ix) The interpretation and translations should be removed and DCMP
- x) Some of the manuals printed are not distributed to member states.
- xi) The printing of the Treaty Series Handbook, Digest and Database should be shelved and soft copies be distributed and uploaded on the AU website.
- xii) A manual of procedures should be prepared on how to protect the interests of the Union with respective jurisdiction in different countries by creating a network of young lawyers in each Member State.
- xiii) Meeting of Experts on the Challenges of ratification/accession of OAU/AU treaties in line with EX.CL/847(XXV) Rev.1 to be held virtually in order to increase the number of MS participating in the program.
- xiv) The OLC should inform the MS on the legal instruments that are outstanding for ratifications including the name of countries and there is need to change the modality of ensuring ratifications are accelerated.
- xv) The OLC has staffing issues and how can they do Legislative drafting training for Member States which should be removed from the budget.
- xvi) The convention of the AU and campaign on the ratification of legal instruments are pertinent and the approach adopted in Niamey was led by the Head of states.
- xvii) There is need to have focus on understanding the reasons for the slow ratification of the legal instruments instead of continuing with the same activities for ratifications which has little achievements to show.

Response from the Commission

240. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) The OLC is engaged in protecting and defending the interests of the organization
- ii) The structure of OLC will assist the expedition and improve the performance of the department
- iii) There is need to continue production of legal publications in hard copies as these materials are for the circulation to the Member States.
- iv) The stipend provided in the budget relates to legal associates program which is a monthly salary.

- v) There is only 1 legal officer in-charge on administrative tribunal cases with 47 cases pending.
- vi) The case on Moctar Yedaly should be looked into different ways with lessons learnt from the case.
- vii) The OLC has also been efficient in winning some of the cases.
- viii) The establishment of national committee will assist in the ratification of legal instruments and this is done with regional balance modalities.
- ix) The 55 sectoral committee's establishment in 1 or 2 years will be difficult and limited by the availability of funds.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- 241.** Requested the CDCP to prioritize the recruitment of appropriate staff in the department.
- 242.** Requested the OLC to rationalize the budget taking into account the comments from Member States.
- 243.** The legal associates program should be increased to 10 for the year FY 2022.
- 244.** Explore the use of a champion on ratification of legal instruments and treaties.
- 245.** Institutionalize the use of pro-bono lawyers from AU member states to support the legal counsel on areas that require support
- 246.** OLC should provide regular update on ratification of Legal Instruments to Policy Organs through the Ministerial Committee on the Challenges of Ratification/accession and implementation of the OAU/AU Treaties.
- 247.** To request OLC to involve the African Embassies in Addis Ababa on the ratification of Legal instruments.

KK. Consultation process on the establishment of the Hybrid Court in South Sudan

- 248.** The draft budget was presented for the consideration of the joint sitting.

Comments from Member States

- 249.** The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) There has been a revitalized peace agreement that was signed in 2020 and it has been affected by various changes in the ministry of justice.
- ii) The hybrid court is for the peoples of South Sudan and not at the whims of the United States.
- iii) The recruitment of prosecutors was initiated by the OLC without having recourse to the legislative body of South Sudan where the 5 prosecutors will be from the respective African member states.
- iv) The processes of recruitment do not involve the government of South Sudan and cannot be tolerated.

- v) The funds given by the US affects the neutrality of the acts of OLC towards the establishment of the Hybrid Court in South Sudan.
- vi) The OLC should work with all AU organs and all efforts should be in the interests of the government and peoples of the republic of South Sudan.

Recommendations/Conclusions

250. The budget was rejected for not following proper procedures when in consultation with government of South Sudan.

LL. Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Environment

251. The Ag. Director for the Environment and Blue Economy presented the Budget of Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Environment

Comments by the joint sitting

252. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Wondered why the department has always requested for gap funding yet execution rate has always been low. As such, there should be not funding gaps in the budget.
- ii) Wanted to know if there was any relationship with the AfCFTA.
- iii) Observed that there were a lot of consultants in the budget.
- iv) Noted that they should only use consultants when necessary and thus the costs need to be removed
- v) Sought clarification on how the department intend to undertake capacity building, especially in light of austerity currently in place
- vi) If funds have been secured by Partners, then there is no objection of including the activities in the Budget
- vii) Noted that the Rural Development priorities have not been factored in the Budget of the Department
- viii) Noted the repetitive of activities from year to year in the Budget of the Department and suggested the reworking of their activities
- ix) Requested the salaries to be moved to the Partnerships Directorate

Project One

- i) Supported the operationalization of functional National PATTEC Coordination Offices (NPCOs)
- ii) Encouraged the Fertilizer production, it is key to increase agricultural production in Africa
- iii) Observed that the Centre for Fertilizer Production institution in Zimbabwe that fall under the department has been neglected for a while. As such, requested the Commission to resuscitate the office.

- iv) Page 46, technical partnership will the budget go to tackling the locust infestation in east Africa.
- v) Wanted to know what the item 'strengthen access to inputs and markets...' stood for.
- vi) Page 143, 144, 146. Items 1.01, 1.02 and 1.03 totaling US\$ 284, 400 , under Capacity of RECs and Member States to implement African Regional Strategy , proposed that the items be under the operational budget.
- vii) Coordinating of CAADP page 154 items 2.06 and 2.07, how well was the Commission to coordinate these, virtual or physical meeting.
- viii) Page 150 investment promotion... wanted to know the link with Member States as to how the promotion would be done.
- ix) Support the requirement for the Fertilizer Centre to be supported and operationalized.
- x) Item 1.01 of US\$ 71,952 wanted to know if the consultants was hired to undertake archiving.
- xi) Items 3.06 and 3.07 appear to be similar ,under capacity of Member States to implement global MEAS, of US\$ 194,896 . The two can be reprioritized.
- xii) Surprised that climate change Mereology is not fully catered for in the budget.
- xiii) Questioned the activity 'Support operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement through strengthening of MSs SPS governance structures and capacities in Animal Health and Food Safety' which is already being undertaken by the AfCFTA and noted it is a duplication

Project Two

- i) Item 1.02 of 126,500 wanted to know why the activity of tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication was specifically mentioned to be carried out in Anglophone countries only;
- ii) Item 7 concerning women on self-sufficiency and one for youth which have not been budgeted for.
- iii) Item 5.02 of US\$ 125, 600on salaries be treated as other salaries under operational budget.
- iv) Item 6.02 of US\$ 36,980 this be moved to partnerships.
- v) DARBE should encourage member states to adopt the concept of food sovereignty instead of the concept of food security. The latter indicates dependence and while the former is about control over the quality of food.
- vi) Item 12.04 and 12.06 totaling US\$ 136, 500they be rationalized.
- vii) Encouraged the Commission to undertake a joint internal planning and budgeting for the entire Union including the AUDA-NEPAD.
- viii) Item 2.01 page 127 and item 2.04 undertaking mission in Member States of US\$ 12,000 , the amount proposed was too little.

Project Three

- i) Wanted to know the level of collaboration with On management of river basins as these have negative impact on agriculture.
- ii) On page 67, staff cost be transferred to where they belong.
- iii) item 5.02 and 5.03 of US\$ 30,600 wanted clarification to justify the budget lines.
- iv) In 2022 there will be an extra ordinary meeting on water management, therefore, sufficient budget allocation to this would be required.
- v) What measures will be put in place for better budget execution in 2022?

Responses by the Commission

253. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Will rationalize the consultants and those that can be done internally will be removed from the budget;
- ii) Welcomed the member States for support for the Fertilizer production, it is key to increase agricultural production in Africa
- iii) The Department is working with various groups in Africa to support the farmers as part of the Rural development
- iv) Agreed to move the salaries to be moved to the Partnerships Directorate under the Bureau of the Chairperson
- v) The open defecation is affecting the quality of water, especially the under water
- vi) On relationship with AfCFTA the Commission confirmed that there was a strong collaboration with the organ.
- vii) Took note of the comments regarding matters of capacity building.
- viii) On Fertilizer Production center, the department was looking into how best to make it functional optimally.
- ix) The categorization of the countries by language were specifically mentioned for purposes of saving cost on interpretation such that meetings for Anglophones and francophone are conducted separately.
- x) Confirmed that funding from EU was secured to finance some of its activities.
- xi) Budgeted for meteorology was budgeted for in 2021 but due to budget cuts this was removed;
- xii) The department was mandated to undertake capacity building for rural women.
- xiii) On AfCFTA collaborating on productive capacity, and institutional arrangements in the delivery of collaborative areas.
- xiv) PANVAC undertakes vaccines for livestock but lately it is supporting with Covid PCR testing as well.
- xv) Agreed with the observations of the meeting on matter of women and youth and ready to revise the figures up to levels that may address the concerns.
- xvi) On 12.04 and 12.06 of US \$ 85,900 would be looked into on the possibility to merge them.

- xvii) The department would collaborate with the PMRM on matters of partnership as suggested by the meeting;
- xviii) Requested for the salaries be moved to CDCP;
- xix) The department deals with organs on climate change across Africa. This is in addition to its routine collaboration with RECs;
- xx) On water, the department collaborates with national river and water basin programs;
- xxi) The Commission has limited mandate as to actually be in Member States to drill boreholes;
- xxii) The Commission clarified that it only entertained budgets that had secured funding;
- xxiii) The budget execution rate was also part of criteria for considering the budgets;
- xxiv) Also confirmed that following the negotiations with partners prior to the joint sitting the budget being presented only considered secured funding;
- xxv) Advised the department to secure the decision of the Assembly to hold the planned extra-ordinary session on water.

Recommendations and conclusions

- 254.** Recommended to the Commission not to accept partner funding with conditions that were contradicting AU principles.
- 255.** To revise and rationalize the budget without budget gap.
- 256.** Took note of the presentation and commended the department for the work they are doing;
- 257.** The operationalization of the Fertilizer Center in Zimbabwe has to be considered;
- 258.** Requested the department to improve budget execution;
- 259.** Budget was adopted subject to amendments proposed by the meeting;
- 260.** Advised the department to seek assembly decision to host the extra-ordinary Summit on Water;

MM. African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU- IBAR)

- 261.** The Bureau presented the draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting

Comments from the joint sitting

- 262.** Following the presentation, the joint sitting made the following comments and observations:
 - i) Questioned the low budget execution of 48% in 2020.
 - ii) Blue economy when was it adopted, and the structures & staff that are available
 - iii) There are lots of operational budget lines in the Budget that need to be moved to the AU Operational Budget.
 - iv) Supported the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy and stated that countries that do not have oceans should also benefit.

