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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
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**EX.CL/373 (XII)**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE VARIOUS STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIPS OF THE AFRICAN UNION WITH  
JAPAN (TICAD IV), CHINA, SOUTH AMERICA,  
INDIA AND TURKEY**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE VARIOUS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS OF THE  
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INDIA AND TURKEY**

1. Council will recall its Decision EX.CL/318 (X) on Africa's Strategic Partnership with Emerging Powers of the South that "request(ed) the Commission to deploy necessary efforts to develop a new type of partnership of a horizontal nature in order to maximize mutual benefits" and "to earmark resources in the budget, for the review, assessment and follow-up of Africa's Strategic Partnership with the Emerging Powers of the South". The Commission has faithfully implemented this directive in developing relations with emerging powers in different regions of the world, particularly the countries of South America as a follow-up to the Africa- South American Summit (ASA), India and Turkey.

**I. Follow-up on the Africa-South America Summit**

2. In its context, priority was given to developing relations with the countries of South America within the framework of the Africa-South America (ASA) Summit Declaration, Resolution and Plan of Action adopted in Abuja, Nigeria on 30 November 2006. These outcome documents established a Follow-up Mechanism comprising the current co-chairs and the incoming co-chair (Brazil, Nigeria, and Venezuela respectively), assisted by the AU Commission and the Secretariat of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) to ensure the implementation of the cooperation programme in the Plan of Action adopted by the leaders of the two continents. The Mechanism was specifically given the responsibility for "proposing new initiatives and undertaking actions on previously agreed programmes and projects, reviewing the progress of their implementation and disseminating information about cooperation arrangements". Since the Declaration also agreed that the Summit will be held every two years, with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela holding the next one in 2008, it was apparent that the agenda of the Follow-up Mechanism and work must be situated in the context of preparations for this 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit.

**The Caracas Meeting**

3. The first responsibility of the Commission in this regard was to support the activation of the Follow-up Mechanism by liaising with other members to ensure a start-up process. Accordingly, the first meeting of Coordinators in the Follow-up Mechanism was held in Caracas, Venezuela from 16-18 July 2007. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Brazil, Nigeria, Venezuela, the AU Commission and UNASUR, represented by Bolivia as the Organization's Secretariat Pro tempore. The AU Commission Chairperson and the Venezuelan Foreign Minister addressed both the opening and closing sessions of the Meeting. It discussed the general aspects of the Declaration and Plan of Action as well as steps towards their implementation. In this regard, the Bolivarian Republic had put forward proposals for a schedule of preparatory meetings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASA Summit as well as programmes and projects for implementation. These included proposals for establishing a Bank of the South, a University of the South, the creation of an Education Integration fund and the Network of the South, TV and Radio Stations, among others.

4. After reviewing the various proposals, the Coordinators meeting agreed on a schedule for meetings of Government Experts and Ministers in 7 core areas including energy, social issues, culture and tourism, multilateral issues, economy, particularly investment and finance, infrastructure and transportation and agriculture and environment. It was decided that consultations should be held within regions to reflect further on these proposals with a view to obtaining further inputs and mobilizing the population of both regions to support them. It was also agreed that the outputs of the consultations would be consolidated into a work programme at a subsequent meeting of the Coordinating Mechanism to be held in Nigeria in accordance with the principle of rotating meetings between the two regions endorsed by the Abuja Summit.

5. The meeting further agreed that the first meeting of the Governmental Experts will be held in Ethiopia while steps would be taken to accelerate consultations to facilitate the proposed Trade Ministers meeting in Rabat, Morocco. It was further proposed that the first meeting of High Officials of ASA should be held in Brasilia, Brazil in the last quarter of 2007. Agreement was also reached on the need to facilitate, streamline and strengthen the mechanism of coordination of the ASA Summit. The meeting also agreed on the need to prepare working documents for the Expert meetings and assigned Venezuela, Brazil and UNASUR to collate such documents for South America while Nigeria, and the African Union Commission would do the same for Africa. Proposals for Experts Meetings would also be submitted to various Member States with a view to obtaining offers that would assign hosting and other responsibilities to specific countries and regions.

