



RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE INTER-RECs COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Final Version

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The members of the Inter-RECs Coordination and Collaboration Platform,

Considering that according to the African Union, the eight REC pillars of integration for the construction of an African Economic Community are AMU, CENSAD, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, and SADC,

Inspiring in the objectives of Abuja Treaty and Agenda 2063 of African Union, these RECs, have as their respective aims to promote cooperation and the strengthening of regional integration in all areas of political, security, economic, financial, social, cultural, scientific, and technical activity, with a view to contributing to the progress and development of the continent,

Considering that to achieve the above objectives, the Regional Economic Communities are developing collaborative frameworks to promote solidarity between them, inter-institutional relations, and the implementation of Agenda 2063,

Also considering the Revised Protocol on Relations between the African Union and the RECs, which entered into force in November 2021,

Considering the Declaration on the establishment of the Inter-RECs Coordination and Cooperation Platform signed in Addis Abeba on July 15, 2023,

HAVE ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RULES OF PROCEDURE:

Article 1: Concepts

“Conference” means the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union

“Chairperson” unless otherwise indicated, means the Chairperson of the Platform;

“Commission” means the African Union Commission;

“HLC” stands for High Level Committee;

“Member” means a member of the Inter RECs Coordination and Collaboration Platform.

“Platform” refers to the Inter RECs Platform;

“REC” means Regional Economic Community;

“Representative” means the representative of a member of the Platform, or of any other invited bodies or stakeholders;

“Union” means the African Union; or we should use commonly African Union (AU);

“TWG” stands for Technical Working Group;

AMU stands for Arab Maghreb Union;

CEN- SAD stands for Community of Sahel-Saharan States;

COMESA stands for Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa;

EAC stands for East African Community;

ECCAS stands for Economic Community for Central African States;

ECOWAS stands for Economic Community for West African States ;

IGAD stands for Inter-Governmental Authority on Development;

SADC stands for Southern African Development Community.

Article 2: Structure

The Inter- RECs Coordination and Collaboration Platform will be structured around two levels; the executive and technical level bodies, namely:

- (1) The High Level Committee (HLC)**
- (2) The Technical Working Group (TWG)**

Article 3: Composition

(1) HLC is composed of the Chief Executives of the RECs (ECOWAS, CEN-SAD, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, SADC, IGAD, UMA).

(2) TWG is made up of two focal points per REC, namely a cooperation/partnerships managers and the REC's Permanent Representative to the Union/AU

Article 4: Missions of the Platform The High Level Committee and Technical Working Group

(1) The missions of the HLC are, to:

- a) strengthen the active participation of RECs at the continental level and exchange information to maximize the operational reach and effectiveness of Agenda 2063;
- b) ensure effective coordination and speak with one voice, on matters relating to the implementation of the Revised Protocol on Relations between the Union/AU and the RECs.

(2) The missions of TWGs are to:

- a) Provide the necessary technical support to the HLC, in attaining of the objectives - mentioned in paragraph 1 above;
- b) Propose areas of cooperation among RECs (including but not limited to peace and security, AfCFTA, migration, social and humanitarian affairs, and other agreed relevant areas
- c) Develop an inter- RECs cooperation strategy, to be approved by the HLC;
- d) Identify key issues that the RECs should address with the AU;
- e) Formulate recommendations on how to address issues related to priority activities for the effective implementation and strengthening of the REC's-AU relations;
- f) Participation in the formulation of agendas for mid-year coordination meetings (RCMA), of specialized technical committees (STCs) and meetings of the Executive Council and the Assembly;
- g) All other questions related to the objectives pursued by the Inter RECs coordination platform.

Article 5: Membership

(1) All eight (08) RECs, recognized as pillars of integration by the AU, are members of the Platform.

(2) The decision to include new members such as the regional Mechanisms is taken at unanimity of the members.

Article 6: Presidency of the Platform

- 1) The Presidency of the Platform falls, in turn, to the members in alphabetical order of the stakeholder RECs.
- (2) The Community which ensures the current Presidency of the Platform holds leadership at the HLC and TWG levels.

Article 7: Level and frequency of meetings

- (1) The Platform will meet at two (2) levels, namely: Technical and High/Executive levels.
- (2) At the Technical Level, the Platform TWG will meet to implement the annual Work Plans and as necessary.
- (3) At the Executive level, the Platform HLC will meet at least twice (2) per year and particularly on the sidelines of the mid-year coordination meeting at the initiative of the Presidency.

Article 8: Quorum

The Platform deliberates validly if half of its members are present.

Article 9: Agenda

- (1) The provisional agenda of the Platform will be proposed by the current Presidency and communicated based on the proposals submitted by all members.
- (2) The inclusion of any other item on the provisional agenda shall not be objected to by any member.
- (3) Any item listed on the agenda of a meeting but not discussed during the meeting will automatically be placed on the agenda at the next meeting unless the platform decides otherwise.