- v) Is the capacity available for the Office to undertake the projects highlighted in the Budget for 2022.
- vi) Wanted to find out the status of the construction of the IBAR building in Nairobi.
- vii) Agreed that the IBAR office building in Nairobi will be a secondary site.
- viii) Clarified that the Land in Kenya for IBAR was given as a donation to AU and cannot be taken as there are laws in place that respects private land
- ix) Requested to know the engagements of the IBAR with AUDA NEPAD on synergies and potential areas for partnership to avoid duplication in similar areas
- x) Stated that instead of hiring consultant

Responses by the Commission

263. The Commissions responded as follows:

- i) Informed the meeting that the low budget execution of 48% in 2020 is due to Covid 19 & funding.
- ii) On the blue economy we are supported the RECs, however from 2023, the Department in charge of blue economy will take over the implementation of the activities as per the Executive Decision.
- iii) The operational budget lines were placed there due to the insufficient allocation from the normal approved operating budget of the Union.
- iv) The building in Nairobi is on phase 2 of construction; the construction of phase 1 on building the wall around the land has been finalized.
- v) Any unutilized funds should be moved to the Reserve Fund as per the AU FRR.
- vi) The Department has been holding meetings for synergies and potential areas for partnership to avoid duplication in similar areas.
- vii) Explained that the mandate of NEPAD is to coordinate and Execute priority regional and continental projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realization of Agenda 2063;

Recommendations/Conclusion

264. Took note of the presentation and commend the office for the work done.

265. Encouraged the Bureau to create opportunity for youth and women.

266. Adopted the budget as per consensus of the meeting.

NN. African Court on Human and People's rights

267. The Court presented the draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting. The total budget of US\$12,5833,920 was presented which was composed of US\$8,098,085 Main Budget and US\$4,491,273 Special Budget.

Comments from joint sitting

268. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Special project item 1.02 of US\$ 2.5 million under on ordinary sessions , page 104 (F) activity important but could be rationalized. Wanted to know why was there difference on number of days. Also proposed to undertake the activity online;
- ii) Item 1.03 to be undertaken online; US\$ 30,000 on the Operationalize the Legal Aid Fund
- iii) Item 4.01 to be rationalized especially on the number of participants; US\$ 276,456, Peer to Peer Exchange visits
- iv) Item 1.02, on the ordinary sessions, noticed that the budget was huge US\$272,000 as other costs was unexplainable. And so proposed significant reduction to the budget;
- v) Item 1.01, 1.04 and 2.02 be rationalized; amounts of US\$ 10,000, 25,000 & 80,000 respectively.
- vi) Items 4.02 and 4.03 of US\$ 276,456 should go by the earlier ruling on training;
- vii) The Court was lined up for reforms in 2021 but it seemed there was not budget line to cater for such. Proposed that such a budget line be introduced;
- viii) Item 1.01 Publish the African Court Law report, Volume 5 should be put on website to save cost;
- ix) Item 1.02 does not have detail as such an explanation was sought;
- x) Costs for translation should move to DCMP;
- xi) Item 1.08 on judges' costs was presented as a lump sum and this needed details;
- xii) Items 1.04 Publish the African Human Rights year Book Volume 6 and 2.02 Publication of basics documents of the Court are similar to those contained in the OLC proposal, hence requested to collate and rationalize, also requested the the Court and the Office of Legal Counsel to work together;
- xiii) Due to austerity challenges requested the Court to identify items to be removed;
- xiv) Wanted to know the amount for the main budget since what is presented was only for special project;
- xv) Sought clarification if lawyers that go to Court to defend case were already qualified;
- xvi) Wanted to know if payment of honoraria was meant for judges and why US\$500 was budgeted for against the Executive Councils Decision of US\$150;
- xvii) Proposed to leave out the translations and interpretations from being centralized in the DCMP
- xviii) Supported the budget and possibility of the rationalization the budget
- xix) Digitalize activity 1.05 of US\$ 99,200, Develop a Shared AU Human rights documentation repository and Library;
- xx) Reiterated that all the meetings should be virtual as the amount located to the meeting is a large amount;
- xxi) Cost of the Ordinary sessions should be rationalized;
- xxii) Clarity sought on why the Court should contribute to partners activities as stipulated in activity 1.06 amounting to US\$25,000

- xxiii) The OLC should take part as observers to the annual retreat of Legal Officers of the Court, ACHPR & ACERWC;
- xxiv) All the judges should receive US\$ 150 per month as per the instruction of the Executive Council
- xxv) Proposal made to include in the proposal under honorarium, two different budget lines, one for judges who are bound by contract before the Niamey decision, and the other for judges contained under the new decision;

Responses by the Court

269. The Court responded as follows:

- i) With regard to the cost for ordinary sessions, it is vital to note that 6 virtual sessions have been held since March, with judges taking part from their respective countries, however several issues were encountered such as connectivity issues and difficult deliberation of court cases;
- ii) The public hearings are key activities in the Court and the Judges need adequate support in the meetings including physical meetings for discretion purposes;
- iii) There are risks associated to online deliberations, such as court judgements being leaked over the internet, thereby tarnishing the reputation of the Court;
- iv) All trainings contained in the proposal covered by Member States have been removed, those maintained are covered by International Partners;
- v) Training of Legal Practical in nature, it was included in budget in order for them to litigate properly on the cases of the Court;
- vi) The trainings of journalists is sponsored by GIZ, the Court lacks visibility in Member States, one of the ways to promote it and to ensure visibility is journalists who are trained by the Court in view of publicizing it;
- vii) Exchange visits are also sponsored by partners, and it is a platform whereby best practices and ideas are being shared;
- viii) With regards to low rate of execution, the advent of the COVID 19 pandemic disrupted most of the Court's activities as they were embarked to be held physically;
- ix) Strategic Plan of the Court prioritizes engagement with Member States;
- x) The protocol establishing the Court mandated the Court to establish its own rules in collaboration with the Banjul office due to its synergies. As such it is not obliged to consult with the Legal Counsel;
- xi) The mandate was given to the Court to adopt their ways of procedure in their sessions
- xii) The Assembly requested the OLC to review all the legal procedures of all the Organs;
- xiii) Believes to have hard copies of publications in addition to publishing them on website; the publications of documents and various reports of the Court had been

- funded by International Partners for the past two years, it would be vital for Member States to own the process;
- xiv) Proposal to move translation to DCMP the Court explained that it did not have direct dealings with the Commission; As an organ, it has its own translation and interpretation unit independent of the AU Commission and it will be problematic to transfer the budget to DCMP;
 - xv) Meeting with ECOWAS was the regular with the region;
 - xvi) Suggested that there be co-financing with partners whenever the latter sought to support the Court;
 - xvii) Confirmed that the budget was an austerity and it did not include recruitment of new staff, among others;
 - xviii) Contribution to partners funds to help support partners activities. At the court, it is to be seen that the Court support the fund, that it is not 100% from partners;
 - xix) Lawyers involved in cases are drawn from national governments and should have served for a minimum of 5 years at their levels. And since the practice at national level was different from cases at international were different, it was therefore, logical to train such lawyers to litigate cases at that level;
 - xx) Confirmed that a reform to the Court to be undertaken in 2021 and it may have cost implication;
 - xxi) US\$500 is being payed to the judges who were issued contracts before the Niamey decision to make it US\$150. All new contracts are being issued as per the Executive Councils Decision.
 - xxii) OLC - OLC: All the judges should receive US\$ 150 per month as per the instruction of the Executive Council

Recommendations/Conclusion

- 270.** Took note of the presentation and commended the AfCHR for the work done;
- 271.** Congratulated the President for her ascendance to the position and commended for her attendance;
- 272.** Adopted the budget as per consensus;
- 273.** Requested the Court to work with the Legal Counsel on legal instruments;
- 274.** Take note of MS notes and comments & requested the Court to rationalize
- 275.** Requested the OLC to develop a document containing all legal instruments, policy decisions, in collaboration with all the organs & institutions;
- 276.** Further requested the court to abide by Executive Council Decision 1057 of July, 2019 for honorarium for judges;

OO. AU Development Agency – NEPAD

- 277.** The Chief Executive Officer of AUDA – NEPAD & management, Presented the Budget 2022 for the Agency

Comments from the joint Sitting

278. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Appreciated the effort by NEPAD in the improvement of the budget alignment to Agenda 2063.
- ii) Noted that the Budget has a multiyear projection of 2022 to 2025, which is well presented in the document.
- iii) Underscored that the NEPAD's goals are not clearly elaborated and there is a duplication of various activities by the Departments of the Commission.
- iv) Noted that the Program Budget has several elements of the operational Budget.
- v) Noted that there is discrepancy between Budget overview and the presented Budget, and noted that there is a significant increase of allocation on Member States funds in the new budget.
- vi) Noted that the Economic Integration project was also reflected by the AU Commission budget. The mandate of NEPAD should be the implementation and consultations need to be done.
- vii) Questioned the detailed budget breakdown on the project details of the AUDA-NEPAD Budget.
- viii) Called for the increase of the ceiling of the AUDA NEPAD as it is a trademark of Africa in the development.
- ix) The meeting reiterated avoiding duplications and overlapping between AUC and Agency and called on H.E. the Deputy Chairperson to find out the roles of the two organs.
- x) Further noted that there is program on resource mobilization for Africa and asked the agency to explain the extent of progress made to report to the heads of state in 2025;
- xi) Supported adoption of the entire budget; however, the budget of be relooked at in October 2021 following defining the roles of the AUC and the Agency.
- xii) Asked if there is any mechanism to track progress of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063. Support the budget.
- xiii) Inquired about the progress made on the Inga Dam Project and availability of fund for implementation of the project as it seems more ambitious
- xiv) Requested to provide a matrix of projects implemented to give clear pictures of what the Agency is substantially doing to inform the decision of the policy organ. The Agency was instructed to do more like UNDP.
- xv) Requested to know whether the AU Flagships are visible on the ground to assess the need to mobilize the resources from the Heads of States.
- xvi) Queried the activity of US\$ 250,000 on the Recovery of the tourism industry accelerated through strengthening operating environment and financial support for rural/eco-tourism and asked which countries they are targeting in Africa.

- xvii) Requested NEPAD to do more like other comparable agencies such as UNDP and GIZ, in order to achieve the Agenda 2063 objectives.
- xviii) Underscored that that the 2023 Budget Proposals presentation should start with AUDA NEPAD programs to avoid duplicating projects with the Commission.
- xix) Proposed that if there are duplication of activities in the Commission's Departments with NEPAD then it should be rationalized and removed from the Departments.
- xx) Underscored that the AUDA-NEPAD budget presented is modest and the ceiling must be increases for the agency.

Responses by AUDA- NEPAD

279. The AUDA- NEPAD responded as follows:

- i) Informed that the system has all the indicators to show what the agency is doing and which it uses for its budget implementation and execution
- ii) Highlighted that the initial NEPAD AUDA budget was higher than the amount indicated in the report and the amounts had been rationalized
- iii) Welcomed the consultations with the Commission on the various projects to create synergy for the mutual benefits of the Union.
- iv) Noted that the activity such as the 'Service delivery mechanism to accelerate PIDA PAP 2 projects into financial closure' is only done by the AUDA in the Continent.
- v) Agreed with the divisions of labor and will work with the DCP to handle this as there are no duplications between AUC and AUDA-NEPAD.
- vi) Highlighted that the Consultants and travel costs have been kept at the minimum and the agency is using various Partners on the ground such as the Food and Agriculture authorities to reduce its program costs.
- vii) Underscored that the activities that AUDA NEPAD is undertaking within its mandate as outlined by the Executive Council Decision.
- viii) Suggested the need to revise the choice of the Flagships projects as the initial assumption was that we had a lot of the resources in the Union no longer holds.
- ix) Called on the building of the delivery systems that can be replicated in the Continent and include manufacturing components in the budget.
- x) Realized there are areas to be improved as well and fund is committed Agenda 2063 in the area of science and technology;
- xi) Informed that no consultants will be hired except in extreme cases recommended by Member States.

