FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AFRICAN COMMISSION ON NUCLEAR ENERGY (AFCONE)
4 MAY 2011
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

CONCLUSIONS
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1. The First Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) was held at the African Union (AU) Headquarters in Addis Ababa on 4 May 2011. The Session was held pursuant to Article 12, paragraph 3, of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, also known as the Treaty of Pelindaba, which commits the AFCONE to meet in annual ordinary sessions.

2. The Treaty of Pelindaba entered into force in 2009, and in accordance with Article 12, established the AFCONE with a mandate to assist States Parties comply with their non-proliferation obligations as well as promote cooperation in the peaceful, safe and secure uses of nuclear science and technology.

3. The First Conference of States Parties to the Treaty was held in Addis Ababa on 4 November 2010, and pursuant to Article 14, elected twelve Members to a three-year membership of AFCONE. These are: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritius, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Tunisia. The Conference also endorsed the decision to establish the Headquarters of AFCONE in South Africa.

4. The Session was opened by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra. He underscored the importance of the Session, especially in electing its Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, and pledged the cooperation of the AU Commission in supporting the activities of AFCONE.

5. The Session was attended by the representatives of the elected Members. They included: Mr. Messaoud Baaliouamer of Algeria, Dr. Badiori Outtara of Burkina Faso, Dr. Augustin Simo of Cameroon, Mr. Atnatiwos Zeleke Meshesha of Ethiopia, Mr. Tezana Coulibaly of Mali, H.E Mr. Anund P. Neewoor of Mauritius, Mr. Christian Sina Diatta of Senegal, Mr. Abdul Samad Minty of South Africa and Dr. Mourad Telmini of Tunisia.

6. Professor Shaukat Abdurazak of Kenya, Dr. Bulgasem Hammouda Ali El-Fawaris of Libya and Lieutenant-Colonel Manzi Pidalatan of Togo were not able to attend the Session and sent their apologies.

7. The Session was also attended by Dr. F. Erepmo Osaisai, Chairperson of the African Regional cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA), Mr. Jean du Preez, Chief of External Relations, Protocol and International Cooperation of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), and Professor S. B. Elegba, Chairperson of the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa (FNRBA).

8. The purpose of the Session was to discuss various aspects essential to the effective operation of the AFCONE; these include the rules of procedure, structure and
policy organs, programme of work, terms of reference for the Executive Secretary, budget for AFCONE and scale of assessment for States Parties. To this effect, the AU Commission presented draft proposals for the Session’s consideration.

9. The Session had in-depth discussions on the proposals and made valuable comments and suggestions to improve their quality and relevance. The Session agreed that the AU Commission will incorporate the inputs made and share the revised versions of the drafts with the Members for final review.

10. On the scale of assessment, the Session agreed to adopt the scale of assessment of the African Union for 2011-2013 adopted by the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held in Kampala, Uganda, on 25 July 2010.

11. The Session adopted the acronym (AFCONE) for the African Commission on Nuclear Energy and agreed that the acronym will be used for all of the four African Union official languages.

12. Regarding the Bureau of the AFCONE, provided for in Annex III, paragraph 2 to the Treaty, and which should consist of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and the Executive Secretary, the Session decided that the position of Executive Secretary should be filled through a competitive process administered by the AU Commission and conducted in compliance with its rules and regulations.

13. On the positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, the Session unanimously elected Mr. Abdul Samad Minty of South Africa and Mr. Mourad Telmini of Tunisia as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of AFCONE respectively.

14. In concluding, the Session agreed to meet again during July 2011, in a venue to be agreed upon, to discuss the next steps in order to ensure the speedy commencement of the activities of AFCONE.