

AFRICAN UNION

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**AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF TRADE**

**4<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SESSION**

**12 – 14 April, 2006**

**NAIROBI, REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**AU/TI/TMIN/Res. (IV)  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

**Resolution on the Rationalisation  
and the Harmonisation of the  
Regional Economic Communities**

**Resolution on the Rationalisation and the Harmonisation  
of the Regional Economic Communities**

The African Ministers of Trade meeting in their 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 14 April 2006,

**Recalling** the objectives that guided the establishment of the Regional Economic Communities and the African Union; as elaborated in the Abuja Treaty and the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

**Recognizing** the achievements our Regional Economic Communities have made in the liberalization of trade among their Member States and the critical importance at this stage of moving forward in a more focused manner in accordance with the broader continental objectives of building the African Common Market;

**Noting** with concern the constraints posed by the proliferation of regional economic communities and the challenges that these constraints pose to taking this process of continental integration forward towards the African Economic Community;

**Recalling** the resolve and determination expressed at the highest political level by our Heads of State and Government to accelerate the establishment of the African Economic Community;

1. Agree that there is an urgent need to rationalize the Regional Economic Communities and harmonise their activities.
2. Acknowledge that some Regional Economic Communities have made progress in the harmonization of their policies and setting up coordination mechanisms among themselves and urge other RECs to draw upon this experience with a view to advancing the rationalization process.
3. Support the outcome of the Ouagadougou meeting (31 March 2006) of Ministers responsible for economic integration regarding rationalization of Regional Economic Communities, and look forward to directives to be given by our Heads of State and Government at their next Summit dedicated to integration.
4. Urge all Member States to show strong political will with a view to enabling the Regional Economic Communities to expeditiously implement the Decisions already taken with respect to rationalization and harmonization.
5. Also urge the Regional Economic Communities to take the lead in the rationalization by immediately starting to harmonize their policies, their

customs and trade instruments and to coordinate their programmes with a view to achieving convergence.

6. Call upon the African Union Commission to oversee these rationalization and harmonization efforts by the RECs.
7. Also call upon the ECA to continue to reflect and explore further the options for rationalization of the RECs, in close collaboration with the AUC and the RECs.