RULES of PROCEDURE
of the African Governance Platform

AGA
African Governance Architecture
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of the African Governance Platform
General Provisions

The Executive Council,

Recalling Articles 44, 45 and 49 of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance on the need for coordination in the evaluation and monitoring of the implementation of the commitments and principles enshrined in the Charter among the Platform Members;

Having regard to the Declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XVI) on the Theme of the Summit: “Towards Greater Unity and Integration through Shared Values” adopted by the 16th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2011 which, inter alia, reaffirmed the importance of establishing an African Governance Platform as a basis for facilitating harmonization of instruments and coordination of initiatives in governance and democracy;

Considering the respective mandates of the members of the African Governance Platform;

HEREBY ADOPTS THESE RULES OF PROCEDURE:
Rule 1:
DEFINITION

For purposes of these Rules,

“AGA or African Governance Architecture” means a platform for dialogue between the various stakeholders with the mandate to promote good governance and strengthen democracy in Africa;

“African Governance Platform” means the institutional mechanism of AGA comprising African Union organs, RECs and institutions with a mandate to promote governance, democracy and human rights;

“Assembly” means the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union;

“Bureau” means the governing body of the Platform comprising a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and the Secretariat;

“Chairperson” unless otherwise specified, means the Chairperson of the Platform;

“Commission” means the African Union Commission;

“Guidelines” means the Guidelines for State Parties’ Reports under the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance as set out in Annex 1 of these Rules of Procedure;

“Heads of African Governance Platform” means Heads of the African Union Organs, RECs and Institutions with a mandate to promote governance, democracy and human rights;

“Heads of African Governance Platform” means Heads of the African Union Organs, RECs and Institutions with a mandate to promote governance, democracy and human rights;
“Member” means a Member of the African Governance Platform;
“Representative” means a representative of a Member of the Platform or any other invited organ or stakeholder;

“Secretariat” means the AGA Secretariat based in the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission;

“Shared Values” the norms, principles and practices adopted by the African Union Member States, which provide the basis for collective actions and solutions in addressing the political, economic and social challenges that impede Africa’s integration and development;

“Union” means the African Union; and

“Vice Chairperson” unless otherwise specified means the Vice Chairperson of the Platform.
The African Governance Platform shall be composed of the following Organs and Institutions of the African Union:

a. The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights;
b. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
c. The African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights;
d. The African Peer Review Mechanism;
e. The African Union Advisory Board on Corruption;
f. The African Union Commission on International Law;
g. The Commission;
h. The Economic, Social and Cultural Council;
i. The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency;
j. The Pan-African Parliament;
k. The Peace and Security Council;
l. The Regional Economic Communities (RECs); and
m. Any other existing Organ or Institution of the African Union that may be given the mandate or established by the Assembly to promote governance, democracy and human rights.

Rules of Procedure of the African Governance Platform

Rule 2:
COMPOSITION OF THE PLATFORM
Rule 3:

OBJECTIVES OF THE PLATFORM

The objective of the African Governance Platform is to operationalize and coordinate programmes and initiatives of the African Governance Platform as provided under the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

Rule 4:

FUNCTIONS OF THE PLATFORM

The African Governance Platform shall inter-alia:

a. Under the coordination of the Commission, serve as the evaluation mechanism for the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance as provided in Articles 44, 45 and 49 of the Charter and as elaborated in the Guidelines for State Parties’ Reports as set out in Annex 1;

b. Undertake, in addition to the responsibilities highlighted in paragraph (a) above, programmes aimed at facilitating harmonisation of instruments and coordination of initiatives in governance and democracy;

c. Convene the annual high level dialogue aimed at sharing experiences and best practices towards the promotion of good governance, strengthening democracy and respect for human and peoples’ rights, including advocacy for the domestication and implementation of as well as compliance to AU Shared Values by African Union Member States;

d. Enhance greater engagement and participation of Africa citizens, including women and youth and civil society in Platform Members’ initiatives and programmes aimed at promoting good governance and consolidating democracy in Africa;

e. Facilitate the establishment and operationalisation of the AGA Clusters.
Rule 5: AGA CLUSTERS

1. The following AGA Clusters are hereby established:
   a. Democracy and Elections;
   b. Human Rights and Transitional Justice;
   c. Constitutionalism and Rule of Law;
   d. Socio-Economic, Service Delivery and Urbanisation; and
   e. Humanitarian Assistance.

