

TOGOLESE REPUBLIC

AFRICAN POLITICAL ALLIANCE (APA)



**FINAL DECLARATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN POLITICAL
ALLIANCE ON THE THEME: "AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE
EAST CRISIS: IMPACTS, CHALLENGES AND
STRATEGIC RESPONSES"**

Lomé, 3 July 2026

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We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and representatives of Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burundi, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Chad, Togo, Zimbabwe, the United Arab Emirates, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, meeting in Lomé on 3 July 2026, under the chairmanship of **H.E. Mr. Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE**, President of the Council, and in the presence of **H.E. Mr. Julius MAADA BIO**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and current Chairperson of the Economic Community of West African States, on the occasion of the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference of the African Political Alliance (APA), held under the theme: "**Africa and the Middle East Crisis: Impacts, Challenges and Strategic Responses**";

Deeply concerned by the escalation of geopolitical and military tensions in the Middle East and by their humanitarian, security, economic and energy-related consequences;

Aware of the direct and indirect adverse repercussions of this crisis on African economies, international maritime security, supply chains, the stability of energy markets, food security and regional stability;

Reaffirming our attachment to the relevant principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitutive Act of the African Union, in particular those relating to respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for international law and international humanitarian law, and the peaceful settlement of disputes;

Recalling the fundamental principles of the African Political Alliance relating to African solidarity, the sovereignty of States and strategic dialogue among African nations;

Mindful of the historical and contemporary relations between Africa and the Middle East;

Convinced that dialogue, diplomacy and international cooperation remain the surest means of preventing the escalation of conflicts and promoting lasting peace in the interest of humanity;

Hereby declare as follows:

I. ECONOMIC AND SECURITY IMPACTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS ON AFRICA

- 1. Emphasize with concern** that the crisis in the Middle East directly affects the vital and strategic interests of the African continent. It is reflected in particular in disruptions to supply chains and international trade, high volatility in energy markets, inflationary pressures, instability in foreign exchange markets as well as growing risks to the economic stability of several African states.
- 2. Observe** that disruptions to supply chains originating from the Gulf affect Africa's access to agricultural inputs, weaken the continent's productive capacity and disrupt trade with the Middle East, with risks of worsening food insecurity, socio-economic tensions and social instability in several African States.
- 3. Note** that the crisis in the Middle East heightens the risks facing Africa's security environment, particularly through the expansion of transnational threats, the risk of regional destabilization and the intensification of strategic competition among

external powers. A prolonged and widespread crisis in the Middle East constitutes a threat to Africa's security and stability, given the geographical proximity between the continent and the Middle East.

II. AFRICAN STRATEGIC RESPONSES TO THE IMPACTS OF THE CRISIS

4. **Observe** that the economic impacts of the Middle East crisis on Africa reveal both the structural constraints of African economies and their vulnerability and limited resilience to external shocks.
5. **Encourage** African States to strengthen their economic resilience to external geopolitical shocks, particularly through economic diversification, industrialization, the promotion of intra-African trade and the accelerated implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
6. **Invite** African States to strengthen their energy sovereignty through the development of energy infrastructure, refining capacities, renewable energy and regional interconnections.
7. **Urge** African States to intensify their efforts to enhance food security, promote agricultural development and agro-industrial transformation, and establish regional strategic food reserve mechanisms.
8. **Recommend** the strengthening of African economic, financial and monetary cooperation mechanisms in order to improve the continent's capacity to respond to international crises.
9. **Underline** the need to adapt African security mechanisms to the evolving nature of hybrid threats, particularly in the areas of terrorism, cybersecurity, disinformation and the protection of critical infrastructure.
10. **Observe** that the geographical proximity between the Middle East and the African continent calls upon Africa to exercise heightened security vigilance, activate its early warning mechanisms in regions bordering the Middle East, and strengthen its capacity to anticipate and respond to international crises.
11. **Invite** African States to advance towards the development of African strategic autonomy in the fields of defence and security, in accordance with the recommendations of the Third Ministerial Conference of the African Political Alliance, held in Lomé on 2 June 2025.