### **Follow-up on the Caracas Meeting**

6. On return from the Caracas meeting, the Commission took several steps to facilitate the implementation of its outcomes. It disseminated the results of the meeting within the Commission and sought comments, evaluation, action and response. It also circulated it among Member States drawing attention to the regrouping of the various subjects covered by the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action, the proposals for sectoral meetings and the proposal of Venezuela and Brazil on specific and concrete projects. Member States were invited to indicate their desire to host expert group meetings with likely dates and venues. They were also required to put forward relevant proposals and to reflect on proposals arising from the Caracas meeting in order to assist with their finalization. The Commission also accelerated contacts and initiated consultations with Morocco with a view to the latter making concrete proposals to set a date for the meeting of Ministers of Trade in Morocco. In addition, it presented the report of the outcomes formally to the Sub-Committee of the PRC on Multilateral Affairs in Addis Ababa for its consideration and inputs and to further promote the wider involvement of all segments of the African Union in the strategic partnership arrangements.

### **Second Meeting of the Coordination Group**

7. The second meeting of the Coordinating Mechanism of Africa-South American was subsequently held at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria from 29-30

November 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress made since the Caracas meeting, particularly the follow-up activities in each region and to consider effective ways and means of moving the process forward.

8. The meeting reviewed the schedule of experts proposed during the Caracas meeting against the background of what had happened since then. It decided to revise the calendar of activities proposed in Caracas, to prioritize goals and actions and proposed methods for streamlining and enhancing the performance of the Coordination Mechanism. It also reflected on the Venezuelan, Brazilian, Nigerian and African Union proposals that were based on the consultations that had taken place in the interim and the need to make necessary arrangements for a Trade Ministers Meeting in Morocco.

### **Outcomes**

9. At the end of the deliberations, the meeting reached a number of important and significant conclusions. It endorsed Venezuela's proposal to set the dates for the Summit as detailed below:

- a) 25-26 November 2008 -Meeting of Senior Officials
- b) 27-28 November 2008 -Meeting of Ministers
- c) 29-30 November 2008 -Summit of Heads of States and Governments

10. In addition, the meeting revised the calendar of activities agreed upon in Caracas in a manner that will set priorities and allow for effective attainment of goals within a realistic time frame. Within this context, it set a new time frame for expert meetings and accepted Venezuela's proposal to hold a facilitation seminars in four thematic areas, namely, energy, finance, education and communication to provide technical input for experts meetings. The AU Commission was also requested to consult further with Morocco to facilitate the holding of Trade Ministers meeting in Rabat before the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2008.

11. The meeting also agreed to streamline and strengthen the Coordination Mechanism to ensure adequate preparation for the Summit. Thus, it recommended a "Secretariat Pro Tempore" (Rotational Secretariat) that would be hosted by the Country hosting the next Summit for the period of its Presidency. The Secretariat would work with the Coordinating Mechanism as established by the Abuja Declaration. Furthermore, the Abuja meeting recognized that there was a measure of support for the Venezuelan proposals on the University of the South, the Bank of the South and Radio/TV network of the South Telesur and recommended that feasibility studies be carried out by a small technical team to be appointed as soon as possible by the Coordinating Mechanism.

12. The Coordination Mechanism also recommended the initiation of symbolic activities to accelerate the momentum for cooperation including sporting, cultural and social exchanges which should start with an intercontinental football sporting tournament with a trophy before the next summit in 2008. It decided also to promote a series of cultural events and to promote institutional ties, social and cultural interlinkages through

the twinning of cities, joint scholarship programmes and research as well as students/teachers exchange between educational institutions in the two regions.

