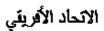
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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL Forty-Sixth Ordinary Session 14 January - 13 February 2025 Addis Ababa (ETHIOPIA)

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REPORT OF THE 3RD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE STC ON TRANSPORT AND ENERGY (STC-T&E)



THE 3RD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND ENERGY (STC-T&E) 3 - 5 December 2024 Online
By Video Conference

Ext/STC-T&E/Min/Rpt(III)

Original: English

REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' MEETING 5 December 2024

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministers' Meeting of the Third Extraordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee on Transport and Energy (STC-T&E) was held virtually on 5th December 2024. It was preceded by a meeting of experts from 3rd to 4th December 2024.

II. ATTENDANCE

- 2. The following forty-two (42) African Union Member States participated in the meeting: Algeria; Angola; Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- 3. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) participated in the meeting: East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Southern African Development Community (SADC).
- 4. The following African regional and continental institutions and international organizations also took part in the meeting, namely: African Energy Commission (AFREC), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC), East African Center of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE), ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) and International Solar Alliance.
- **5.** The list of participants is attached to this report as Annex I.

III. OPENING

- **6.** The meeting opened with a statement by the AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy followed by a statement by the Chairperson of the STC-T&E.
- 7. The AUC Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, H.E. Dr Amani Abou-Zeid welcomed the Member States and all delegates to the meeting. She informed the Session that the STC had been convened to consider critical issues that need to be presented to the January February 2025 AU Summit for Policy Organ decisions. The Commissioner noted that these items arise from previous AU Policy Organ and are critical for the advancement of infrastructure and energy development in Africa through the implementation of key continental initiatives. H.E. Dr Abou-Zeid thanked the Member States for supporting the request of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and also the Chair of the STC to hold

the extraordinary STC. Looking forward to a successful meeting, the Commissioner wished the Ministers fruitful deliberations.

8. Hon. Dr Alemu Sime, the Minister of Transport and Logistics of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and Chair of STC-T&E thanked the Member States for setting time aside to participate in the Extraordinary STC. He thanked the Member States for supporting Ethiopia's request to organise the extraordinary STC despite being a busy period of the year. He also thanked the AUC for its coordination to make the STC a success. Noting that the matters before the meeting are critical to the development of infrastructure and energy as well as the integration of the continent, the Chair called on the members to contribute to the discussion with a view to recommending their adoption at the January-February 2025 Summit as this would allow the AUC to expedite the implementation of AU's ambitious projects and programmes under the transport and energy sectors.

IV. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

9. The Bureau of the meeting was constituted according to STC Rules of Procedure as follows:

Chair : Ethiopia (Eastern Africa)

1st Vice-Chair : Chad (Central Africa)

2nd Vice-Chair : Cote D'Ivoire (West Africa)

3rd Vice-Chair : Egypt (Northern Africa)

Rapporteur : Lesotho (Southern Africa)

- **10.** The agenda was adopted without amendments:
 - I. OPENING REMARKS
 - II. PROCEDURAL MATTERS
 - Adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme
 - III. Consideration of the Experts' Report
 - IV. Consideration and Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration
 - V. CLOSING

V. WORKING SESSION

SESSION 1. CONSIDERATION OF EXPERTS' REPORT

11. The Chairperson of the Experts' Meeting presented the Report of the Experts' for consideration by the Ministers. The report highlighted the deliberations on Continental Policy on Climate Resilient and Smart Infrastructure in Africa; Continental Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) Strategy; Revised Abuja Aviation Safety Targets; African Energy Efficiency Strategy and Roadmap (AfEES), and African Green Hydrogen Strategy and Action Plan.

1.1 Consideration of the Continental Policy on Climate Resilient and Smart Infrastructure in Africa

12. The STC was informed that the *Continental Policy on Climate Resilient and Smart Infrastructure in Africa* was developed in response to the recommendation from the Second Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee on

Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy, and Tourism (STC-TTIIET) held in 2019 which highlighted the need for Africa to promote smart and climate-resilient infrastructure, recognizing the transformative potential of digital technologies and the increasing frequency of climate-induced disasters.

13. The Continental Policy on Climate Resilient and Smart Infrastructure in Africa is a 10-year strategic planning document that aims at fostering inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient infrastructure across Africa, leveraging smart technologies and innovative solutions to build a prosperous, low-carbon future for all. It includes a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Plan to enable tracking progress, assessing effectiveness, and informing ongoing policy adjustments.