Recommendation/Conclusions

280. The meeting recommended that AUDA-NEPAD coordinates with other departments to ensure the avoidance of duplication of activities.

281. Adopt the budget without Funding Gap

282. Recommend gradual implementation approach of AUDA-NEPAD programmes on a need-based assessment

283. The Organ may come up with Supplementary budget accompanied with Execution Rates for the respective budget lines

PP. Peace and Security Council

284. The Ag. Director, presented the Budget of 2022 of US\$1,111,213 for the Council and an additional budget within the 2022 Budget of US\$930,374.

Comments from the joint Sitting

285. Following the presentation, the joint sitting made the following comments and observations were made

- i) Supported the Budget as presented and noted that it had been reviewed by the PSC Council members
- ii) Reiterated that the translation & interpretations should be moved to the DCMP
- iii) Recalled the Sub-committee resolution that the consideration of supplementary Budget should be done once a year
- iv) Concerned on the Supplementary requested and highlighted that the Commission is aware on the procedures for submission of the Supplementary Budgets
- v) Queried the activity for holding monthly regular meetings at ambassadorial level in the budget
- vi) Proposed to maintain the translation & interpretations as the PSC is an Organ set by the Assembly of the Head of States
- vii) Suggested that the Finance Directorate should consider the Supplementary budget through the internal savings and the reallocations for the year
- viii) Noted that the Peace and Security is fragile, in Africa and the Council meets twice a week and whenever there are crisis, and thus the interpretation costs are necessary to meet their objectives
- ix) The PSC is an Organ and is not linked to DCMP, though it is situated at the Headquarters and therefore the translation & interpretations should be budgeted independently
- x) concerns were raised that an amount of \$930,373.92 is allocated for only 10 translators and interpreters when the fund could be allocated for recruitment of permanent/regular staff for the PSD

Responses by the Peace and Security Council Secretariat

286. The Peace and Security Council Secretariat responded as follows:

- i) Take note of the concern to harmonize activities 1.03 & 1.04 Of US\$ 543,000 requested by the Member States
- ii) Activity 1.01 of US\$ 130,1701 a budget for the induction of new members on the working methods of the Peace & Security Council for the members under 3 Year & 5 year mandates
- iii) Noted that the activity 1.05 of US\$ 161,704 is budgeted for the annual retreat of the PSC and also to review the working methods of the Council
- iv) Mentioned that the meets twice a week and it is important to have a standing budget for the Interpreters as we have unplanned meetings due to unforeseen concerns
- v) Stated that the there is a budget shortage in 2021 for the Interpreters costs to cover the meetings of the PSC and thus the request for the Supplementary Budget
- vi) Explained that the Finance Directorate has not formally received the Supplementary Budget
- vii) Informed the meeting that the Finance Directorate conducted the Budget hearings and is guided by the decisions and guidelines of the Policy Organs.

Peace and Security Council Request for Supplementary budget

287. A proposal to consider the Peace and Security Council request for supplementary budget of US\$604,875 was considered. This was in order to carry out urgent and unforeseen activities.

288. Following the discussion that ensued, the joint sitting unanimously endorsed the request. Also endorsed that the PSC should have its own set of interpreters and translators.

Recommendations/Conclusion

289. Took note of the budget presented and commended the Peace & Security Council Secretariat for the work done

290. Took note of the additional budget request, after Accra retreat and commend the PAPS Commissioner for the presentation

291. Take note the need for interpretation and translation services for the Peace and Security Council secretariat and request the Commission to facilitate the recruitment of the translators and interpreters for the secretariat

292. The budget is approved with the comment and observations of the member states

293. The issue of the interpreters and translations will be concluded when we get the legal advice from the Legal Counsel

294. The DCMP should continue providing the interpretation services until the end of the year 2021

295. The request for supplementary budget by the PAPS department for the Financial Year 2021 was approved in principle, subject to the provision of a detailed breakdown of the supplementary request by the department.

296. Additional budget totaling US\$13,930,374 for ERM and PSC is adopted as presented.

QQ. AMISOM and Peace Support Operations

297. The Africa Mission in Somalia presented its draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments from the joint sitting

298. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Wanted to know if AMISOM reviewed findings of the forensic audit report in which irregularities were identified.
- ii) Wanted to know the source of financing the budget.
- iii) Sought clarification on low execution rate.
- iv) On page 37 on narrative summary noted that the same challenges reported before were appearing again in the text. As such wanted to know the new challenges in light of Covid-19.
- v) On item 1.01 of US\$ 156,000 establish medical center wanted to know where it would be established.
- vi) On the amount US\$333,000 from Member States the meeting wanted to know where this was to come from.
- vii) Requested for detailed breakdown on some budget items.
- viii) Wanted to know as to who provides the financial oversight of the finances of AMISOM.
- ix) Requested for the details aspects of the operational budget in order to ascertain if forensic audit recommendations were implemented.
- x) Wanted to know if there were any administrative costs associated with the budget under discussion.

Response by AMISOM and Commission

299. The responses were as follows:

- i) Clarified that at AMISOM there were no ghost workers as the forensic audit report alleged.

- ii) The office assured the meeting that it would cooperate with any authority that would want the truth about the matter.
- iii) Queried as to the base for the audit findings since it was inconceivable on the part of AMISOM.
- iv) The funding for AMISOM is covered by EU, DANISH.
- v) Matters of forensic audit dated back from 2016.
- vi) The budget execution in 2021 was 56% while in 2020 was 94%.
- vii) Mentioned that the US\$333,000 was not for AMISOM but for the mission in Mali.
- viii) Narrated that AMISOM had 4 different types of audits in a year.
- ix) The Medical Center with financing from Republic of Korea was still an offer and it will be upon the policy organs to decide the location it would be established.
- x) Clarified that the administrative costs were not calculated at the budget preparation process. It comes at the point of budget implementation.

Recommendations/Conclusion

- 300.** Took note of the presentation and commend AMISOM for their work.
- 301.** Adopted the budget and requested AMISOM to observe all financial and other regulations when discharging their duties.
- 302.** Requested AMISOM to take note of all comments raised during the meeting.

RR. MNJTF of Lake Chad Basin

- 303.** The draft budget was presented for the consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments from the joint sitting

- 304.** The joint sitting made the following comments and observations
 - i) Unanimously supported the budget
 - ii) Wanted to know as to what was happening with regards to the stabilization plan.
 - iii) Requested to provided details of staff numbers.

Responses by the Commission

- 305.** The Commission responses as follows:
 - i) The stabilization plan was adopted which involved other players including the UN agencies as well as the NGOs, and was underway.
 - ii) Staff support was meant for staff salaries for establishment in Chad. And it covered all international staff.

Recommendations/Conclusions

306. Took note of presentation and commended the Commission for the work being done.

307. Budget was adopted with amendment.

SS. MILOBs – Central African Republic

308. The draft budget for the mission was presented for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments from the joint sitting

309. The joint sitting provided comments and observations as follows:

- i) The budget execution rate was observed to be too low as such the request for 2022 was not justified.
- ii) Requested for detailed information regarding different types of personnel so that the numbers involved were clear.
- iii) Sought to understand the delays in payment of staff.
- iv) Observed that it was difficult to follow expenditures on moneys from EU.
- v) Wanted to know if the unspent moneys in 2019 and 2020 were carried forward to the new budget.

Responses by the Commission

310. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) The low execution was a result of unpreparedness to deploy the observers who needed secured space from which to operate.
- ii) Similarly, it was also depended on the host not fulfilling the promise to provide the necessary security for the observers who were unarmed.
- iii) Confirmed that the funds were rolled over to subsequent years.
- iv) Delay to pay staff was connected to security situation in CAR in which the bank transfers took longer to be processed.

Recommendations/Conclusions

311. Took note of the presentation.

312. The budget was adopted as presented.

TT. Continental Logistical base – Douala

313. The draft budget was presented for consideration by the joint sitting

Comments from the joint sitting

314. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Supported the budget.
- ii) Wanted to know the financier of the CL base.
- iii) Observed increased budgets for cleaning, security and wanted to know what led to such increases.
- iv) Was the insurance provided for vehicle meant for those donated by China?
- v) Wanted to know criteria for recruiting staff for the base.
- vi) Wanted to know the legal status of the base.

Responses by the Commission

315. The Commission made the following responses:

- i) Insurance was paid for vehicles procured by the Commission.
- ii) Increase in security was to ensure to secure the equipment being installed at the base.
- iii) Maintenance of vehicle and other equipment were meant to ensure the vehicles were running all the times and ready for deployment.
- iv) Appreciated the gesture from the government of Cameroon who provide huge piece of land for the base.
- v) Requested that there be a staff structure for the base as it was difficult to operate with non-AU staff.
- vi) The Commission was not recruiting any staff as there was no structure to support the recruitment.
- vii) The base was meant to specialized office

Recommendations/Conclusions

316. Took note of the presentation.

317. Commended the government of Cameroon for providing the land and for continuing to support for the base.

UU. Economic, Social and Cultural Council ECOSSOC

318. The presentation of the draft budget was preceded with the presentation on the audited budget performance for the institutions. Execution on programs was 7% and 14% on operational budget. Low execution was as a result of inadequate staffing. Similarly, the funds were released late.

Comments by the joint sitting

319. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Wanted to find out if there was any link with DCMP with regards to interpretation and translation.

- ii) Also wanted to know if there was any provision for the Theme of the year.
- iii) Wondered why there was a provision for meetings outside Zambia.
- iv) Item 1.03 of US\$ 63,000, digital media could be carried out in collaboration with AUC and so be reduce to one.
- v) Item 1.04, of US\$ 19,004 , encouraged to work with institutions in Latin America.
- vi) 2.06 what was the choice the organizations for training and rationalize the number of days for training.
- vii) Invited ECOSSOC to involve sister organizations to help disseminate Agenda 2063.
- viii) Support physical meetings for ECOSOCC.
- ix) Wanted to know as to why the Commission did not mobilize funds for ECOSOCC.
- x) Requested the Commission to revise the ceiling for ECOSOCC to take into consideration the decision of Executive Council on determination of ceilings.
- xi) Sought clarification on the cost of meetings.
- xii) From the unabridged AMERT pg. 459 why do we require consultants to develop digital media products on AU programs and initiatives. This should be done with DIC and USD 63,000 should be rationalized.
- xiii) Page 462 and 3.02 and 3.03 Are these activities budgeted for on an annual basis. This relates to operationalizing a framework for ECOSOCC National Chapters and Legal and Political Framework for Diaspora CSO Participation.
- xiv) What is the progress on these so far (US\$93,384 and US\$76,512). ECOSOCC needs to improve its recruitment in line with funds available.
- xv) Encouraged that CIDO and ECOSOCC should collaborate and division of work made clear in order to avoid duplications.
- xvi) Wanted to know if the secretariat explored the possible to engage partners for possibility to finance some of its activities.

Responses by the ECOSOCC

320. The ECOSOCC provided the following responses

- i) Confirmed that there was a link with DCMP
- ii) On Theme of Year it was confirmed that it was duly provided for in the budget.
- iii) Also confirmed that ECOSOCC collaborates with DIC at AUC but the latter was limited in its capacity as such, the rest were done directly by the former.
- iv) The accreditation is done for the entire Union for all NGOs that would want to work with the Union.
- v) Out of Addis was presented as a result of limitation of the system used when developing the budget.
- vi) The secretariat only has one communication officer and sourcing out some service was inevitable.

