

AFRICAN UNION

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**ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
Thirty Second Ordinary Session
10 – 11 February 2019
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Assembly/AU/Dec.713-748(XXXII)
Assembly/AU/Decl.1-8(XXXII)
Assembly/AU/Res.1(XXXII)
Assembly/AU/Motions1-2(XXXII)**

**DECISIONS, DECLARATIONS,
RESOLUTION AND MOTIONS**



**DECISION ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA
Doc. Assembly/AU/4(XXXII)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the Report of H.E. Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger, the Leader of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and the recommendations therein on the progress achieved on the establishment of the AfCFTA;
2. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.647(XXIX), adopted at the 29th Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2017, which approved the modalities for trade in services negotiations, as well as modalities for tariff negotiations with a level of ambition of 90%, in line with the adopted Modalities, and urged the Ministers of Trade to conclude negotiations on Sensitive Products and Exclusion Lists;
3. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of African Union Ministers of Trade on:
 - i) the Template on Tariff Liberalization to be used by Member States in preparing the AfCFTA Schedules of Tariff Concessions; and
 - ii) the designation of Sensitive Products and Exclusion List, on the basis of the following criteria: food security, national security, fiscal revenue, livelihood and industrialization.
4. **AGREES** that the percentage for Sensitive Products will be 7% of total tariff lines and the Exclusion List will not exceed 3% of the total tariff lines and **FURTHER AGREES** that the application of these percentages will be subjected to double qualification and anti-concentration clauses, where the excluded products shall not exceed 10% of total import value from other State Parties. Thus, products to be excluded from liberalization will represent no more than 3% of tariff lines, accounting for no more than 10% of the value of imports from other African countries;
5. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of African Union Ministers of Trade, that a transitional period of 5 years or less, be used for countries which require this flexibility before the start of liberalization of Sensitive Products, thereby allowing for tariffs applicable to sensitive products to be maintained, provided that tariffs are eliminated by the end of the phase-down period outlined under the adopted modalities (10 years for developing countries and 13 for the least developed countries);
6. **ADOPTS** the Guidelines for Development of Schedules of Specific Commitments and Regulatory Cooperation Framework for Trade in Services and the new