



PRESS STATEMENT:

Addis Ababa, Monday, 29th July 2024

**Submission of Kenya's Candidature of
The Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga for the
Position of Chairperson Of The African
Union Commission, February 2025.**

1. Kenya has today, formally submitted the candidature of the Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga for the position of African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson at the elections to be held during the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Africa Union in Addis Ababa, in February 2025.

The submission was made by Dr. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs accompanied by Amb. George Orina, Kenya's Ambassador to Ethiopia and the African Union, and key members of the Secretariat, Professor Makau Mutua and Amb. Elkanah Odembo.

Pursuant to the Rules, the submission was made through the Dean of the Eastern Region, H.E. Raj Busgeeth, Ambassador of Mauritius, and to the Office of the Legal Counsel of the African Union.

2. Based on the principle of inter-regional rotation, it is the turn of the Eastern region to submit candidates for the role of Chairperson. Since the founding of the OAU in 1963 and its mutation to AU, no Kenyan has ever served as the Secretary General or Chairperson of the Organization.

3. Kenya's candidature comes at a critical moment in history. Despite the milestones achieved so far in the continent, Africa continues to experience economic distress, environmental challenges, conflicts, terrorism, and general social discord, exacerbated by geopolitical competition.

Perhaps at no time in the history of the African Union has the continent needed a more visionary leader, an accomplished statesman and a quintessential Pan-Africanist.

4. In this regard, Kenya has offered the Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga for the position of AUC Chairperson.

This decision is informed by Mr. Odinga's Pan-Africanist credentials, his suitability, his vast networks across Africa and his proven competence to lead AUC - Africa's premier continental organization.

He has served as Prime Minister and in various Ministerial portfolios and importantly as the High Representative of the AUC Chairperson on Infrastructure. He has observed several elections in Africa and has served as a peace mediator in several countries.

5. It is fact that Africa is endowed with vast human and natural resources that have yet to be fully harnessed for the benefit of its people. That is why the AU needs a catalytic and visionary leader to unlock this potential. The remarkable life and exemplary career experiences of the Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga make him a perfect fit to sit at the helm of the AUC to drive Africa's transformation and Agenda 2063.
6. **Mr. Odinga is an exceptional African.** He embodies high ethical standards and unparalleled integrity and well-honed diplomatic skills. He is an ardent champion of African unity, intra-African trade and

integration, and infrastructural connectivity. These qualities were in full display when he served as High Representative of the AUC Chairperson on Infrastructure.

7. His leadership is visionary, transformational, action-oriented, and shall accelerate the implementation of the aspirations, goals, and flagship programs of Agenda 2063.

Mr. Odinga's key focus and commitment is to harness Africa's rich and vast human and natural resources to propel Africa towards a new era of shared prosperity.

He envisions an African Union Commission that can deliver on the priorities of the African peoples - both by catalyzing delivery on our continent and by commanding the global influence it rightfully warrants.

8. Mr. Odinga has formulated priorities and strategies to address the most pressing challenges facing the continent including:
 - i. African Integration and Infrastructure Development
 - ii. Economic Transformation
 - iii. Enhancing Intra-African Trade
 - iv. Financial Independence
 - v. Gender Equity and Equality
 - vi. Agricultural Transformation
 - vii. Climate Action
 - viii. Peace and Security
 - ix. A Youth Empowerment Agenda for Africa

9. Kenya is a member in good standing within the AU and consistently meets its obligations to the Union.

In addition, Kenya is an exemplar of African solutions to African problems through its financial support to AU's initiatives, and leading role in peace, security and conflict

management in the continent including in mediation efforts.

10. Kenya seeks the support of all AU Member States and remains committed to continue playing its role at the regional, continental and multilateral levels in the pursuit of Africa's priorities and aspirations.

State Department for Foreign Affairs.