- vii) Funding has always been from Member States. However, there has been expression of interest from partners and will be explored as the secretariat gets settled.

Recommendations/Conclusion

- 321.** Took note of the presentation and commended the Presiding Officer and the team for the work.
- 322.** Thanked the government of Zambia for hosting ECOSOCC.
- 323.** Adopted the budget subject to amendments as raised by the joint sitting and encouraged ECOSOCC to work with CIDO so that there was no duplication.

VV. Africa Peer Review Mechanism

- 324.** The secretariat presented the draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments from the joint sitting

- 325.** The joint sitting made the following comments and observations
 - i) Observed the financial and budgetary challenges faced by the APRM. A such, proposed to bring APRM to its initial budget before its cuts by the Commission.
 - ii) KPA 2 page 44 2.05 Is there no monitoring and evaluation capacity within APRM (USD 37,500) KPA 3 2.03.
 - iii) This drafting of SOP based on AU Rules could be done in house and US\$60,372 could be rationalized.
 - iv) Page 58 item 2.06 wanted to know if administrative costs formed part of this program budget.
 - v) KPA 4 page 59 item 1.03 sought clarification on the need for communications consultants at US\$120,000 - should rationalize this cost.
 - vi) Item 1.02 on migration wanted to know if there would be no overlaps with migration offices.
 - vii) 4.03, work with appropriate office.4.04 what was the mandate of APRM in respect of the item.
 - viii) Item 5.07 on credit rating agency wanted to know was the rationale behind the activity in light of the proposal made ETIM relating to the same.
 - ix) Proposed that all activities of APRM be financed by Member States funds.
 - x) As a peer review mechanism, the APRM ought to be exemplary in budget execution.
 - xi) In a spirit of austerity proposed that some activities be rationalized.
 - xii) Reiterated the need for organs to comply with the expenditure ceilings.
 - xiii) Item 1.03 at US\$126,000 can be rationalized to reasonable proportion.
 - xiv) Project 4 item 1.03 of US\$ 361,000 can be rationalized and made virtually. Also 1.01 of US\$ 23,600 sought clarification on this.

- xv) Observed that 2020 was left out in the computation of expenditure ceilings and as such sought clarification on the matter.
- xvi) Wanted to know about the APRM Day.
- xvii) Wanted to know the position of audit on APRM.
- xviii) Why APRM was using different salary grade.
- xix) Wanted if APRM was subjected to AU FRR and SRR.
- xx) Explain about the debt owed to APRM by Member States

Responses by the APRM and Commission

326. The APRM and the Commission responded as follows:

- i) The expenditure ceiling was computed in line with Executive Council decision. However due to covid-19 situation and its impact on the budget, 2020 was excluded as it did not provide a good base.
- ii) As an organ, APRM was subjected to annual audits. It was not done in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- iii) Also as an AU organ, APRM was supposed to follow AU SRR and FRR.
- iv) Confirmed that APRM for past 2 years had unqualified audit.
- v) Informed the meeting that APRM has completed the transition from using its FRR and SRR to applying the AU FRR and SRR.
- vi) The APRM day relates to the day it was established in which Member States of APRM celebrate this day.
- vii) APRM works with the private sector in which it developed guidelines.
- viii) The costs highlighted by meetings were justified they cannot be amended.
- ix) APRM compliments the work of AUDA-NEPAD.
- x) Done three reviews and 2 second reviews recently. This is in addition to 2 targeted reviews also were done.
- xi) Item 1.03 was part of realities of implementing programs at grass root.
- xii) Since 2019 when the budget was integrated into AU the APRM is subjected to AU FRR and SRR.
- xiii) On rating agency, the APRM proposes to keep the budget as proposed.

Recommendations/Conclusions

327. Took note of the presentation and commended APRM for the good work and for achievements made.

328. Adopted the budget and requested APRM to work with the Commission for purposes of fulfilling their mandate.

329. Requested APRM to work with the Finance department to ensure it is well funded.

330. Requested APRM to adhere to AU FRR and SRR in the discharge of its work.

331. The Commission to expedite the audit of APRM

332. OLC to provide a legal opinion on the implementation of Executive Decision 1031 para 11 (II) on the budget ceiling.

WW.African Migration Observatory – AMO

333. The draft budget was presented for the consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments from the joint sitting

334. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations.

- i) Support the budget on condition it was financed wholly by the Member States.
- ii) Align items related to operation with the operational budget.
- iii) Sought clarification on item 2.01, under African Migration Statistics of US\$ 180,574 as to who would do the activity.
- iv) Item 3.03, US\$ 10,806, under Governance & Coordination committees, it should be the Chairperson of the Commission undertaking the task.
- v) Reminded the Commission that AMO was meant for statistics on migration not attending meetings.
- vi) Wanted to find out if the AMO would corroborate with UNECA.
- vii) Advised the Commission to contact Member States for the possibility to second staff to Migration Observatories should there be a need.
- viii) Wanted to know as to whom were the seconded staff and from which budget were they being supported.
- ix) Was mentioned that SADC was to allocate funds to undertake a study, as such not necessary to budget for it in the budget.

Responses by the Commission

335. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) There was a need to work with Member States on the standards, definitions around migration.
- ii) Clarified that the Observatory could represent the Chairperson in a delegated capacity on migrations statistics.
- iii) On Regional science center the Commission currently working on modalities and once ready it will be shared with all member states.
- iv) Agreed that there was complementarity between the Mali and Morocco centers.
- v) Thanked the Member States for supporting the budget.
- vi) Seconded staff were mobilized from department of Finance and from the department of HHS. The government of Morocco would provide local staff to support the Observatory.
- vii) Informed the meeting efforts were underway to mobilize resources from partners.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- 336.** Took note of the presentation and commended the department for the good job.
- 337.** Adopted the budget and asked the Observatory to take note of the comments by Member States.
- 338.** Ensure that data collection was owned and funded by Member States.

XX. STATAFRIC

- 339.** The draft budget was presented for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments by the joint sitting

- 340.** The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Item 3.02 on page 225 (f) doesn't appear realistic.
- ii) Elements of translation and interpretation be reconciled with DCMP.
- iii) Item 1.03 be deleted
- iv) Mentioned of subcommittee on Civil ...not sure if that existed.
- v) Observed that the secured funding was only US\$300,000 while the presentation over US\$1 million.

Responses by the Commission

- 341.** The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Item 3.02 was sufficient to cover the cost of publishing reports.
- ii) For translation and interpretation not sure if DCMP could handle this on behalf of an office based in Tunisia.
- iii) The subcommittee in question was established through STC on Finance in 2021.
- iv) The different in figures presented was as a result of funds from World Bank being secured late after compilation of budget.

Recommendations/Conclusion

- 342.** Took note of the presentation and commend STATAFRIC for its work.
- 343.** Adopted the budget and requested the Commission to take note of the comments by the meeting.

YY. African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)

- 344.** The Committee presented the draft budget for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments by the joint sitting

- 345.** The joint sitting made the following comments and observations

- i) Item 4.01 was earlier on budget with zero allocation. Sought clarification on the matter
- ii) Wanted to know if there any linkage with DCMP on matters of translations and interpretation.
- iii) Proposed to adopt the budget with funding from EU included.
- iv) Wanted confirmation from the Commission if the EU funds for ACERWC were indeed secured.
- v) From the unabridged AMERT p 443 1.02 This advocacy forum could be virtual (rationalize US\$40,371)
- vi) Page 446 Celebration of the Day of the African Child should be virtual should be rationalized US\$39,834).
- vii) Page 447, activity 3.03 asked for the development this child safeguarding policy and it should not done be consultants as ACERWC are supposed to be experts. This be rationalized US\$27,000.

Responses by ACERWC

346. ACERWC responses as follows:

- i) On 4.01 ceiling was US\$1.4 million and this was brought down to US\$947,000.
- ii) On DCMP it was difficult to link it to with an independent organ. As such, translation and interpretation should independent of DCMP.
- iii) Agreed to have some meeting conducted virtually.
- iv) The EU support was confirmed to be available.

Recommendations/Conclusion

347. Took note of the presentation and commended ACERWC for work done.

348. Thanked the Kingdome of Lesotho for hosting the Committee

349. Adopted the budget with amendment proposed by the meeting to rationalize the budget.

ZZ. Pan African Parliament

350. The Clerk of PAP presented the budget of US\$13,525,352 with no technical assistance, pass through fund and special project and indicated the main achievements and challenges like COVID 19 pandemic, inadequate budget, etc. for consideration. The 2021 mid-year execution rate stands at 5%.

Comments of the Joint Sitting

351. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) The Joint Sitting requested to have an update on the envisaged PRC-PAP retreat and to know whether the proposed budget presented is both operational and programs.

- ii) Proposed to remove capacity building related activities from the budget and merge activities 1.01, 1.02 and 1.03 to save cost;
- iii) Sought clarity on the relationship between the PAP and the OLC and the possible causes of increment in the 2022 program budget as compared to the previous year.
- iv) Also proposed rationalization of activity 2.02 and that PAP should consider using the presence of parliamentarians during their ordinary sessions to advocate for ratifications.
- v) Also sought clarification on the low execution rate of PAP and queried to know if the unexecuted budget would be carried over to 2022.
- vi) With regard to the expanded mandate of PAP, there is need for parliamentarians to consider this matter at national level, as the Member States are the only ones to decide on issues related to the expansion of PAP mandate;
- vii) Noted that cost allotted for developing parliamentary ICT systems to enable hybrid meetings is high and sought clarity on what it entails;
- viii) Suggested rationalization of activity 3.07 and with regard to PAP's financial governance, requested to know if PAP took into consideration recommendations contained in the OIO report;
- ix) Also suggested to review PAP's structure as it might affect the budget presented;
- x) PAP should consider rationalizing its activities with those of OLC and CIDO;
- xi) There is need for PAP to devise mechanisms to ensure privacy with proceedings to avoid diffusion of internal videos;
- xii) There is also need to expand further on budget lines proposed and delete activities 2.02, 2.04, 3.04 and 3.06.

Responses of PAP

352. The PAP responded as follows:

- i) Apologized for what transpired during its elections and informed of correspondences sent to the Commission for onward transmission to the PRC, containing three possible dates for holding the retreat. However, time constraint between the two Organs has been the hindrance for holding said retreat;
- ii) Informed that the budget proposal encompasses both the operational and programmes budgets and took note of comments and recommendations made;
- iii) PAP clarified that, in terms of relationship with OLC and CIDO, operations had not been rationalized; however, it will liaise with the Commission to ensure rationalization is done;
- iv) The 2020 program budget was in accordance with the austerity measures, but insufficient for the execution of the PAP's mandate.
- v) National parliaments will be considered as recommended in a view to advocate for some issues;

- vi) In terms of developing parliamentary ICT, the meeting was informed that PAP does not have an ICT system, automating at the PAP is obsolete and a totally new ICT structure is required;
- vii) With regard to the execution rate of the PAP, the activities that were planned for 2020 could not be held due to the covid-19 pandemic. The implementation of 2021 planned activities started from the 2nd quarter of the year and will continue till 2022;
- viii) If there is no rollover, the funds are carried forward to 2022;
- ix) With regards to the leakage of proceedings of the PAP, journalists from the 5 African regions have to ensure coverage of the elections.
- x) On the limited mandate of the parliament, currently PAP is still at the level of 2004 with advisory roles and ratifications of AU instrument. Hence, the outcomes of the parliament cannot be quantified and 21% of budget goes to program.
- xi) Agreed that there is increment in the program budget as the proposed 2022 budget was US\$4.8 million based on the mandate but it was reduced to US\$3.8 million in line with ceiling regime.
- xii) Proposed to lobby for expanded mandate and legislative power.

