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**THE KIGALI DECLARATION ON A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK
FOR STRENGTHENING US/AFRICA TRADE
RELATIONS 2010 AND BEYOND**

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WE, Ministers of Trade of the Member States of the African Union, meeting in Kigali Rwanda, on 1-2 November, 2010

Having considered Africa's overall position in current global trade and investment trends and, in particular US/Africa Trade and Investment Relations in the context of the African Growth and Opportunity Act(AGOA),

Welcoming the positive outcome of the 9th AGOA Forum, held from 2nd to 6th August 2010 in Washington DC and Kansas City, witnessed by a renewed commitment by the US Administration for a more coherent and mutually beneficial partnership between the United States and Africa aimed at enhancing trade and investment relations;

Noting, with gratification, the new dispensation in the US' approach to broaden the scope of AGOA to include both Agricultural and regional integration consistent with Africa's realities and priorities, productive capacities, trade-related technical assistance, private sector development, financing of small, medium size enterprises(SMEs),

Reiterating the concerns highlighted about the future of AGOA with the advent of the impending Congressional Review of the trade preferences programmes and especially the far-reaching implications of the proposed reforms against the backdrop of possible extension of similar dispensation to other more competitive countries outside Africa which will erode the impact and render AGOA commercially meaningless and thus negate the original and over-riding objectives of AGOA,

Reaffirming the commitment of the African Ministerial Consultative Group AGOA to strengthening Africa's capacity for enhanced, bolder and proactive leadership and for ownership of the AGOA process in order to

ensure that AGOA achieves its over-riding objectives by delivering optimal benefits to the entire continent,

Further reaffirming the recommendations emanating from the African Ministerial Consultative Group on AGOA held on 1st August 2010 in Washington DC aimed at anchoring the AGOA Initiative in the framework of the broader continental vision for promoting trade and economic development through the aegis of the African Regional Economic Communities as the driving force for accelerating economic integration of the continent and promoting intra-Africa trade,

We, the AU Ministers of Trade adopt the following as a Consensus Position and henceforth called “The Kigali Declaration on a Strategic Framework For Strengthening US/Africa Trade Relations 2010 and Beyond” and hereby:

1. **Direct** the African Group in Washington DC to lobby for the extension of AGOA beyond 2015 and the extension of the third country fabric beyond 2012;
2. **Call upon** the US to consider significant expansion of its aid for trade targeted at addressing or eliminating the constraints facing African countries in their efforts to diversify their economies and increase their share of global trade, including under AGOA;
3. **Reiterate** the call to the US to render support towards the building of sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS) and technical standards in order for Africa to take advantage of the market access in the US;
4. **Commend** the African Group in Washington DC for continued proactive engagement with the US on advancing the goals of AGOA through constructive and concerted efforts reflected in the report presented to this 6th Ordinary Session of the AU Ministers of Trade Conference.

5. **Welcome** the offer of the Republic of Zambia to host the next AGOA Forum in Zambia between the period May/June 2011 and call for active participation of Member States, the RECs, including ensuring a mechanism to facilitate the active participation of Representatives from both Africa and the US private sector and civil society;
6. **Note**, with satisfaction, the recently signed MOU between the African Union Commission and the Corporate Council on Africa as a positive step towards establishing linkages between US and African Private Sector that are so vital for enhancing trade and investment opportunities, especially through foreign direct investments, between US and Africa;
7. **Call upon** the US to ensure the preservation of the original goals of AGOA aimed at promoting the economic development of Africa through trade and capacity building, especially for SMEs, with a view to broadening product coverage of AGOA to include commodities in which Africa has a competitive advantage;
8. **Also call upon** the US Administration in the spirit of its renewed commitment to Africa to consider a joint demarche with the African Group in Washington aimed at engaging and sensitizing the US Congress and other key US-based stakeholders with a view to considering options on the way forward for Africa before the expiration of the current preferences regime under AGOA.
9. **Urge**, in that regard, the US Administration to give serious consideration to the content and recommendations of the June 2003 Report of the Commission on Capital Flows to Africa as well as the AU/NEPAD African Action Plan 2010-2015 : Advancing Regional Integration in Africa, on the basis of which a more progressive US Africa Trade and Investment Strategy could be evolved taking on board other relevant African-owned and led

initiatives as well as recent US Policies and Approaches relating to supporting the Socio-economic development of the Continent.

10. **Request** the African Union Commission to work in close collaboration with the African Group in Washington DC, the UNECA and the RECs, to take urgent steps towards convening a Joint Evaluation and Review Meeting with the US as first step in institutionalizing a mid-term review and assessing process ahead of each AGOA Forum both in Washington and in Africa;
11. **Strongly reaffirm** the recommendations emanating from the African Ministerial Consultative Group on AGOA held in Washington in the context of the 9th AGOA Forum including all recommendations from previous African Ministerial Consultative Group Meetings and call upon the AUC to expedite the implementation with specific emphasis on the need to formulate a draft concept note and strategy paper on the proposed US/Africa Summit by latest January 31, 2011;
12. **Reaffirm** our commitment to remain actively seized with the matter leading to a new paradigm for mutually beneficial trade and economic development partnership between US and Africa based on the current global realities and historical antecedents.

Done in Kigali, 2 November 2010