Recommendations:

14. The STC-T&E:

- i) APPROVED the Continental Policy on Climate Resilient and Smart Infrastructure in Africa;
- ii) REQUESTED the AUC, Member States and Regional Economic Communities to disseminate, domesticate, and implement the Continental Policy on Climate Resilient and Smart Infrastructure in Africa:
- iii) REQUESTED the AUC, Member States and Regional Economic Communities and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in collaboration with pan-African institutions with the support of development partners to mobilize technical and financial resources to implement the Continental Policy on Climate Resilient and Smart Infrastructure in Africa.

1.2 Consideration of the Continental Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) Strategy

- **15.** The STC-T&E recalled that the development of a *Continental Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) Strategy* is one of the activities approved by its 4th Ordinary Session held from 12th 15th September 2023 in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The STC further recalled that the development of the SAF Strategy follows a recommendation of the High-level Roundtable session on Sustainable Development of Air Transport in Africa held on the margins of the 36th AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government on 19th February 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, that a comprehensive Strategy be developed to support the development and deployment of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and other Low Carbon Aviation Fuels (LCAF) in Africa.
- **16.** The Strategy, which covers the period 2025-2050, was developed through the collaborative efforts of AUC, AFCAC, ICAO and other partners.
- 17. The STC-T&E noted that success of the Strategy requires multistakeholder partnerships and collaboration among Member States and international organisations to support sustainable aviation growth. It also requires commitment and action from key stakeholders particularly States, airlines, airports and all actors who play a role in the growth and development of the African aviation industry.

Recommendations:

18. The STC-T&E:

- i) APPROVED the Continental Strategy to support development and deployment of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and other Low Carbon Aviation Fuels (LCAF) in Africa;
- ii) REQUESTED the AUC in collaboration with AFCAC to develop Annexes to the Strategy including a detailed Action Plan, a Resource Mobilization Strategy and a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework;
- iii) REQUESTED the AUC and AFCAC with the support of development partners to mobilise technical and financial resources to support the timely implementation of the Strategy to accelerate the production, development and deployment of SAF and LCAF in Africa.

1.3 Consideration of the Revised Abuja Aviation Safety Targets

- **19.** The meeting recalled that the First Ordinary Session of the STC-TTIIET held in Lomé, Togo from 13th to 17th March 2017 approved the request to revise the Abuja Safety Targets (ASTs). The ASTs are high-level aviation safety targets adopted by the African Ministers responsible for aviation in Abuja, Nigeria, in July 2012 to assist African States to proactively ensure aviation safety in the continent.
- 20. In 2022, the revision process started led by AFCAC and ICAO with a view to align the ASTs with the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) and the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP). The 4th Ordinary Session of the STC-TTIIE held on 12th -15th September 2023 in Zanzibar, Tanzania, directed AFCAC to collaborate with AUC and ICAO to finalise the process of the amendment of the ASTs including the associated performance framework.
- 21. The Revised Safety Targets are consistent with ICAO GASP and seek to meet global safety goals while the Revised Air Navigation Targets are consistent with ICAO GANP and seek to promote the concept of seamless airspace in Africa and improvement of the quality and efficiency of air navigation services in the continent.

Recommendations:

22. The STC-T&E:

- i) APPROVED the revised Abuja Aviation Safety Targets;
- ii) ENCOURAGED Member States to fully commit to the effective implementation of the revised Abuja Safety Targets;
- iii) REQUESTED AFCAC to assist Member States to improve their effective implementation as revised in the Abuja Aviation Safety Targets as 75% by 2024, 85% by 2026 and 95% by 2030:
- iv) REQUESTED AFCAC to monitor and report on the status of implementation of the Abuja Safety Targets in each Member State to the Ministers of Transport at the Ordinary Sessions of the STC-T&E and other continental platforms highlighting the challenges faced by Member States in ensuring compliance to the targets and indicating the strategies taken to address those challenges.