Recommendations/Conclusion

353. Took note of the presentation and advised the PAP to consider the comments and observations made by Member States.

354. Endorsed the budget proposed and requested the PAP to rationalize activities and costs taking into consideration its low execution rate;

355. Also requested the PAP to ensure that all budget recommendations are considered and fully implemented;

356. Further requested the PAP to ensure all recommendations contained into the audit report be considered;

357. Urged the PAP to engage the OLC and CIDO to ensure that the activities are rationalized to avoid any duplication.

AAA. PAN-African Statistical Training Centre (PANSTAT)

358. The Ag. Director of PANSTAT submitted the budget of US\$239,305 for consideration and informed that PANSTAT is a specialized agency located in Cote d'Ivoire. She said the priority of the agency was to strengthen statistical capacity of African statisticians for statistics modernization.

Comments of the Joint Sitting

359. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Request was made to know the reason for PANSTAT not to collaborate with statistics schools in Africa;
- ii) Clarity sought on the criteria for selection of trainees for PANSTAT programmes and the status of the host agreement;
- iii) Proposed that activity 1.09 on purchase of laptops be carried out by the internal procurement unit of the Commission and activities 1.05 and 1.09 be moved to operational budget.

Responses of PANSTAT

360. PANSTAT responded as follows:

- i) The Ag. Director thanked the Member States for supporting the budget for and informed that there is no legal implication regarding signing the host agreement given that the budget presented is for 2022. The signing of the said agreement can be done before the execution of the budget;
- ii) PANSTAT will work with all statistics institutes;
- iii) With regards to criteria for selection of trainees, a Note Verbale with specification and profiles of participants will be circulated to Member States, and they will decide who will be participating in the said training;
- iv) Procurement processes are being centralized and processes will be observed; however, there is need to secure budget for the process;
- v) Activity 1.09 relates to training on Labour Market Information System (LMIS) and Informal Economy and a website is already developed in collaboration with MIS and DIC;
- vi) Training on migration statistics is held yearly based on the request of Member States, training heading will be reviewed and geographical representation is ensured.
- vii) MIS is responsible for purchase of IT equipment in the Commission as the website design and associated IT work will be done by MIS.

Recommendations/Conclusion

361. Took note of the budget submitted and commended the Ag. Director for the work done at PANSTAT and the government of Cote d'Ivoire for hosting PANSTAT Office.

362. Requested PANSTAT to take on board all comments made by Member States;

363. Encouraged to collaborate with national statistical institutes in Member States to ensure that their activities are enhanced;

364. Recommendation for the Commission to expedite the signing of the host agreement with the Government of Cote D'Ivoire.

BBB. Pan African University (PAU)

365. The rector of PAU submitted the budget of **US\$16,381,831** for consideration. The major achievements and key challenges were indicated the presentation.

Comments/observations of the Joint Sitting

366. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) The Joint Sitting sought clarity on the disparities in terms of budget allocated to each institute.
- ii) There is misalignment between document circulated and presentation made.
- iii) Observed that the ceiling allotted to the PAU was exceeded against a low execution rate on Member States funding;
- iv) Inquired whether the technical assistance from International Partners had already been secured or committed;
- v) Also inquired if there was any collaboration between the PAU and the AUC to ensure that students who benefitted from scholarships can join the Commission even as youth volunteers, in other to tap into the knowledge they acquired;
- vi) There was need to integrate the AU leadership academy in the PAU's architecture and include African lecturers in the diaspora for the development of PAU programmes;
- vii) Recommended that the PAU also provide trainings for PRC members and to respect the guidelines of the quota system as well as women and youth parity;
- viii) The PAU was encouraged to reach out to those two Member States who have not yet benefitted from its programmes;
- ix) With 2022 plan to enroll 500 new students, the meeting inquired about those enrolled in 2021;
- x) The financing of any institute of PAU is done by the hosting countries and there is need to acknowledge them;
- xi) Observed that directors at the PAU were denizens of host countries; therefore, the meeting recommended that all Member States be considered in the recruitment of directors;
- xii) Proposed for graduates from the PAU to assist the DCMP with translation and interpretation in order to reduce costs as well as bridging capacity gap;
- xiii) Clarity sought on the rationale PAU does not carry out scientific research to raise fund;
- xiv) There was need to put in place a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to track progress of graduates after leaving the PAU;
- xv) Update sought on the operationalisation of the space science institute in South Africa as well as mechanisms to ensure visibility of PAU and AU;
- xvi) Request was made to know whether the scholarships awarded are only for African students and what they consist of;
- xvii) Request also made to know the partners funding PAU and if there is a backup list to ensure immediate replacement of student declining offers;

Responses of PAU

367. The PAU made the following responses:

- i) The PAU has started taking the quota policy into consideration after its adoption by policy organs and gender parity will henceforth be observed;
- ii) With regards to the low execution rate, travel restrictions have been imposed due to Covid-19 challenges, as students are yet to be on boarded;
- iii) Budgets allotted vary from one university to the other, depending on courses offered (masters or PhDs);
- iv) 465 students have been enrolled for the ongoing year;
- v) The scholarships comprise of monthly stipends, health insurance, research fee, etc.;
- vi) With regards to visibility, the PAU uses various communication strategies to reach out to the youths of the continent; a website has also been developed in collaboration with DIC;
- vii) Recruitments at the PAU are in line with the AU guidelines; however, the PAU structure is yet to be finalized; therefore, it works with seconded staff, teachers and students.
- viii) Stated that there are waiting list, the quota system is functioning and priority will be given to underrepresented countries.
- ix) Informed that 90% of students employed on the continent and 10% outside of the continent. There is online application process and more students usually apply than the target of 500.
- x) Clarified that JICA contribution is in technical assistance and not financial value and will comply with recommendations of the meeting.
- xi) Stated that 32% is students are female with the target of 40% females increase and informed that student population has increased from 20% to 40% in the last few years.

Recommendations/conclusions

- 368.** Took note of the presentation and commended the PAU for the work being done;
- 369.** Endorsed the budget and requested the PAU to take into consideration all comments and observations made by MS.
- 370.** Called upon PAU to ensure participation of students from all 55 Member States and encouraged PAU to undertake specific capacity building to PRC members;
- 371.** Requested PAU to respect quota policies as adopted by policy organs and to work with the Commission to explore the best way the Commission can benefit from the students of the university; this will not only build their capacity but reduce cost at the same time;
- 372.** Commended Member States for hosting and supporting PAU institutions;
- 373.** Encouraged the AUC to consider the young graduates of PAU University when recruiting candidates for AU youth volunteer program.
- 374.** Requested PAU to ensure there was involvement of African diaspora.

375. Requested the PAU to avail to Member States the list of students and teachers including their nationalities;

376. Encouraged the PAU to run all of its programs in the 5 official languages of the Union and called for gender parity in the enrolment of students.

CCC. AU Advisory Bureau on Corruption

377. The Secretary of the Board submitted the budget of US\$1,932,114 for consideration. She indicated the achievements and challenges like COVID 19 and understaffing which has affected operation.

Comments of the Joint Sitting

378. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Request to know the special projects to be dealt with this current year;
- ii) Budget cannot be scrutinized given that there are no cost details;
- iii) The nomenclature of the board vis-a-vis the convention should be aligned and the need to revise the budget downwards in accordance with its ceiling;
- iv) The meeting recommended that meetings of the board be held virtually and internal capacity used to carry out study to identify capacity gaps along the corruption prevention, investigation and prosecution chain in all State Parties that have ratified the Convention;
- v) There are legal administrative issues with the Board and requested OLC to report to Member States to find solution to the structure of the Board;
- vi) Clarity sought on the level of cooperation between the board and national anti-corruption organs, and the format for holding the Board's meetings;
- vii) Noticed that the budget has increased 4 times and requested for clarity.
- viii) Informed that the budget ceiling is US\$400,000 and requested for scaling down the budget in the absence of detailed breakdown.

Responses of the Board

379. The AUABC responded as follows:

- i) The Board informed that the budget is both operational and programmes and within the ceiling communicated by the PBFA.
- ii) The nomenclature of the board is still to be considered by the STC Justice and Legal Affairs;
- iii) Studies cannot be done internally as the Board is being faced with understaffing challenge;
- iv) The Board works with the Member States through their national corruption agencies and organizes the African anticorruption dialogue.

- v) Meetings will be held online but one meeting will be held physically for new members of the Board.
- vi) Appealed to retain interpretation and translation costs as the Board has its own translators and interpreters as well as program budget.
- vii) Explained the Board is not yet connected to AMERT.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- 380.** Took note of the budget submitted and commended the Board on the work done;
- 381.** Endorsed the budget of the Board and requested to take into consideration commends and observations made by Member States, particularly the need to rationalize the budget downward;
- 382.** Requested that meetings/retreats be held virtually to further reduce cost;
- 383.** Urged that the recruitment of necessary staff of the Board be expedited;

DDD. African Union Commission in International Law (AUCIL)

- 384.** The Commissioner of AUCIL submitted a budget of US\$144,098 for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments of the Joint Sitting

- 385.** The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:
 - i) Thanked the Commissioner for the presentation and fully supported the budget.
 - ii) Activities 1.01 and 1.02 should be rationalized by using digital approach, while activities 2.02 and 2.03 can be done through scholarship to African students and requested merging the two.
 - iii) There was need to staff the secretariat of the AUCIL and ensure visibility of the AUCIL and AU.
 - iv) Sought clarity on how the prize winning award is being dispensed and advised AUCIL for regular briefings to the PRC;
 - v) Clarity sought on the aim of the study to be conducted as stipulated in activity 2.03, and requested to know if the OLC can provide the service;
 - vi) Clarity also sought on the modalities of the award of the prize;
 - vii) It was recommended that 1.03 be deleted and the cost added to the award for the thesis;
 - viii) Inquired if AUCIL had a website.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- 386.** The Joint Sitting took note of the budget submitted and commended the Commissioner for the work AUCIL is doing.
- 387.** Thanked the Government of Equatorial Guinea for offering to host AUCIL
- 388.** Proposed inclusion of AUCIL's structures in the reform structure.

389. Budget approved with amendment including the proposal that honorarium guideline applies to all AU offices as per the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1057(XXXV) of July 2019 on the harmonization of honorarium for all AU organs and all AU offices.