2. Where applicable, these Rules shall also apply and guide the work and proceedings of the AGA Clusters.
Rule 6:   
THE BUREAU

1. The African Governance Platform shall have a Bureau comprised of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur.
2. The African Governance Platform shall elect from among the Heads of the African Governance Platform Members, a Chairperson an Vice-Chairperson, and a Rapporteur who shall serve for a non-renewable term of two years.
3. Elections shall be held by secret ballot.
4. The Chairperson shall:

- Preside over the meetings of the African Governance Platform;
- Open and close the meetings;
- Guide the proceedings;
- Rule on points of order;
- Ensure order and decorum of the proceedings of the African Governance Platform.

5. The Vice Chairperson shall perform all the functions of the Chairperson in the event that the Chairperson cannot perform his/her duties. Where both the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are not available, the Members may designate any other Member to act as Chairperson.
6. Prior to every session, the Bureau shall meet at both the political and technical levels to agree on the programme of the sessions in consultation with the Secretariat.
7. The Bureau shall, in consultation with the Secretariat, convene the sessions of the African Governance Platform.
Rule 7:
FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT

The AGA Secretariat, in coordinating the day-to-day affairs of the African Governance Platform shall:

a. Collate, process and disseminate information amongst the Members;
b. Draft and process relevant documents as may be requested by the African Governance Platform;
c. Facilitate the meetings of the African Governance Platform and provide all necessary support required for such meetings including report-writing, preparation of press-releases, communiqués and declarations;
d. Provide technical support to the African Governance Platform Members and Clusters towards the execution of joint initiatives and programmes;
e. Develop and oversee the implementation of an AGA Knowledge Management Strategy that will provide a guiding framework for the initiation, generation, distillation and dissemination of knowledge products on democratic governance trends, challenges and prospects in Africa;
f. Keep proper records of the African Governance Platform which must be properly organized for easy reference;
g. Oversee the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies to ensure the mainstreaming of women, youth and civil society participation and representation in the decision-making processes of the African Governance Platform Members;
h. Facilitate the development of benchmarks and evaluation guidelines for State Parties’ reports pursuant to article 44, 45 and 49 of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
i. Develop and coordinate implementation of an African Governance Platform Communication Strategy, which shall facilitate regular and
effective communication and information exchange among Platform Members;
j. Facilitate the convening of the flagship Annual High Level Dialogue amongst African Governance Platform Members as well as interactions and engagements between Platform Members, African citizens and other stakeholders;
k. Disseminate the work of the African Governance Platform as may be required; and
l. Execute such other tasks as may be assigned to it by the African Governance Platform.

Rule 8:
SESSIONS

1. The African Governance Platform shall meet in ordinary and may meet in extra ordinary sessions subject to availability of funds.
2. The African Governance Platform may hold open or closed sessions depending on the issues under consideration.
3. The African Governance Platform may invite representatives of relevant stakeholders as observers to any discussion under consideration.
4. The African Governance Platform may at its discretion permit invited participants to make oral or submit written statements during its meetings.
Rule 9:

MEETINGS

1. The African Governance Platform shall meet at two (2) levels:
   a. The political level involving the elected or appointed officials of the Members; and
   b. The technical level involving representatives of the Members

2. At the technical level, the African Governance Platform shall meet at least twice a year.

3. At the political level, the African Governance Platform shall meet at least once a year.

4. Without prejudice to rule 10 (2) and (3) the African Governance Platform may, when necessary, convene extra ordinary sessions at the technical or the political level.

Rule 10:

VENUE

1. The sessions of the African Governance Platform shall be held at the Headquarters of the Union or at a venue to be determined by a Member that offers to host a session.

2. In the case where two or more Members offer to host, the Members shall decide the venue by simple majority.

3. Member States of the AU may offer to host a session of the African Governance Platform. Members may consider such requests in conformity with these Rules.
Rule 11:
QUORUM

The quorum for any meeting of the African Governance Platform shall be constituted by simple majority of its membership.

Rule 12:
PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The provisional agenda of the meetings of the African Governance Platform shall be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau.
2. Members may propose, to the Secretariat, items for inclusion in the provisional agenda of a meeting.
3. The provisional agenda for a meeting shall be communicated to all the Members by the Secretariat at least three (3) weeks before the meeting.
4. The provisional agenda may also be available to other relevant stakeholders of the African Governance Platform depending on the nature of the meeting.
Rule 13:
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. At the beginning of each session, the African Governance Platform shall adopt the agenda of the session.
2. Any additional agenda items shall be included in the agenda of the session if the majority of members present so decide.