1.4 Consideration of the African Energy Efficiency Strategy and Roadmap (AfEES)

- 23. The STC-T&E was informed that the *African Energy Efficiency Strategy and Roadmap (AfEES)* is integral component of AU's strategic energy activities together with Africa Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) and Continnetal Power Systems Master Plan (CMP). The Strategy and Roadmap recognises the large potential of energy saving through energy efficiency. AfEES outlines actions for enhancing energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy including power, transport, industry, buildings, agriculture and appliances. The AfEES will be implemented with the support of the African Energy Efficiency Alliance (AEEA), which is a collborative platfrom of relevat stakeholders led by AFREC in the energy efficiency sector.
- 24. The specific purpose of the AfEES is to accelerate the adoption of energy efficiency paradigms across all sectors of the economy, by fostering an enabling environment that facilitates trade and investment, and the adoption of energy-efficient technologies and practices. Its vision is to establish a sustainable, efficient and inclusive energy system that benefits both the environment and the economy while ensuring universal access to energy.

Recommendations:

- 25. The STC-T&E:
 - i) APPROVED the African Energy Efficiency Strategy and Roadmap, and Action Plan (AfEES);
 - ii) REQUESTED AFREC to explore the use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and innovation in the power, transport, industry, agriculture, building and clean cooking sectors to enhance energy efficiency in Africa;
- iii) REQUESTED AFREC in collaboration with continental and regional partners to mobilize the necessary technical and financial resources to implement the roadmap and action plan of AfEES while providing the necessary support to the Member States and the Regional Economic Communities;
- iv) REQUESTED AFREC to coordinate the operationalisation of the African Energy Efficiency Alliance (AEEA) as a collaborative platform to champion energy efficiency knowledge and experience sharing, technology transfer and investments.

1.5 Consideration of the African Green Hydrogen Strategy and Action Plan

- 26. The STC-T&E recalled that its Fourth Ordinary Session requested "the AUC and its partners to develop continental and regional policies and regulatory frameworks including a protocol on green hydrogen development in Africa". As a first step towards implementing the decision, the AUC developed the African Green Hydrogen Strategy and Action Plan.
- 27. The overall aim of the strategy is to provide a framework that ensures all African countries can proactively and actively participate in a green hydrogen economy as it develops globally. The long-term goal of the strategy is to maximise the potential benefits of the green hydrogen transition for the Member States, including the development of sustainable, resilient and secure energy systems that reduce the environmental footprint and energy dependency on existing

- energy sources and carriers. Recognising the huge financial and technical resources required at this early stage of green hydrogen development, the strategy advocates for a phased and country-specific approach, taking into account the local context and resources.
- 28. The action plan identifies intervention areas at the national, regional and continental levels. In addition, the strategy emphasises the need to focus on cross-cutting issues of human resource development and regional and international integration cooperation at every stage of green hydrogen development in the continent.

Recommendations:

- 29. The STC-T&E:
 - i) APPROVED the African Green Hydrogen Strategy and Action Plan;
 - ii) REQUESTED the AUC in collaboration with continental and regional partners to implement the African Green Hydrogen Strategy and Action Plan;
 - iii) REQUESTED the AUC to mobilise technical and financial resources to support the Member States and Regional Economic Communities to develop policies and regulatory frameworks for green hydrogen relevant to their specific needs and contexts.
- iv) ENCOURAGED the Member States to promote Africa as a major supplier and developer of green hydrogen for domestic and global markets;
- v) ENCOURAGED the Member States to promote an enabling environment for the development of green hydrogen local value chains for green industries and products.

SESSION 2. ADOPTION OF EXPERTS' REPORT AND MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

30. The Experts' Report and Ministerial Declaration were adopted with amendments. The Experts Report is attached to this report as Annex II while the Ministerial Declaration is attached as Annex III.

VI. CLOSING

- 31. In her closing remarks, the AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, H.E. Dr Amani Abou-Zeid thanked the Member States for their participation and contributions to the extraordinary STC. She hailed the success of the meeting as significant as it paves the way for the approved items to b etabled to the higher AU Policy Organs for endorsement and adoption during the January-February 2025 Summit. She thanked the ministers for providing political and strategic leadership in the development of infrastructure and energy in Africa and called for collaboration among Member States, RECs, continental institutions and partners in implementing the decisions reached by the STC.
- **32.** The Chairperson of the STC-T&E, Hon. Dr Alemu Sime, the Minister of Transport and Logistics of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, thanked the Ministers for their contributions and recommendations. He noted that implementation of the decisions reached would go a long way in advancing

continental integration in the sectors of transport and energy. The STC Chair called upon the Member States and partners to work together to ensure timely implementation of agreed recommendations. He thanked the AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy and the AUC technical teams for ensuring a smooth flow of the meeting and for the support accorded to Ethiopia as Chair of the Bureau.