390. Recommended teaching Africa laws at African universities.

EEE. AFRICA-CDC

391. The Deputy Director of ACDC submitted a budget of US\$17.3 million for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments of the Joint Sitting

392. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Appreciated the work of the ACDC and noted the achievements of the Office especially during the time of COVID.
- ii) Supported the budget as presented but requested for rationalization of some items.
- iii) Noted that there were partners who were funding the budget for ACDC and as such, sought information for exclusion as a source of funding.
- iv) Need clarity on the amount allocated by the partners in the budget and the low execution rates of the previous year.
- v) All items in the training have to be conducted virtually and the request for consultancy should be reduced and rationalized.
- vi) Proposed that the following items be rationalized: 1.03, 4.01, 4.03, 10.02, 7.02, 7.03, 1.07
- vii) With regards to item 10.02, the allocated money should be relocated to other activities.
- viii) Requested clarity on the source of fund as there was a mention of the partner funding in the proposal but not in the presentation.
- ix) AMERT page 510 items 1.04 and 1.06 of US\$ 126,900 and 220,300 respectively - meetings could be virtual.
- x) Page 512 item 2.02 of US\$ 235,023- meeting could be virtual if possible.
- xi) Page 516 item 3.05 of US\$ 125,600- Public Health conference could be virtual.
- xii) Page 524 7.04 of U\$ 126,001- why the need to travel to develop these standard operating procedures, the allocated amount should be rationalized.
- xiii) Support on the exemption from the budget limitations.
- xiv) There should not be a budget request with gap.
- xv) Fine with the EU pledge and for it to be used.
- xvi) Clarification on the recruitment that was not yet finalized. Also sought clarification if the personnel to be recruited were senior or junior staff, critical or not, and proposed if they could be recruited in phases.

- xvii) Clarification on the activity 8.09 of US\$ 365,120, in terms of criteria for selection and if all Member States are involved.
- xviii) Request for update on the relocation to CISSA building
- xix) Request for update on the vaccine for the COVID19.
- xx) Observation that activity 7.06 should not be under Africa CDC
- xxi) Request to find ways to rationalize the meetings and the capacity building
- xxii) Expressed concerns on the slow recruitment as well as the request for the consultant
- xxiii) Request for the Partnership and Resource Mobilization to clarify if funds pledge by partners are received
- xxiv) Request ACDC to confirm if the pledges are received, and if the execution is higher today compared to when the document was drafted.
- xxv) Requested the Commission to respond to the question on definitive Headquarters of ACDC

Responses of the Africa CDC

393. Africa CDC responded as follows:

- i) 80% of the work of the ACDC was supported by Partners.
- ii) The ceiling given during the preliminary process was US\$16.5m whereas on Friday last week, a new ceiling of US\$9m was received.
- iii) With regards to the plan for ACDC to move into CISSA building, there was an agreement with CISSA on rate, the rate was also approved by the IPC, everything is about to be finalized in terms of the legal document for ACDC to move hopefully by August 2021.
- iv) Some training cannot be done remotely as there were instances where physical training was required, however, will try to rationalize as much as possible.
- v) Consultants were being used sparingly for skills that were not available within AfCDC. Promised to rationalize.
- vi) Activity 1.04 of US\$ 30,250 bring together national leadership to work together in a forum
- vii) 1.03 of US\$ 123, 011 was an activity on genetic sequencing that has been conducted in a specialized methodology
- viii) Some partners made pledges to ACDC but funds were not received. A consultant working with Afrexim Bank was following up the pledges.
- ix) The EU pledge was filling a gap that currently had no resources.
- x) Emergency operations centers exist in some countries while in other they do not exist; the criteria will be developed for countries then there will be a need to decide which country to start with based on urgent need.
- xi) The US\$34 million was for the COVID response and not for CDC strengthening.
- xii) ACDC had three statutory meetings that need to be done physically.
- xiii) The Emergency response fund was 5% of the operational budget of the Union.

- xiv) With regards to the low execution rate there were many factors: 1) late release of funds, 2) AU system was not tailored to emergency situations.
- xv) ACDC was providing the needs for Africa as far as the health security was concerned;
- xvi) Items 2.03 and 2.04 ,amounts of 123,500 and 89,600 respectively, were on the SOPs. They could not be done remotely as it involved physical engagement with those who have done it.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- 394.** The Joint Sitting took note of the presentation and commended AfCDC for the good work.
- 395.** Also commended the AfCDC in supporting the Member States in the response to COVID-19.
- 396.** Approved the budget with amendments as per the comments and observations of the meeting.
- 397.** Requested AfCDC not to engage consultants unless the skills needed were not available in house.
- 398.** Further requested AfCDC to periodically update the joint sitting on the funds received and its usage.
- 399.** As much as possible meetings must be held virtually.

FFF. Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD)

- 400.** The PCRD submitted a budget of US\$2.4 million for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments of the Joint Sitting

- 401.** The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:
 - i) Questioned about the staffing of the secretariat in order to avoid consultancies?
 - ii) The available budget for the center reduced from 2021 and proposed to allow the office to secure more funding for its activities.
 - iii) Supported the activities, however, need to clarify activity 1.07
 - iv) There was a need to revise item 2.08 as the cost was too high.
 - v) Sought clarification on the lack of execution rate for three years.
 - vi) Clarify on the issue of staffing.
 - vii) Cost for translation should be removed and reallocated to fund other activities in the budget
 - viii) Recommendation on the fast tracking of the recruitment of staff.
 - ix) Question on the possible date for the relocation of PCRD to Cairo.
 - x) Commend Egypt for the operationalization of the center.

- xi) Expressed concerned about the reduction of the Budget amount from 2020.

Responses of PCRDR

402. PCRDR responded as follows:

- i) Appreciation for the support provided the Member States for the Budget.
- ii) The translation and interpretation cost will be rationalized as much as possible.
- iii) There was no historical budget execution as it was a new office.
- iv) The recruitment of 15 staff was at the level of HR department who were due to advert the positions soonest.
- v) Take note of the comments on the usage of consultants and would rationalize.
- vi) The Partnership and Resource Mobilization Directorate clarified that the Center already received US\$257,000 from partners, and pleaded that the center could be given until August to source additional funding.

Recommendations/Conclusions

403. The Joint Sitting took note of the budget submitted.

404. Thanked the Arab Republic of Egypt for accepting to host PCRDR.

405. Budget was adopted but should be rationalized based on comments and observations from the Member States.

406. Requested the Commission to fast track the operationalization of PCRDR

407. Allowed PCRDR to continue mobilize additional resources and report back to the joint sitting by end of August, 2021.

GGG. The African capacity building foundation (ACBF)

408. The ACBF submitted a budget of US\$1.2 million for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments of the Joint Sitting

409. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Suggestion that projects 1 and 3 could not be considered at this stage.
- ii) Suggestion that project 2 – M&E on agenda 2063 – already budgeted for under the DCP or CCP and should be deleted.
- iii) Clarification on whether ACBF assessed the training needs of the Union.
- iv) Clarification on ACBF inputs or involvements in the reforms.
- v) Clarification on how ACBF mobilized resources as well as the source of funding.
- vi) As the ACBF was a specialized agency of the AU, clarification was sought on its legal status and requested the Office of Legal Counsel to provide the legal opinion on the matter.

- vii) Clarification was sought on the consultancies in the proposal when ACBF were supposed to be experts.
- viii) Activity 2.2 on operational manual for the secretariat could be a duplication.
- ix) Questioned whether the foundation provided with a ceiling.
- x) Decisions were made by the assembly and should be implemented.

Responses of the ACBF

410. The ACBF responded as follows:

- i) The budget presented was without operational cost.
- ii) MOU signed with MAEP for the governance issue.

Recommendations/Conclusions

411. The Joint Sitting took note of the report and thanked ACBF for its work.

412. In view of the Assembly Decisions, the Budget was adopted with amendments by Member States.

413. OLC was asked to research and provide legal opinion on the following:

- o Legal status of ACBF;
- o Legal opinion for establishing specialized agencies; and
- o Legal requirements for setting institutions of the African Union.

HHH. African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR)

414. The ACHPR submitted a budget of US\$5.1 million for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments of the Joint Sitting

415. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Support for staff to be recruited for the Commission.
- ii) Proposed that exceptions be applied to Commission with regard to conducting physical meetings for their sessions.
- iii) Expressed support for the budget proposed, as well as request made to enhance the governance structure and prioritize the staffing of the Commission.
- iv) For output 4, proposed that there be a general meeting to accommodate everything presented on the output.
- v) support also expressed for translation and interpretation costs to be within the budget of the Commission.

- vi) Requested an update on the campaign against the death penalty in Africa, and the level of adherence by Member States.
- vii) Requested to know whether a general meeting could be held whereby all committees contained in output 4 could meet and deliberate, or alternate by holding virtual meetings.
- viii) Output 1 – Meetings of the working groups could be held virtually.
- ix) Output 2 – Suggested that seminar be held virtually.
- x) Output 3 -3.2 & 3.3, 3.4 – there was a need to consolidate and rationalize outputs on the advocacy campaign.
- xi) Commended the Commission for providing responses to the government of Ethiopia with an initiative to undertake a study on the Tigray situation.
- xii) Supported the budget and proposed an urgent consideration of staffing of the organ.
- xiii) With regard to the technical activities of the Commission, members requested to know why a large number of cases were inadmissible.
- xiv) Item 4.03 - wanted to know which community in Africa were targeted with the intervention.
- xv) Requested the Commission to finalize the governance structure which they embarked on.
- xvi) The president of the Commission was called upon to look into the 2020 audit queries.
- xvii) Noted that there were conflicts with some instruments, and therefore the need to clarify the role of the Commission, vis-à-vis the Court on human and people's rights.
- xviii) Also called upon the rights of staff within the Commission to be respected when it comes to disciplinary actions.
- xix) Requested to know who the indigenous populations/communities were as stipulated therein output 4.3.3.
- xx) Clarity sought on the level of collaboration between the Commission and Member States.
- xxi) Cost budgeted for the holding of meetings in different countries are identical and should be rationalized.

Responses of the ACHPR

416. The ACHPR responded as follows:

- i) Commended the joint sitting for being granted an exception to hold sessions physically.
- ii) Explained that the African Charter on human and people's rights clearly paved the role of the Commission, the latter's mandate and the court are similar, however the court compliments that of the Commission.
- iii) Clarified that the Commissioners were engaged on part time basis with much of the work carried out when members met.

- iv) Clarified that committee sessions were conducted virtually.
- v) Thanked member states for the supplementary budget afforded, for the staffing of the Commission structure.
- vi) Explained that the sessions of the commission took place on part time bases and in between the sessions the committee's work on other issues as per the article 45 of the charter.
- vii) Explained that 23 member states have abolished the death penalty, while 18 member states had put moratorium on the abolishment of the death penalties.
- viii) Confirmed that most of the meetings were physical, the cost goes to interpretation and translation services.
- ix) Recalled the Executive Council decision in which the Commission was allowed to recruit with the assistance of the R10.
- x) Advised that Onboarding of new staff expected in quarter 4 of 2021.
- xi) Mentioned that implementation of decisions and recommendations by member states had always been a challenge.
- xii) The Commission explained that there were 31 national Human rights institutions that are affiliates to it.
- xiii) The budget was the same as they were an estimate for carrying out virtual meetings and the costs were to cater for translation and interpretation.
- xiv) In light of the statutes for the Commission it was only proper to conduct meetings physically.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- 417.** Took note of the presentation and commended the Commission for the work they are doing.
- 418.** Commended the Government of The Gambia for hosting the Commission for Peoples and Human Rights.
- 419.** The budget was adopted unanimously.
- 420.** Requested the Commission to take note of the comments and observations of the meeting, particularly on the requirement to merge some meetings.
- 421.** Measures should be taken to implement the recruitment per the supplementary budget provided.
- 422.** Allowed the Commission to hold meetings physically as per Article 59 of the Charter establishing the Commission, however the meetings to held with citizens should be reconsidered.

