



The President
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

3rd March 2023

His Excellency Azali Assoumani
President of the Union of the Comoros and Chairperson of the African Union

Your Excellency,

The Institutional Reform of the African Union resulted in a number of changes to the conduct of African Union summits and to AU recruitment practices, to make them more effective, efficient, and transparent.

As the leader of that process, I wish to draw your attention to several anomalies that occurred during the recent Summit, which I believe require discussion at the next AU meeting.

First, the Assembly is a body of Heads of State and Government that handles strategic priorities. Leaders mandated to present topical reports are not timed, yet the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone was twice impeded from effectively delivering his two reports, leading to serious consternation. Later, while presenting an important update, the President of the Republic of Ghana was twice cut off and ultimately could not finish his statement.

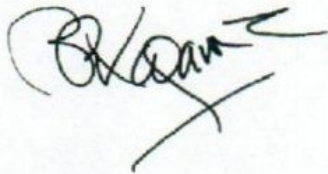
Second, no debate was allowed on the appointment of the Director General of Africa CDC, even though three member states had requested to speak. This was the only agenda item on which debate was forbidden. Moreover, the report given by the Legal Counsel on the deliberations of the Committee of Heads of State and Government on Africa CDC gave no explanation for why the first-ranked candidate, a woman, was not selected. More troubling, besides yourself, no Heads of State or Government took part in the Committee meeting, and delegated officials were mostly below ministerial level.

I also wish to inform you that Rwanda was excluded from participating in the 22nd Ordinary Summit of ECCAS held on 25 February 2023 in Kinshasa, DRC, on the instruction of the host country. This occurred despite formal written confirmation from the ECCAS Commission on 14 January 2023 that Rwanda, a full member state, would participate virtually. Explanations for this unacceptable violation of the ECCAS treaty have been sought.

Africa's institutions will not be taken seriously by our citizens or partners if we allow our business to be handled in this manner.

Excellence, thank you for your kind consideration of these important matters, and for your leadership of our Union.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. K. N. S.', written in a cursive style.

CC: African Union Heads of State and Government; Chairperson of the African Union Commission