THE THIRD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND ENERGY (STC-T&E)

3th - 5th DECEMBER 2024 By Video Conference

Ext/STC-TTIIE/MIN/Decl(III)

Original: English

DECLARATION

5 December 2024

DECLARATION OF THE THIRD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND ENERGY (STC - T&E)

3th - 5th December 2024 By Video Conference

WE, the Ministers in charge of Transport and Energy, meeting by Video Conferencing on 5th December 2024, in the **Third Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Transport and Energy (STC-T&E)**, organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) to consider various items under Transport, Energy and PIDA as directed by the 4th Ordinary Session of STC-T&E held from 12th -15th September 2023;

CONSIDERING:

- 1. The Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, adopted in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1991;
- 2. The Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted in Lomé, Togo, on 11th July 2000, and in particular its articles 14 and 15 that establish the Specialized Technical Committees as organs of the Union, and empower them within their respective fields of competence to *inter alia* prepare projects and programmes of the Union and to ensure their coordination and harmonization;
- 3. Decision of the EX.CL/Dec.1233-1264(XLIV) of 15th February 2024 changing the name of the STC on Transport, Transcontinental, and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism to be the STC on Transport and Energy;
- 4. The Rules of Procedure of the STC on Transport and Energy that set out in Rule 5, its powers and functions;
- 5. Decision of the EX.CL/Dec.1233-1264(XLIV) of 15th February 2024 which endorsed the outcomes of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the STC-TTIIE held from 12th -15th September 2023 in Zanzibar, Tanzania;
- 6. The reports submitted to this Third Extraordinary Session of the STC-T&E.

RECOGNIZING the significance of climate resilient and smart infrastructure, energy efficiency and adoption of clean and low carbon fuels as essential for sustainable development in Africa;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of safety in the air transport sector;

We, the Ministers, reiterating our commitment to developing Transport, and Energy and our strong will to implement the outcomes of this meeting, have agreed to:

In the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA):

- 1. APPROVE the Continental Policy on Climate Resilient and Smart Infrastructure in Africa;
- 2. REQUEST:

- a. The AUC, Member States and Regional Economic Communities to disseminate, domesticate, and implement the Continental Policy on Climate Resilient and Smart Infrastructure in Africa;
- b. The AUC, ECA, Member States and Regional Economic Communities in collaboration with pan-African institutions with the support of development partners to mobilise technical and financial resources to implement the Continental Policy on Climate Resilient and Smart Infrastructure in Africa.

In the Transport Sector:

3. APPROVE:

- a. The Continental Strategy to support development and deployment of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and other Low Carbon Aviation Fuels (LCAF) in Africa:
- b. The revised Abuja Aviation Safety Targets.

4. REQUEST:

- a. The AUC in collaboration with AFCAC to develop Annexes to the Strategy including a detailed Action Plan, a Resource Mobilization Strategy and a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Continental Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) Strategy.
- b. The AUC and AFCAC with the support of development partners to mobilise technical and financial resources to support the timely implementation of the Strategy to accelerate the production, development and deployment of SAF and LCAF in Africa.
- c. AFCAC to assist Member States to improve their effective implementation as revised in the Abuja Aviation Safety Targets as 75% by 2024, 85% by 2026 and 95% by 2030.
- d. AFCAC to monitor and report on the status of implementation of the revised Abuja Aviation Safety Targets in each Member State to the Ministers of Transport at the Ordinary Sessions of the STC-T&E and other continental platforms highlighting the challenges faced by Member States in ensuring compliance to the targets and indicating the strategies taken to address those challenges.
- 5. ENCOURAGE Member States to fully commit to the effective implementation of the revised Abuja Aviation Safety Targets.

In the Energy Sector

6. APPROVE:

- a. The African Energy Efficiency Strategy, Roadmap, and Action Plan (AfEES)
- b. The African Green Hydrogen Strategy and Action Plan.

7. REQUEST:

a. AFREC in collaboration with continental and regional partners to mobilize the necessary technical and financial resources to implement the roadmap and

- action plan of AfEES while providing the necessary support to the Member States and the Regional Economic Communities;
- b. AFREC to explore the use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and innovation in the power, transport, industry, agriculture, building and clean cooking sectors to enhance energy efficiency in Africa;
- c. AFREC to coordinate the operationalisation of the African Energy Efficiency Alliance (AEEA) as a collaborative platform to champion energy efficiency knowledge and experience sharing, technology transfer and investments;
- d. The AUC in collaboration with continental and regional partners to implement the African Green Hydrogen Strategy and Action Plan;
- e. The AUC to mobilise technical and financial resources to support the Member States and Regional Economic Communities to develop policies and regulatory frameworks for green hydrogen relevant to their specific needs and contexts.