III. Institute for Remittances (AIR)

- 423.** The AIR submitted a budget of US\$401,427 for consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments of the Joint Sitting

424. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Noticed that during the COVID19, the cost of remittances had spiked in some countries, requested to know if AIR could remedy the situation.
- ii) Noted capacity building activities under Lines 102, 202,103,302, which should be transferred to ACBF.
- iii) Engagement with the diaspora as contained therein activity 3.03 should be done in collaboration with the CIDO.
- iv) Enquired how data collection translates to meaningful information which can be applied.
- v) Clarity was sought on provisions for engagement with international meetings whereby value addition to remittances could be obtained.
- vi) With regard to transfer costs in Africa, clarity was sought on the relationship between external funding and costs of transfers.
- vii) Noted that transfer rules were still rigid with regards to funds transfer, sought to know the institute's role to address the issue.
- viii) It was observed that only 3 people will take part in the Global Forum on Remittances (GFRID) and International Day of Family Remittances, requested to know the impact of their participation, given that Africa needs to represent and be recognized.
- ix) What is the Criteria for selecting the 14 countries to allow them to benefit from the assistance?
- x) Requested to know if AIR collaborates with the Pan-African system payment and the AfCFTA.
- xi) The institute urged to develop strategies to effectively use remittances.
- xii) Request also made to know the impediments faced by the AIR for the low execution rate.

Responses by the Commission:

425. The ACHPR responded as follows:

- i) There was a need to encourage markets to push forward in terms of remittances cost, the global remittance forum is where all practitioners meet.
- ii) The cost of remittances depends on the authorities fixing the costs and also depends on behavior of service provide.
- iii) Advised that AIR cannot dictate what should be done in different countries but can advise accordingly so as to be in accordance with international regulations.
- iv) Advised that it was only through regulations that the remittance costs could go down.

- v) Agreed that there was a need to undertake research to understand the determinants of high cost of remittances when in other corridors the same was very low.
- vi) Advised that the technical assistance to member states was on regulations and flows and was based on different models.
- vii) The support to the member states was based on the requests from the countries.
- viii) Advised that some countries were banned due to failure to put in place measures to regulate remittances.
- ix) Confirmed that AIR is required to participate to the Global Remittances Group whose recommendations are considered by the G20 and Africa voice should be heard.
- x) Advised that it was important that AIR participate in global forums so as to put across Africa's concerns regarding remittances.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- 426.** Took note of the presentation and commended AIR for the work they do.
- 427.** Encouraged AIR to strengthen relationships with AfCFTA, African Central banks and International Organizations in addressing challenges affecting the free flow of remittances and to reduce the costs of remittances.
- 428.** Requested AIR to collect relevant data on the high cost of transfers of remittances with a view to reduce remittances costs.
- 429.** Increase its engagement with Member States and international partners especially those dealing with remittances.
- 430.** Adopted the budget subject to comments and observations by member states.

JJJ. AU Sports Council

- 431.** The AU Sports Council presented a draft budget of US\$1.1 million for the consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments of the joint sitting

- 432.** The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:
 - i) There was need to allocate budget to the office in order to ensure there are programs/activities for which the staff will be paid to implement.
 - ii) Sought clarification on how funds already secured would be accessed.
 - iii) Sought clarification on the US\$1.7 million if it was paid by AU?
 - iv) The Theme for the year was missing in the budget as sports also cut across cultures.

- v) It was also requested to know if the Council collaborates with the Confederation of African football in the light of the upcoming cup of African nations.
- vi) The programs should target the youth and young people in the remote areas who are not included in most of AU programs.
- vii) The office is urged to work with member states in reaching the disadvantaged people in order to address challenges of rural urban migration.

Responses by the Council:

433. The Sports Council responded as follows:

- i) Confirmed that the funds were available, however, approval to use is required.
- ii) With regards to the 1.8 million, it was clarified that the marketing rights for the games are given to host countries, in this case being the republic of Ghana, and there was an agreement stipulating that the host gives as guarantee the stipulated amount, which would not only assist with the promotion of the games but will assist in raising funds as well.
- iii) The council will seek to collaborate with the CAF and the host of the 2022 CAN to see how to advance sustainable development.
- iv) A bid has already been sent for the hosting of the 2027 African games.
- v) African Cups of nations are organized by the Confederation of African Football and the AU Sports Council only collaborates.

Recommendations/Conclusions

434. Took note of the presentation and commended the Council for the higher rate of Execution in the year 2020.

435. Commended the Republic of Ghana for the hosting of the 2023 Africa Games.

436. Encouraged the member states to respond on the bid sent out by the Sport Council on hosting the 2027 African Games.

437. The Council is called upon to work for the inclusion of the youth, the disabled and the underprivileged in line with Agenda 2063.

438. The Council was called upon to reach the youth, under-privileged, disabled in line with agenda 2063

439. Requested the council to work closely with CAF and the government of Cameroon to ensure successful hosting of the 2022 Africa Cup of Nations.

KKK. Africa Energy Commission

440. The Commission presented the draft budget of US\$720,068 for the consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments by the joint sitting

441. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Observed that financing had been secured, hence there was a need for the AFREC to include activities as presented.
- ii) Item 3 on the Africa single electricity market was a duplication as the activity was proposed by the Department for infrastructure and energy.
- iii) There was a need to mobilise funds from international partners.

Responses by the Commission:

442. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Advised that recruitments for AFREC was in progress for on boarding staff recruited.
- ii) There is an agreement which was signed with Belgium Government and the discussion were underway with World Bank.
- iii) Requested approval to mobilize funding and report of the final commitment before October; so far there is no firm commitment.

Recommendations/Conclusions

443. The joint sitting commended AFREC for the presentation and the work being done.

444. Reliance on consultancy should be avoided.

445. All member stated are requested to nominate their focal points and submit to AFREC

446. AFREC was encouraged to work with department of Infrastructure and Energy to avoid duplication/overlap of activities.

447. The Commission was requested to expedite recruitment of the staff at AFREC.

448. The Budget was adopted subject to mobilization of additional resources to cover the GAP of \$526,366 and to report back by the end of August.

LLL. Pan-African Institute for Education for Development (IPED)

449. The Institute presented the draft budget of US\$1.3 million for the consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments by the joint sitting

450. The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Commended the head of IPED for the work being done given the difficult circumstances.
- ii) Requested if there was any linkage between the IPED programs with girl child programs.
- iii) Wanted to know about what the IPED was doing to protect African identity on external influences on Africa.
- iv) Sought clarification as to why the IPED budget was integrated with the DIE budget. Proposed that IPED budget be standalone.
- v) Requested to know the fate of the locally recruited staff, whether their contracts were extended and eventually separated.
- vi) Sought to know whether IPED collaborates with CISSA and the involvement of Member States in the development of curricular for educational sector.
- vii) It was recommended that the institute be provided with staff and furniture.
- viii) Called upon the coordinator to accelerate the operationalization process of the institute.
- ix) Called upon the institute to cooperate with other institutes such as the AU CIEFFA in implementing its mandate.
- x) Activities 3.02 and 3.03 should be conducted online, of US\$ 69,200 & 41,150 respectively
- xi) Activities 3.04 and 3.05 should be rationalize of US\$ 51,840 & 36,000 respectively.
- xii) Noted that activity 3.07 had no cost details.
- xiii) Clarity was sought for activities 4.01 and 4.06 of US\$ 181,000 & 80,000 respectively;
- xiv) Noted that activity 4.07 of US\$ 120,000 was consultancy and should be rationalized.
- xv) Wanted to know if IPED was contributing to the Theme of the year as it was absent in the budget.
- xvi) Wanted to know if there was any collaboration with UNESCO, and on Kwame Nkuruma Award.

Responses by IPED

451. The Institute responded as follows:

- i) Confirmed that the salary arrears were paid to the 7 staff before they were separated.

- ii) Expressed concern that office building had not been renovated for some time and required member states support for maintenance.
- iii) Also expressed concern that the institution does not have staff and resources to operate and requested the meeting for support.
- iv) Confirmed that IPED collaborates with UNESCO on regular basis.
- v) Supported the proposal to separate IPED from the mother department DIE.
- vi) Mentioned that IPED was an office that did not have a vehicle, its building not maintained for many years.
- vii) The delay to recruit the staff for IPED was because the structure was not yet approved.
- viii) The institute requested for a recruitment waiver to allow recruitment of short-term staff through the approval of the AUC Chairperson, until the substantive staff were recruited.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- 452.** Took note of the presentation and commended IPED for their work done.
- 453.** The Commission was requested to provide the necessary essential staff to enable the IPED operate.
- 454.** The Commission was given special waiver to recruit essential staff for IPED.
- 455.** Requested the Commission to separate the budget for IPED, IBAR, AFRIPOL and make them standalone from their mother departments.
- 456.** Adopted the budget subject to comments and observations by the meeting.

MMM. AU OPERATIONAL BUDGET

- 457.** The Commission presented the draft AU operational budget of US\$207.6 million for the consideration by the joint sitting.

Comments by the joint sitting

- 458.** The joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

General Comments and Observations

- 459.** The joint sitting made the following general recommendations: (F15 Comments & Observations)
- i) There was a need to see staff cost details before the discussions.

- ii) Recalled the decision Ex. CI Dec 1073 – the transitional plan should not have any additional cost implication to member states, hence the budget for transitional plan with a total of over US\$20 million be removed.
- iii) Requested explanation of the following lines: Post Adjustment Allowances to the cost of \$25.2M; Non Residence Allowances; Special Allowances; Representational Costs?
- iv) Is Acting allowances in alignment with the FRRs?
- v) Temporary assistance and overtime should be removed in conformity with austerity.
- vi) Wanted to know if the education allowance of US\$15 million included the areas to be paid for non-regular staff.
- vii) Requested for details of staff to be separated as provided under separation entitlement budget item.
- viii) Sought clarity on the legality of insurance scheme and why there were costs for pension scheme and insurance of scheme.
- ix) Requested to know what the medical expenses was for.
- x) Requested for clarity on what the staff welfare entailed.
- xi) US\$783,000 for election observation be removed as it was included in the program budget.
- xii) All maintenance, utilities and other expenses, should be financed from Maintenance fund
- xiii) The alignment and rationalization had to be made on the Medical expenses.
- xiv) Costs for Library books, Publicity, Protocol services, IT supplies and services and translation services should be rationalized and harmonized with programs budget to remove duplications;
- xv) The bank charges and exchange loss- finance department should make an arrangement with banks and should get the cost revised downwards.
- xvi) The cost of adhoc administrative tribunal has to be revised downwards as it was considered in the program budget?
- xvii) Details of the cost of litigation of US\$1.5 million should be provided and amount should be reduced to US\$500,000.
- xviii) Recommends the Funds/Subventions/Grants be removed from the budget as an exception in 2022 even if they were proposed based on a decision
- xix) Capex could be financed from Maintenance Fund.