Rule 14:
POINT OF ORDER

1. During deliberations on any item, a Member may raise a point of order. The Chairperson shall immediately decide on the point of order.
2. Where the ruling is challenged, the Chairperson shall submit it to the Members for a vote.
3. In raising a point of order, the Member shall not speak on the substance of the issue of the discussion.
Rule 15: PROPOSALS/SUBSTANTIVE MOTIONS/AMENDMENTS

1. Proposals, substantive motions and amendments shall normally be in writing and shall be put to the Members in the order in which the Chairperson receives them.
2. Parts of any proposals, motion or amendment may be voted on separately at the request of any Member, unless the original mover of the motion objects.
3. If the original mover of the motion objects, the objection shall be put to the vote as a procedural matter.

Rule 16: CLOSURE OF DEBATE

When a matter has been sufficiently discussed, a Member may move for the closure of debate on the matter under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one (1) Member may speak in favour of and another against the motion. The Chairperson shall immediately thereafter put the motion to a vote.
Rule 17:  
SUSPENSION OF DEBATE

During the discussion of any item, a Member may move for the suspension of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one (i) Member may speak in favour of and another against the motion. The Chairperson shall immediately thereafter put the motion to a vote.

Rule 18:  
ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

After an exhaustive deliberation of the agenda items, a Member may move for the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motion shall be permitted. The Chairperson shall immediately put such motion to a vote.
Rule 19:
ORDER OF PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Subject to Rule 15 (Point of Order), the following motions shall have precedence in the order listed below, over all other proposals or motions before the meeting:

a. Suspend the debate;
b. Adjourn the meeting;
c. Close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 20:
VOTE ON MOTIONS/PROPOSALS

1. Any motion or proposal by a Member shall be seconded before being put to vote.
2. A motion or proposal can at any time be withdrawn so long as vote has been taken with respect to it.
3. Where the motion or proposal has been seconded, the Member who has seconded it may require that it be put to the vote as his/ her motion or proposal with the same right of precedence as if the original mover had not withdrawn it.
Rule 21:

VOTE ON AMENDMENTS

1. A proposal shall be considered as an amendment to a text if it adds or removes from the text.
2. Where there is no consensus, the Chairperson shall put all amendments to a vote.

Rule 22:

CONSULTATIONS

The African Governance Platform may hold consultations with other relevant stakeholders as maybe needed for the discharge of its responsibilities.

Rule 23:

WORKING LANGUAGES

The working languages of the African Governance Platform shall be those of the Union.
Rule 24:
REPRESENTATION OF MEMBERS

Each Member shall be represented as follows:

a. by the Head of the Organ, Institution or Regional Economic Community or his/her accredited designate at the political level; and

b. by the Technical Head of the Organ, Institution or Regional Economic Community and/or duly designated focal person or staff at the Technical level.

Rule 25:
MAJORITY REQUIRED FOR DECISIONS AND VOTING RIGHTS

1. The African Governance Platform shall take its decisions by consensus, failing which decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of those present and voting. For purposes of this Rule, simple majority shall mean fifty percent plus one.

2. Abstentions by a Member shall not prevent the adoption of decisions by consensus.

3. Each Member shall have one (1) vote.

4. Where there is a tie in the votes, the Chairperson or any Member performing the functions of the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.
Rule 26: REPORTS OF MEETINGS

1. The African Governance Platform shall adopt its reports or minutes of meetings.
2. All reports and minutes of the African Governance Platform shall be kept by the Secretariat and circulated among Members depending on the nature of such reports and minutes.

Rule 27: COMMUNICATION

The African Governance Platform shall submit its recommendations to the policy organs of the Union through the Commission.

Rule 28: FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

1. Each Member shall be responsible for expenses relating to its participation in the African Governance Platform.
2. The operational costs related to the African Governance Platform will be borne by the Commission.
3. Members may contribute resources for the functioning of the African Governance Platform.
4. The Bureau shall engage in resource mobilisation in close consultation with the Secretariat.
5. The Bureau shall in consultation with Platform Members establish a Democracy and Governance Fund to support the activities of AGA in addition to the Democracy and the Electoral Fund.

Rule 29:

MAJORITY REQUIRED FOR DECISIONS AND VOTING RIGHTS

The African Governance Platform may propose amendments to these Rules to the Executive Council for consideration.

