

AFRICAN UNION

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ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
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Assembly/AU/Decl.1-3(XVIII)

DECISIONS, RESOLUTION AND DECLARATIONS



**DECISION RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF WANGARI MUTA MAATHAI
Doc. Assembly/AU/14(XVIII) Add.6**

The Assembly,

1. **RECOGNIZES** the role and contributions of Prof. Wangari Maathai in the fields of environment, sustainable development and women's empowerment, as well as her unwavering dedication to promoting peace, democracy and human rights in Africa and the world at large, and **PAYS TRIBUTE** to this Africa's daughter and her contribution to the world;
2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** Wangari Maathai's vision on protecting and promoting human well-being through her pioneering Green Belt Movement (GBM) and grass-roots activism, inspiring people to promote worldwide sustainable development;
3. **ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES** the achievements of Wangari Maathai, as the first African woman to receive a Nobel Peace Prize recognizing her work to promote peace, security and sustainable development in Africa;
4. **WELCOMES** the ongoing international movement involving Governments, Civil Society Organizations, Regional and International Institutions to honor the value, vision, contribution and dedication of Wangari Maathai, thus inspiring people to call for human rights, peace and democracy, and environmental conservation;
5. **DECIDES** in recognition of her numerous achievements in her capacity as the first Presiding Officer of the African Union-Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU –ECOSOC), African Union Peace Ambassador, Founder of the Green Belt Movement, Goodwill Ambassador to the Congo Basin Forest Initiative, UN Peace Messenger for Environment and Climate, and UNEP Champion of the Earth, to designate 3 March as Wangari Maathai Day to be observed in conjunction with Africa Environment Day, each year beginning in 2012;
6. **MANDATES** the African Union (AU) Commission to take the necessary measures, together with Member States, for the observance of Wangari Maathai Day by the African Union, and as such, **CALLS UPON** all Member States, United Nations Agencies, and International and Civil Society Organizations, to actively observe Wangari Maathai Day;
7. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to name public landmarks including streets, parks, squares, schools and institutes of peace in universities and other national monuments after Wangari Maathai, as a way to memorialize her life's work and serve as a tribute to inspire current and future generations to preserve the planet;

8. **ALSO ENCOURAGES** schools and universities to set up educational instruments and scholarship funds under the name of Wangari Maathai, to support students in the field of environment and sustainable development;
9. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** the AU Commission, within the framework of the Make Peace Happen Campaign, as well as Member States, the private sector, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme and other related international organizations and foundations, in cooperation with the Green Belt Movement, to take all the necessary measures to mobilize resources in support of 'Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies', as an African Center of Excellence, to encourage research on environmental governance and its linkages with peace human rights and democracy in Africa;
10. **DECIDES** to create the "Wangari Maathai Award for Outstanding African Achievements in Environment and Biodiversity Conservation" recognizing outstanding achievements of individuals committed to preserving the environment, and **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the Republic of Kenya, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Green Belt Movement and other interested parties to define the modalities of establishing the Award and report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly in June/July 2012 on ways to operationalize this Decision.