III. PEACE, DE-ESCALATION AND REGIONAL STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

12. **Call upon** all parties to the conflict to exercise the utmost restraint and to refrain from any action likely to aggravate tensions or lead to a regional or extra-regional escalation of the conflict.
13. **Condemn** violence against civilian populations, from whatever source, and call for full respect for international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians.

14. **Reaffirm** that military solutions alone cannot guarantee lasting peace and stress that dialogue and diplomatic means must remain at the heart of efforts to resolve disputes.
15. **Welcome** the commitment of the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran to dialogue and the pursuit of peaceful solutions to the conflict, and **encourage** them to sustain this positive momentum in the interest of regional and international stability.
16. **Also welcome** the diplomatic initiatives, mediation efforts and facilitation undertaken in support of the de-escalation of tensions and the peaceful settlement of disputes in the Middle East.
17. **Express** our appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the State of Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, and other regional and international partners whose efforts helped create the conditions conducive to the recent diplomatic progress, notably the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 17 June 2026.
18. **Encourage** the continuation of the ongoing negotiations and consultations, as well as the development of a more inclusive dialogue involving all concerned parties, with a view to consolidating the gains achieved through de-escalation, promoting the peaceful settlement of the remaining outstanding issues, and contributing to lasting peace, peaceful coexistence and regional stability.
19. **Call for** the preservation of the security of international maritime routes, global energy security, and the conditions necessary for international economic stability.

IV. AFRICA–MIDDLE EAST RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

20. **Welcome** the importance of dialogue between Africa and the Middle East as an instrument for building mutual trust, fostering mutual understanding and advancing strategic cooperation.
21. **Also welcome** the participation of the Middle Eastern States in the proceedings of this Extraordinary Ministerial Conference of the African Political Alliance, which has enabled Africa and the Middle East to develop a shared understanding of the implications of the crisis for Africa, promote a strategic exchange on African perspectives regarding the crisis, and contribute to the international dialogue in support of peace, de-escalation and regional stability.
22. **Underline** that the participation of the Middle Eastern States in the proceedings of this Conference has laid the foundations for structured consultations and exchanges between Africa and the Middle East on issues relating to peace, security, economic development, energy, agriculture, trade, innovation and capacity-building.
23. **Recognize** that certain areas and infrastructure of strategic importance to humanity, including the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, the Red Sea, the Suez Canal and the major international maritime routes, constitute global commons whose preservation benefits all nations.

24. Call for enhanced mobilization by regional and international stakeholders in support of ongoing mediation initiatives and diplomatic efforts, with a view to encouraging the gradual adoption of confidence-building measures among the parties concerned. Such measures, grounded in respect for international law, the security of navigation and due consideration for the legitimate concerns of all parties, should contribute to de-escalation, the restoration and sustained preservation of the security of these strategic areas, and the creation of an environment more conducive to dialogue, mutual understanding and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

V. FINAL PROVISIONS

25. Commend the leadership of the Togolese Republic in organizing this Extraordinary Ministerial Conference and its steadfast commitment to the promotion of dialogue, peace and international cooperation.

26. Reaffirm our shared determination to promote an international order founded on dialogue, mutual respect, the sovereignty of States, regional stability, cooperation among nations and shared prosperity.

27. Express the hope that the dialogue, mediation and cooperation efforts encouraged by this Declaration will contribute to fostering forms of coexistence increasingly characterized by mutual trust, mutual understanding, respect, solidarity and shared responsibility, in the service of the common good, international stability and lasting peace.

28. Decide to continue our consultations and to remain seized of developments relating to the crisis in the Middle East, as well as of its economic and security implications for the African continent.

29. Agree to work towards the establishment of an Africa–Middle East Strategic Dialogue Framework with a view to promoting regular dialogue and consultations on issues of common interest, particularly those relating to peace, security, economic development and regional stability, in order to strengthen mutual understanding, trust and cooperation between our two regions.

Done at Lomé, on 3 July 2026.