Rule 30:

PROVISIONAL ENTRY INTO FORCE

These Rules shall apply provisionally upon their adoption by the African Governance Platform.
Rule 31:
ENTRY INTO FORCE

These Rules shall apply provisionally upon their adoption by the African Governance Platform.

ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, ON 28 JANUARY 2016
Annex

GUIDELINES FOR STATE PARTIES’ REPORTS UNDER THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE
1. The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (Democracy Charter), which was adopted in 2007 by the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), sets out continental standards and norms on good governance and democracy in Africa.

The Democracy Charter draws inspiration from several AU Declarations, Charters and Instruments including the AU Constitutive Act, which asserts the eminence of democratic governance and provides for the imposition of sanctions in case of unconstitutional change of governments.

The Democracy Charter entered into force on 15 February 2012. State Parties are obliged to comply with the Charter obligations, which include reporting on the legislative, or other relevant measures taken with a view to giving effect to the principles and commitments of the Charter (Article 49).

2. The Democracy Charter contains eleven (11) Chapters and its main objectives are to reinforce AU Member States' commitments to democracy, rule of law, human rights, peace, and socio economic development. The provisions of the Democracy Charter establish minimum standards for ensuring, promoting and protecting democratic governance principles and practices.

The Democracy Charter is divided into six main thematic areas of focus:
   a. Democracy, rule of law and human rights;
   b. The culture of democracy and peace;
   c. Democratic institutions;
   d. Democratic elections;
   e. Sanctions in cases of unconstitutional change of government;
   f. Political, economic and social governance.
II. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

3. In order to translate the objectives of the various legal and the pronouncements on African Union Shared Values, the AU established the African Governance Architecture (AGA) as a framework for dialogue between the various stakeholders aimed at promoting good governance and democracy in Africa. The institutional framework of the AGA revolves around the African Governance Platform (the Platform) comprising AU Organs, Institutions and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) with

3 African Governance Architecture was established by a Decision of the Assembly/AU/Dec. 304 (XV) adopted by the 15th Ordinary AU Summit dedicating the theme of the 16th Ordinary AU Assembly to Shared Values of the African Union, and putting in place a Pan-African Architecture on Governance. The decision recalls Decision EX.CL/Dec. 525 (XVI) adopted by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and endorsed by the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in February 2010.
a formal mandate for the promotion and sustenance of democracy, good governance and human rights in Africa.

4. The role of the Platform is to facilitate harmonisation of instruments and coordination of initiatives on governance, democracy and human rights.

5. Articles 45(c) and 49 of the Democracy Charter obliges the AU Commission with members of the Platform to coordinate evaluation of compliance and implementation of the Charter by States Parties. Coordination of this function is undertaken by the AGA Secretariat based at the Department of Political Affairs for the AU Commission.

4 These institutions include those envisaged under article 45 of the Charter: AU Commission; Peace and Security Council; African Court of Human and Peoples Rights; African Commission on Human and People’s Rights; Pan-African Parliament; Economic, Social and Cultural Council; AU Advisory Board on Corruption; African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; African Union Commission on International Law; African Peer Review Mechanism; NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency; and Regional Economic Communities
III. STATE REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

6. By ratifying the Democracy Charter, State Parties undertake to submit every two years, from the date the Charter comes into force in respect of those State Parties, a report to the Commission on the legislative or other relevant measures taken with a view to giving effect to the principles and commitments of the Charter (Article 49(1)).

7. The obligation to submit State Parties’ reports is intended to facilitate evaluation on compliance and implementation of the Charter. The evaluation process of these reports shall take the shape of constructive and open dialogue between the African Union Organs, Institutions and RECs, State Parties and other national stakeholders.

8. State Reporting under the Charter provides State Parties with an opportunity to:
   a. Reaffirm their commitments to uphold the provisions of the Charter;
   b. Report on efforts undertaken to fulfil their obligations under the Democracy Charter;
   c. Measure progress towards the implementation of the Charter and assess the effectiveness of national mechanisms involved in the process;
   d. Identify obstacles and establish successful collaborative relationships with other State Parties, AU Organs, Institutions and RECs, and national stakeholders; and
   e. Identify challenges encountered in the fulfilment of their commitments in the Charter and develop home grown solutions.
9. The drafting and submission of State Parties’ reports shall not be a task for one or two national ministries/agencies. This is premised on the acknowledgment that democracy, human rights and good governance are cross-cutting issues, which concern several ministries, institutions/agencies and non-state actors. State parties shall establish a multi-stakeholder National Institutional Framework (Focal Point for the Democracy Charter) for the coordination of monitoring and reporting activities on the implementation of the Charter. The Focal Point shall be composed of relevant state and government ministries, institutions/agencies and non-state actors so as to ensure diversity, effective participation and inclusivity of all concerned.