Responses by Commission

460. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) Stated that Phase I of the transition plan with US\$20.5 million was included in the budget, which included separation costs,

- ii) Noted that Items for medical expenses was bare minimum provided and could not go any further down.
- iii) Highlighted that most item came as supplementary budget in 2021 and this was an attempt to include the true costs of the operation budget and avoid further supplementary budget.
- iv) Overtime was meant to pay staff that worked in odd hours, include Protocol officers, security guards, etc.
- v) Separation costs was related to the transitional plan.
- vi) Insurance was for staff building and to cover the official travel for staff.
- vii) Bank charges are budgeted for in order to cover for transaction costs on foreign currency.
- viii) The cost of US\$20.3 million related to the Phase 1 of the transition plan.
- ix) Temporary assistance and overtime was paid to the GS staff including protocol, security and drivers and not the professional staff.
- x) The cost of the education allowance has been budgeted at the full cost of US\$10,000.
- xi) It was premature to estimate the number of staff to be separated from the organization as the Phase 1 transition plan would be extended.
- xii) Agreed to rationalize some budget items in the operational budget.
- xiii) The US\$1.5 million of the litigation costs was the minimum can be provided in order to avoid future supplementary budget.
- xiv) Ad hoc Tribunal amount was a request for the future litigations on the cases the Union needs to pay.
- xv) Stated that the Medical Temporary staff were relief staff to cover some staff who may ne be available for service, including operating at night.
- xvi) Medical supplies were drugs purchases for the clinic.
- xvii) Agreed that the Capital expenditure should be funded from the Maintenance Fund.
- xviii) Medical Services is a hospital and the mandate is not restricted to the AU Commission, and extended to the Organs and Offices.
- xix) The staff list is available and will be circulated in due time to the member states.
- xx) Subventions and grants is based on conventions and assembly decisions and may not be removed from the budget.
- xxi) Office stationeries and consumables will be required for proper functioning of the Commission.

NNN. Legal interpretation on the Budget Ceiling set by the Executive Decision

461. The Legal Counsel made the legal interpretation regarding the Executive Decision on the Budget Ceiling following the request by the Joint Sub-Committee meeting. As per Decision, EX.CL/Dec.1073(XXXVI) of February 2020, the Budget allocation ceilings shall be the three-year average budget execution of each department, Office and Organ.

462. In this regards, the 3-year average should have used the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 in the calculation of the Budget ceiling, and the Commission should not have made a unilateral decision to exclude the year 2020, without the amendment of the Decision by the relevant policy organ.

Comments from the joint Sitting

463. Following the presentation, the joint sitting made the following comments and observations were made:

- i) Observed that the union's 3-year budget execution serves as a basis of the creation of the ceiling
- ii) Reiterated the 3-year budget ceiling on average rate for Departments and AU organs
- iii) Noted that the year 2020 should have been factored in the calculation of the budget ceiling as per the executive Council Decision 1031
- iv) Underscored that the mode of budget ceiling calculation was unclear to the Member States and the F15
- v) Noted that the year 2020 was a Covid pandemic year and its usage will definitely skew the ceiling wrongly and proposed the usage for 4 years, 2017 to 2020
- vi) Stated that the Commission to adhere to the Executive Council Decisions despite the Covid pandemic and the budget should be revised accordingly

Responses by the Commission

464. The Commission responded as follows:

- i) The revenue forecast and budget ceiling for the 2022 Budget was guided by the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1097 (XXXVII) in which it was decided that the Member States assessment for year 2022 shall not exceed US\$ 250,000,000
- ii) The budget ceiling, including the determination of the Member States and development partners' contribution to the budget is in line with Decision Dec 1097
- iii) Recalled Excl. 1069 of July, 2019 that increased burden on Member States due to the application of the new scale of assessment for year 2020-2022 and DECIDES that the Member States assessment for year 2021 shall not exceed US\$250,000,000
- iv) The 2020 budget execution was excluded considering that due to Covid 19 pandemic implementations of programs was disrupted.
- v) Recalled Decision EX.CL/Dec.1073(XXXVI) of Feb 2020 that states that Budget allocation ceilings shall be the three year average budget execution of each department, Office and Organ

000. African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

465. The Secretary General of AfCFTA presented the Budget 2022 for the Office.

Comments from the joint Sitting

466. Following the presentation, the joint sitting made the following comments and observations were made

- i) Appreciated the support of Ghana and sought to know how the grant of US\$10 million provided by the Government of Ghana was utilized.
- ii) Sought clarification on the relationship between the US\$10 million grant and US\$1.8 million in the Program Budget for 2022.
- iii) Asked when the meaningful trade will eventually happen in Africa in AfCFTA.
- iv) Requested the modalities for seconding staff to the AfCFTA by the Member States.
- v) Sought to know how youth and women were involved in the AfCFTA Programs
- vi) Proposed that under the stakeholder's engagement there should be an addition of priorities such to advance the work of AfCFTA
- vii) Observed a disconnect between the Member States and the AfCFTA and stated that there should be regular briefing to the PRC on the activities of the Office
- viii) Suggested to have a PRC Sub-committee on AfCFTA to be a bridging mechanisms in policy making link.
- ix) Recalled an operational budget of US\$2 million approved in 2020, and wondered how the Secretary General operated with a skeleton staff despite the funds approval.
- x) Requested for a breakdown of the current staff working in AfCFTA.
- xi) Observed that a lot of the Consultants were being engaged while the Secretariat ought to be policy making in nature and any assistance should be sought from the Member States for technical expertise.
- xii) Sought to know what the AfCFTA was doing in the free movement of goods and people.
- xiii) Asked for the benefits of AfCFTA on the ordinary citizens of Africa.
- xiv) Called for avoidance of the partners in the operationalization of the AfCFTA.
- xv) Sought to know the relationship between the Secretariat and the Department of Economic Affairs.
- xvi) Queried the lack of allocation of budget for the priorities of the Union such as the economic transformation
- xvii) Asked when the AfCFTA coordination unit is moving to Accra as per the Assembly decision
- xviii) Questioned the physical meetings as presented in the Budget
- xix) Questioned the purpose of the portal
- xx) 9.02 needs to visible – be increased

Responses by the Commission

467. The AfCFTA responded as follows:

- i) Appreciated the Member States delegations and the support for the Office
- ii) The Trade should have started by the 1st January, 2021, however, few countries have the necessary structures such as customs policy that needs to be established according to the AfCFTA and negotiations of the rules of the Origin. At the moment around 85% of the trade of goods can take place, however the Heads of States require an agreement level of 90% for it to be acceptable
- iii) Textile and clothing trade is a political sensitive matter and this is an area that needs to be consensus amongst Member States
- iv) The Ministers of Trade met last week and took note of the low progress of implementation and requested experts meet to deliberate on the remaining contentious areas.
- v) There were several countries that agreed to send their seconded staff to AfCFTA at their own costs.
- vi) AfCFTA abides by the Staff Rules and Regulations and the Financial Rules and Regulations of AU
- vii) The structure of Phase 1 was presented and approved by the Assembly of Heads of States in 2020 and what was remaining was the recruitment.
- viii) Mentioned that only 9 staff were so far recruited.
- ix) Explained that the panel for selection for the Directors was as per the directive of the Assembly Decision.
- x) The US\$10 million grant remained with the Government of Ghana and is utilized when a request is made by the Secretariat. The scope of the grant is wide and covers costs such as the Office Furniture, costs of meetings and office equipment and stated that all the requests have been met. The amount transferred was US\$140,000 which went to the pool of the AU, of which US\$60,000 remains unused
- xi) We are working with UN on areas where they have expertise on the young people and the women
- xii) Welcomed the proposal of a PRC Sub-committee on AfCFTA to act as a bridging mechanism in policy link
- xiii) The US\$1.3 million was the aggregation of the funds provided by the Partners for the Consultants of which nine are seconded in Accra
- xiv) The staff that are seconded are for a limited period of time, which is 6 months at the costs of the Country
- xv) The AfCFTA has been ratified by over 40 countries and we have a partnership with Afreximbank, Bank on the development component

- xvi) We should create platforms for the young people to benefit from the AfCFTA initiative
- xvii) AfCFTA has a clear mandate with regards to working with Economic Affairs Department and Commission continue to engage in other trade matters such as the AGOA treaty.
- xviii) The Trade Ministers requested a hybrid of physical and virtual on the phase 1 of the AfCFTA implementation.
- xix) Legal Counsel advised that there is a current PRC Sub Committee on Economic and Trade Matters, and creating another sub-Committee will be overlapping the mandate.
- xx) Explained the purpose of the portal and stated it is for the creation of the intellectual of property rights.

Recommendations/Conclusion

468. Took note of the budget presentation and commended the Secretary General for the good work.

469. Commended the Government of the Ghana for the provision of the facilities and the grant of US\$10 million to the AfCFTA Secretariat.

470. Commended the Member States who have seconded staff to the AfCFTA Secretariat at their own costs.

471. Urged the Commission to fast track the Phase 1 recruitment of staff while preserving the quota system.

472. Requested the AfCFTA Secretariat to update the PRC on quarterly basis and whenever the need arises.

473. Expressed concern on the AfCFTA Secretariat's dependence on international partners on their programs and renewed the call to Member States to fund AfCFTA in order to guarantee its independence.

474. Adopted the Budget with amendments based on comments and observations from the Member States.

475. Recommended to PRC for the creation of its subcommittee on AfCFTA with an alternative proposal to give the mandate to the PRC Sub-Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs.

476. Urged the AfCFTA to mobilize funds from the African Private sector.

PPP. THE WORKING GROUP

477. A Working Group composed on ten (10) member states (2 per each region) and the F15 Committee of Technical Experts was constituted to examine the Operational budget of the Union. It was put together in order to ensure there was consistency in the presentation of the budget, especially with regards to the sources of funds as well as help rationalized budget items that appeared duplicated or not necessary while maintaining a lean budget that was austerity in nature. The group was open to the participation of other Member States who were willing to join the deliberations.

Recommendations

478. Following a lengthy discussion on the matter, the Working Group made the recommendations as follows:

479. The Operation budget for the Union should be funded from three (3) sources:

- i) Member States contribution;
- ii) Maintenance Fund; and
- iii) Administrative Fund.

480. The operations budget is expected to be within US\$191million.

481. The total contributions from Member States should not exceed US\$220million, of which US\$203million be from Member States and the rest withdrawn from the Administrative Fund.

482. The Programme budget should further be rationalized taking into consideration the comments and recommendations of Member States, that, the figures must be brought down and not go up.

483. The operational budget of other organs should remain the same as for that of 2021.

Additional Budget request

484. The request for additional budget for the External Board of Auditors was presented for the consideration of the joint sitting.

Comments from the joint sitting

485. The Joint sitting made the following comments and observations:

- i) Acknowledged the request for the Board of Auditors and requested that it be within the US\$220 million ceiling given for 2022.
- ii) Requested the Commission to come back with supplementary budget should the funds allocated to the Board would not be sufficient.

Other Recommendations

486. The funds paid for medical insurance be channeled to Medical services from 2023.

487. The External Board of Auditors be provided the maximum expenditure ceiling.

488. The supplementary budget requests for 2022 and beyond should not exceed 15% of the approved budget as stated in the past decision.

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