8. ENCOURAGE:

- a. Member States to promote Africa as a major supplier and developer of green hydrogen for domestic and global markets;
- b. Member States to promote an enabling environment for the development of green hydrogen local value chains for green industries and products.

In conclusion

- 1. Acknowledge and commend all multilateral financial institutions and development partners for their support to various AU Transport and Energy projects and programmes and call upon them to continue the collaboration;
- 2. Commend the spirit of openness and cordiality that prevailed in the deliberations of the meeting.

REQUEST the African Union Commission to submit this Declaration to the African Union Policy Organs for consideration and adoption.

Done on 5th December 2024

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DRAFT DECISION ON THE 3^{rd} EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND ENERGY (STC-T&E) HELD FROM 3^{RD} TO 5^{TH} DECEMBER 2024 (VIRTUAL)

I. PREAMBLE (LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND)

The Executive Council:

- **1. TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Transport and Energy (STC-T&E) held virtually from the 3rd to 5th December 2024 and the related Declaration.
- **2. COMMENDS** the Ministers responsible for Transport and Energy for the successful holding of the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Transport and Energy (STC-T&E) and achieving notable outcomes for the development of transport, regional infrastructure, and energy in Africa.
 - (1) In the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA):
- **3. ADOPTS** the Continental Policy on Climate Resilient and Smart Infrastructure in Africa.

4. REQUESTS:

- a. The AUC, Member States and Regional Economic Communities to disseminate, domesticate, and implement the Continental Policy on Climate Resilient and Smart Infrastructure in Africa.
- b. The AUC, ECA, Member States and Regional Economic Communities in collaboration with pan-African institutions with the support of development partners to mobilise technical and financial resources to implement the Continental Policy on Climate Resilient and Smart Infrastructure in Africa.

(2) In the Transport Sector:

5. ADOPTS:

- a. The Continental Strategy to support development and deployment of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and other Low Carbon Aviation Fuels (LCAF) in Africa.
- b. The revised Abuja Aviation Safety Targets.

6. REQUESTS:

- a. The AUC and AFCAC with the support of development partners to mobilise technical and financial resources to support the timely implementation of the Strategy to accelerate the production, development and deployment of SAF and LCAF in Africa.
- AFCAC to assist Member States to improve their effective implementation as revised in the Abuja Aviation Safety Targets as 75% by 2024, 85% by 2026 and 95% by 2030;

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c. AFCAC to monitor and report on the status of implementation of the Abuja Safety Targets in each Member State to the Ministers of Transport at the Ordinary Sessions of the STC-T&E and other continental platforms highlighting the challenges faced by Member States in ensuring compliance to the targets and indicating the strategies taken to address those challenges.

- **7. ENCOURAGES** Member States to fully commit to the effective implementation of the revised Abuja Aviation Safety Targets.
 - (3) In the Energy Sector

8. ADOPTS:

- a. The African Energy Efficiency Strategy, Roadmap, and Action Plan (AfEES)
- b. The African Green Hydrogen Strategy and Action Plan.

9. REQUESTS:

- f. AFREC in collaboration with continental and regional partners to mobilize the necessary technical and financial resources to implement the roadmap and action plan of AfEES while providing the necessary support to the Member States and the Regional Economic Communities.
- g. AFREC to explore the use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and innovation in the power, transport, industry, agriculture, building and clean cooking sectors to enhance energy efficiency in Africa;
- h. AFREC to coordinate the operationalisation of the African Energy Efficiency Alliance (AEEA) as a collaborative platform to champion energy efficiency knowledge and experience sharing, technology transfer and investments.
- i. The AUC in collaboration with continental and regional partners to implement the African Green Hydrogen Strategy and Action Plan.
- j. The AUC to mobilise technical and financial resources to support the Member States and Regional Economic Communities to develop policies and regulatory frameworks for green hydrogen relevant to their specific needs and contexts.

10. ENCOURAGES:

- a. Member States to promote Africa as a major supplier and developer of green hydrogen for domestic and global markets;
- b. Member States to promote an enabling environment for the development of green hydrogen local value chains for green industries and products.