Article 10: Functions of the President

- (1) The President must:
 - a) chair the meetings of the Platform;
 - b) open and close sessions;
 - c) direct the work;
 - d) rule on points of order;
 - e) ensure order and decorum during the work of the Platform;
 - f) represent the Platform in another forums.
2. If the President is unable to perform his duties for any reason, the next member in line will assume the functions of the President in accordance with the procedure established in the number six6 (6) of these rules and procedure for the Inter-RECs Coordination and Collaboration Platform.

Article 11: Operation of the Platform

- (1) The ordinary meetings of the HLC will be held on the sidelines of the ordinary sessions of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Union in February of each year

and on the sidelines of the mid-year coordination meeting scheduled for month of July each year.

(2) the meetings of the Inter- RECs Platform will be held on a rotating basis, will be chaired by the RECs which holds the current Presidency and will be held at least twice a year, in ordinary and extraordinary sessions (possibly).

(3) The meetings of the HLC will be preceded by those of the experts, required to prepare the files to be submitted to the Executives.

(4) The Experts TWG may meet as necessary before the meeting of the Heads of Executives for the preparation of files. Their meetings will be convened either by the current president of the group of experts according to the current presidency of the HLC, or at the request of a REC which must specify the reason for the request and propose an agenda.

(5) TWG meetings may be held in hybrid, virtual and/or in-person mode, depending on the circumstances, or based on the direction of the HLC.

(6) A road map on the implementation of HLC decisions will serve to monitor and evaluate activities during Committee meetings.

(7) Without prejudice to the meetings of the TWG and the HLC the Platform may propose joint activities in different sectors of cooperation to strengthen the integration and efforts of the RECs in the context of achieving the objectives of the Abuja Treaty and Agenda 2063.

Article 12: Proposals/Substantive Motions/Amendments

1. Proposals, substantive motions and amendments are normally made by email or in writing and submitted to members in the order in which they are received by the President.

2. A separate vote may be taken on any part of a proposal, motion, or amendment upon request of any member unless the mover objects. In this case, the objection will be put to a vote as a procedural matter.

Article 13: Closure of a debate

When a question has been debated, a member may decide to close the debate on that point. Following this motion, one member may speak in favor and another against. The president will immediately put the motion to a vote.

Article 14: Adjournment of discussion

During the debates on an item on the agenda, a member may request the adjournment of discussions on the said item. Following this motion, one (1) member may speak in favor and another against. The President will immediately put the motion to a vote.

Article 15: Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

1. During discussions on any matter, a member may request the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such a motion will be permitted.
2. The President will immediately submit such a request to a vote.

Article 16: Meetings

(1) The platform will hold meetings behind closed doors.

(2) The platform may decide to hold public meetings and may exceptionally invite external stakeholders to participate without the right to vote during discussions submitted to its discretion.

(3) Any person invited to participate in discussions on the platform may submit, through a member, proposals and draft decisions for consideration. Such proposals and draft decisions may be submitted to a vote by the Platform.

Article 17: Binding force of the Platform's decisions

(1) Decisions taken by the Platform are not binding on the REC.

(2) The directives issued by the Chief Executives at Platform meetings are strictly enforced.

Article 18: Depositary of the Platform's texts

(1) In the absence of a headquarters, the Platform will designate a CER to act as depositary of its texts while the Platform Presidency rotates.

(3) The depositary REC guarantees the security of the texts as the Platform Presidency rotates.

Article 19: Informal consultations

The Platform may hold informal consultations with other appropriate stakeholders as necessary in the exercise of its functions.

Article 20: Working languages

The working languages of the platform will be the working languages of the AU /Union.

Article 21: Representation of members

Any member of the Platform will be represented at platform meetings by a duly accredited representative.

Article 22: Financing of Platform activities

(1) The RECs will agree, on a case-by-case basis, specific funding for joint activities.

- (2) If a REC other than the one holding the current presidency hosts a Platform activity, specifications may be negotiated between them. However, the main responsibility lies with the current presidency of the Platform.
- (3) Each REC will finance the participation of its representatives in the meetings.

Article 23: Reports of closed meetings

- (1) The Secretariat of the Platform is provided by the current Presidency.
 - 2. A succinct report of the work of the Platform meeting will be made and recorded in the Department of Political Affairs.
 - a) Members will have access to this report and can, within seven (7) days of the report being prepared, inform the Presidency of any corrections they wish to make to the report.
 - b) In the absence of objections to any corrections so made during this period, the report will be considered corrected.
- (3) The platform may at any time decide to make the report available to third parties.

Article 24: Press releases and declaration

- (1) At the end of each meeting, the Platform may prepare a press release regarding its deliberations.
- (2) The Platform may also prepare a statement or report regarding its deliberations.

Article 25: Amendments

Amendments to these regulations will be adopted by the Platform.

Article 26: Entry into force

These regulations come into force after their adoption by the Platform.

Adopted by the High-Level Committee of the Inter-CER Coordination and Collaboration Platform, Accra, Ghana, on July 20, 2024.