



Introduction

As Africa stands at the crossroads of transformation, this proposal from the Afro-Asia Institute for Strategic Studies (AAISS) outlines a vision for the future of our continent under the new leadership of the African Union.

This vision is rooted in the principles of self-determination, autonomy, non-interference, and unwavering support for the struggles of oppressed peoples, including those in Africa and beyond.

The Afro-Asia Institute for Strategic Studies will in the end endorse the candidate that publicly aligns with the points outlined below.

We hope that a restructured and reformed African Union will emphasize the following key conditionalities to build a united, sovereign, and free Africa.

Support for Legitimate Resistance Against Occupiers and Colonizers

The candidate must endorse the right to legitimate resistance against occupation and colonization, a principle deeply rooted in Africa's history.

This is also a commitment enshrined in Article 3 of the AU's Constitutive Act, which calls for the defense of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of its member states.

Furthermore, Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights," reinforcing the right of all peoples, including Palestinians, to self-determination and freedom from occupation.

The candidate must stand firm in supporting these principles, aligning with Africa's tradition of opposing all forms of colonialism and occupation, including the Zionist occupation of Palestine, and he must publicly endorse the right of the Palestinian people to resist Zionist occupation in their legitimate quest for self-determination.

An Autonomous African Union free from external influences

A truly autonomous African Union is critical for Africa's future. The African Union (AU) must break free from external influences that compromise its autonomy.

The candidate must call for the AU's financial independence to reduce dependency on external forces, ensuring that decisions are made in Africa's best interest, as stipulated in Article 4(g) of the AU Constitutive Act, which upholds the "non-interference by any member state in the internal affairs of another."

The Africa We Want



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The candidate should lead a movement to secure the financial independence of the AU, reducing dependency on foreign powers for funding and operational capacities by pushing for an African Development Fund and greater financial contributions from AU member states.

In doing so, the new leadership would align with Article 21(1) of the UDHR, which advocates for people's right to participate in the decision-making process of their government and institutions without external influence. This autonomy is essential for promoting African self-determination.

Calling Out Foreign Military Bases in Africa

Africa is not a battleground for foreign militaries. The presence of foreign military bases on African soil continues to undermine the continent's sovereignty and security.

The candidate must unequivocally call for the dismantling and removal of foreign military installations on African soil, particularly those that perpetuate geopolitical rivalries and interfere with regional peace and stability.

Article 3(b) of the AU Constitutive Act commits the AU to "defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of its Member States." Foreign military installations contradict this commitment by fostering dependence on non-African military powers and undermining African security structures.

The presence of these bases also violates Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which emphasizes the prohibition of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

The candidate in calling for the removal of these bases will promote peace and empower African-led solutions to security challenges.

Non-Interference and Respect for Sovereignty

The candidate must emphasize the AU's fundamental principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of African states. This principle is enshrined in Article 4(g) of the AU Constitutive Act, which guarantees the right of each nation to chart its own path free from external interference.

Any candidate running for the chairmanship of the African Union Commission must publicly dissociate himself from his past support for secessionist movements in Africa and advocate for diplomatic resolutions and African-led solutions to internal conflicts.

Additionally, Article 21(3) of the UDHR underlines that "the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government," emphasizing the right of African nations to self-governance and sovereignty.

Respecting these principles will reaffirm the AU's commitment to promoting peace and unity across the continent.

Support for People's Revolutions in the Sahel

Recent popular uprisings in the Sahel, particularly in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso, represent a genuine movement for sovereignty, freedom, and self-determination. The candidate must align his campaign with Article 20(1) of the UDHR, which states that "everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association."

The revolutionary movements in the Sahel are expressions of the will of the people for political and economic change.

Moreover, Article 23 of the AU Constitutive Act highlights the importance of democratic principles, human rights, and the rule of law. Any candidate running for the chairmanship of the African Union Commission must publicly stand with the people of the Sahel in their revolutionary struggles against neo-colonial regimes and foreign exploitation.

By supporting the people's revolutions, the candidate will demonstrate that the African Union truly stands with the people, recognizing their right to resist exploitation and neo-colonialism.



Ensuring African Ownership of Development Plans

One of the critical challenges facing Africa today is external interference in its economic and political choices. Africa must be free to choose reliable partners based on mutual respect and shared interests, rather than being dictated by external powers or handled by former colonial masters.

by championing Africa's right to partner on its terms, the candidate will position Africa as an equal player in the global arena, rejecting neo-colonial agreements that hinder long-term development.

Any candidate running for the chairmanship of the African Union Commission must advocate for a Pan-African Development Framework that allows each country to formulate and pursue its unique development agenda and to draft national plans that are anchored in the well-being of their populations and the interests of future generations without being forced into dependency or unfavorable terms by external actors such as the IMF, WB, and WTO.

The candidate must publicly promise to establish Africa's agency in key development sectors, especially agriculture, health, education, water, and mining. The focus should be on partnerships that transfer knowledge, build capacity, and promote sustainable development rather than exploit Africa's resources.

Furthermore, the AU must act as a supreme guide and clearinghouse to ensure that all development plans have built-in complementarity clauses to ensure and prioritize cross-border trade & exchange in the spirit of South-South cooperation.

African countries must look within their region and continent before looking East or West for partners.

Reintroducing Non-Alignment and a Pro-Africa Spirit

Today, as the world faces a new era of geopolitical competition, any candidate running for the chairmanship of the African Union Commission must seek to revive the spirit of non-alignment.

The return to a non-aligned posture would allow Africa to navigate the complexities of the current global order with greater flexibility and autonomy. It would enable Africa to build relationships – whether with the West or the East – that are truly reciprocal, rather than those based on dependency.

Moreover, it would foster a sense of unity and common purpose among African nations, strengthening the continent's collective voice in global affairs.

Conclusion

The Africa we want is an Africa that is free, sovereign, and autonomous. The new leadership has the opportunity to lead a new wave of Pan-African leadership that is committed to these ideals.

The time has come for Africa to unite under principles of resistance, autonomy, sovereignty, and the defense of the people's revolutions.

By accepting these key conditionalities, a candidate will not only elevate the campaign to be the next Chairperson of the African Union Commission but also pave the way for an African Union that truly represents the aspirations of Africa's people.

This is the future we envision, and this is the future that a new leadership can help bring to life by building on the principles laid out in the AU Constitutive Act and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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