10. Specifically, the Focal Point shall be the reporting mechanism for State Parties, which shall be charged with developing the State Party report as well as monitoring and following up the implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations of the Platform (AGP), following the consideration and adoption of State Parties’ reports by the AU.
IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STATE REPORTING GUIDELINES

11. The main objective of the State Reporting Guidelines is to provide a framework for State Parties to prepare and submit reports as envisaged under Article 49 of the Democracy Charter. These guidelines provide structure, scope and methodology for preparation, submission, review and follow up of implementation of concluding observations and recommendations that are made on the basis of the State Reports.

V. THE INITIAL REPORT

12. The State Party initial report shall determine the baseline conditions that will be used as a benchmark for the detailed review and assessment of the situation and performance of a given State Party over time. It shall provide an inaugural opportunity to State Parties to showcase the extent of their compliance with the Democracy Charter. The initial report must thus contain all the background information required in part A below. In addition, the implementation measures in part B must also be discussed with reference to the thematic areas highlighted in paragraph 2 above.
13. The background information shall include:

a. Information on the status of the Democracy Charter in the domestic legal order, answering the questions whether the Charter is directly applicable before domestic courts or it has been incorporated into domestic law? Furthermore, information should be provided on whether the Democracy Charter has been invoked before national courts, administrative authorities or in the political fora, citing clear examples.

b. A brief description of State institutions relevant to the Democracy Charter and information on their budgetary allocation.

c. A brief description of the operating environment of non-state actors in the State and existing regulatory frameworks.

d. Principal constitutional, legislative and other instruments relevant to the implementation of the Democracy Charter.

e. Information on the relevant international, continental and regional instruments ratified by the State Party, including information on any reservations and declarations made as well as status of reporting to the relevant Treaty obligations.

f. The consultation process followed by the State Party for the compilation of the Initial Report. This should include information

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on the participation by government Departments/Ministries, Election Management Bodies (EMBs), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and Non-governmental organisations (NGOs including women’s associations, youth organisations, minority groups, people with disabilities, the private sector and other relevant institutions and national stakeholders.

g. Information on measures undertaken by the State Party to ensure wide dissemination of the content of the Democracy Charter and its implementation.
B. Implementation Measures

13. The structure and content of this section shall be based on the thematic areas of the Democracy Charter (Chapters 4 - 9). States Parties shall provide specific details on the measures they have undertaken to give effect and implement the Charter as follows:

a. The Legislative measures that illustrate compliance with the Democracy Charter;
b. Administrative/Executive measures taken to bring national laws in conformity with the Democracy Charter, such as budgetary allocations to institutions;
c. Existing institutional mechanisms established or strengthened to give effect to the Democracy Charter;
d. Policies and programmes and/or other measures created or strengthened to give effect to the Democracy Charter, not covered by (a) to (b) above;
e. Disaggregated data, statistics and results on the implementation of the Democracy Charter such as political participation of women, provision of basic education, crime prevention and job creation;
f. Challenges experienced in the implementation of the Democracy Charter, attempts made to overcome these challenges and outcome thereof;
g. Gaps and opportunities for comparable lessons and experience sharing among States Parties;
h. Areas the State party may require technical support to facilitate effective implementation of the Charter.
VI. PERIODIC REPORTS

15. Periodic reports must be structured so as to follow the order of the articles of the Democracy Charter. Where there are no new developments in relation to a provision, this should be stated.

16. Each periodic report must include but not limited to the following:
   a. Measures taken to implement each recommendation of the concluding observations and recommendations made by the Platform following the consideration of the previous report.
   b. Measures taken to disseminate the concluding observations and recommendations following the consideration and adoption of the previous report by the Platform.
   c. Progress made in the implementation of the Democracy Charter since the last report.
      a. Challenges faced in the implementation of the Democracy Charter since the last report, and measures taken to address these challenges.
      b. Attachment of copies of any newly adopted or recently amended constitutional, legislative or administrative measures, as well as policies or programmes, since the consideration of the previous report.
      c. Information on the consultation process followed by the State Party for the compilation of the report. This should include information on the participation by government Departments/Ministries, Election Management Bodies (EMBs), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) including women’s associations, youth organisations, minority groups, people with disabilities, the private sector and other relevant institutions.
      d. Gaps and opportunities for comparable lessons and experience sharing among States Parties.
      e. Areas the State party may require technical support to facilitate effective implementation of the Charter.
VII. REPORT FORMAT

17. The information in State Parties’ reports shall be presented in a structured and concise manner. Even where complex situations are outlined, this shall not be excessively lengthy. Where possible, the initial report should not exceed 80 pages and periodic reports shall be no more than 40 pages.

18. The report shall be in A4 format, Arial, with a font size of 12 and a spacing of 1.5. Reports and supporting documentation should be made available in soft and hard copies.
VIII. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

19. States Parties shall submit together with their reports, including but not limited to the following supporting documents:
   a. The most recent reports to regional human rights institutions/mechanisms such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and APRM Country Review Reports.
   b. The most recent reports to international human rights treaty bodies/mechanisms such as: the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, Human Rights Committee and the Human Rights Council (Universal Periodic Review Process); and
   c. Any other relevant reports on issues related to the Democracy Charter

IX. REPORT SUBMISSION

20. Submission of the State Party report shall be done by a Competent National Authority empowered to do so.
21. A State Party shall submit it report to the Chairperson of the AU Commission, who will submit a copy of the same to the relevant organs of the AU for appropriate action within their mandate, including evaluation on implementation of the Charter.
22. There shall be a two year reporting cycle for State Parties as stipulated under Article 49 of the Democracy Charter.  
23. Upon receipt of the State Party’s reports, the Commission through the AGA Secretariat shall submit a copy to the relevant Organs of the Union for appropriate action within their respective mandates as stipulated under Article 49(2) of the Democracy Charter.  
24. The Platform, shall have three (3) months to review the reports and if need be notify the Commission on the need to call for additional/supplementary information or clarifications from a State Party or any other relevant stakeholder.  
25. In case of need for addition/supplementary information or clarifications, the Commission shall communicate to the State Party, which shall have at least three months to respond to such additional/supplementary requests.  
26. Upon satisfactory review of State Parties’ reports, the Platform shall convene a Pre-Session for African non-state actors, including civil society organisations that are members of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council from a State Party under review on selected specific elements of the report to promote inclusive participation of all relevant stakeholders in the state reporting and review process.
27. The Pre-Session shall precede a dialogue with State Party (Parties) under review that will be convened on the margins of the Platform’s Political Annual meeting. The dialogue shall provide a forum for an interactive and constructive review and discussion of the State Party’s report. The Platform may invite State Party (Parties) that is due for consideration or representatives of any relevant stakeholders to attend the dialogue. The Platform may at its discretion permit invited participants to make oral or submit written statements during the dialogue.

28. The AGA Secretariat shall prepare a list of issues or questions that will be communicated to the State Party under review in advance to enable the State Party to be prepared for the interactive and constructive dialogue on specific issues, while ensuring fairness and transparency.

29. Thereafter, the Platform will hold its annual meeting, which may be open or closed to among other things consider the State Party (Parties) reports and make concluding observations and recommendations.

30. The Annual Platform meeting will be convened as per the Platform Rules of Procedure.

31. Following the examination of the State report and interactive dialogue, a report containing the concluding observations and recommendations of the Platform shall be made to the State Party and relevant stakeholders.

32. The entire review process of each State Party report shall take no more than nine (9) months.

33. The Platform shall develop its rules and procedures for the process, procedures and methodology for review of the State Parties reports.
XI. MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION

34. The AGP shall engage State Parties and relevant stakeholders during the examination of the State report and subsequent dialogue to discuss practical matters for continued collaboration and if need be technical support for effective implementation of the Charter as envisaged under Article 45 (b).

35. The Commission shall prepare and submit to the Assembly, through the Executive Council, a synthesised report on the implementation of the Charter as envisaged in Article 49(3) of the Democracy Charter.

36. The synthesised report shall contain specific and concise recommendations to the Assembly and State Parties on measures necessary to effectively implement the Democracy Charter.

37. In accordance with article 44 paragraph B of the Democracy Charter, the Platform and RECs shall liaise with national focal points to coordinate, evaluate and monitor implementation of the Democracy Charter and ensure massive participation of stakeholders, particularly civil society organisations, in the process.

38. The Platform shall develop a follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations on State Parties reports.