13. Other specific recommendations made by the Abuja meeting are as follows:

- i) the first Experts meeting should be held in Addis Ababa around March 2008 to discuss social issues. The AU Commission is required to consult on this and possible dates and inform all concerned.
- ii) The proposed ASA Ministerial Meeting on Energy may be held on the margins of the Meetings of Ministers of Energy of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico in March 2008. This could be preceded by an Expert Meeting between the African Energy Commission (AFREC) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) as agreed during the Caracas meeting of the Coordination.
- iii) Brazil should hold a Senior Officials meeting mid-2008 to consider the reports of the Experts' Meetings and to focus on the preparation for the 2008 Summit. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Coordination Meeting should be held on the eve of that meeting.

## **Conclusion**

14. In conclusion, after a delayed start, the implementation of the outcomes of the Africa-South America (ASA) Summit has begun in earnest and appears to be on track. Proposals for streamlining mechanisms, carrying out specific projects and programmes are in place. More significantly, the programme of cooperation is effectively situated in the context of preparations for the 2nd Summit in Venezuela and precise dates have been set and the regional actors have been assigned specific responsibilities. This shows that the framework of strategic partnership between the two regions has increased its momentum and promises to deliver on the hope and promise of the Abuja Summit. However, much remains to be done and there is a clear need to maintain the momentum and sustain timeframes and pace for calendar of activities that are agreed upon. It is equally necessary to provide quick wins in areas of impact to ensure that the people of both regions can reap the benefits of association. It is also important that Council should take note of the proposed dates for the Summit in Venezuela and decide on appropriate actions to be taken to ensure that the African Union is fully prepared for the meeting.

15. Council may wish to kindly note the various proposals and to give its approval for their implementation. This will require urgent action on the part of Member States to prepare for the various Experts' meetings, one of which could take place in Burkina Faso, which has offered to host one. Approval of the proposed dates for the next Summit in Venezuela is also required.

## **II. Africa-China Forum and Preparations for the Africa-India Summit**

16. A second axis of growing strategic partnership between the AU and other regions of the world has been focused on the Asian continent. The pace was set by the Summit of the Forum of Africa-China Cooperation held in Beijing, China from 4 to 5 November 2006 that developed a framework for concrete political and economic cooperation between Africa and China. This includes cooperation in the sphere of social development, including development assistance, debt relief and Human Resources Development. The programme for an Africa-India Partnership is a logical extension of this axis.

### **The First Phase**

17. The process began with the visit of the Chairperson of the AU Commission to India in December 2006. During the course of the visit, he held discussions with the Indian Prime Minister and both agreed that an Africa- India Partnership Summit should take place in New Delhi, India, at a date to be agreed upon in the near future. The two leaders also agreed to set up a joint task force to prepare the Forum. In this context, the AU Commission undertook to prepare a terms of reference (TOR) for the Task force and the framework of the Forum.

18. The first preparatory meeting of the Task force took place in New Delhi, India, from 13-16 March 2007. The AU Commission duly presented its terms of reference and the Indian side accepted its basic elements and substance. The Commission proposed a three-layer structure for the Summit that would include the Summit, Ministerial meeting and a meeting of Senior Officials. There was also agreement to consult further on precise dates for the Summit and to mobilize designated leaders to attend once the date is fixed.

19. The Indian side also accepted the proposal of the African side that the structure of the Summit would conform to the Decision of the Assembly in Banjul (Assembly/AU/3(VII)) and should thus include only the current Chairperson of the AU, the Chairperson of the Commission, Chairpersons of the eight (8) recognized Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Chairperson of the NEPAD HSiGC and the five (5) NEPAD initiating countries on the African side. Both sides further agreed that there would be a two fold outcome, namely, a Declaration and Plan of Action and that the Forum should alternate between India and Africa at intervals to be further decided by the political leadership. The African Union Commission also indicated that it would have to work closely with the PRC Sub-Committee of Multilateral Cooperation in line with the established tradition of the AU. Arrangements were also made for a 2nd follow-up preparatory meeting.

20. In addition, both sides agreed that the AU-India partnership must be conceived in a way that would add value to the existing network of partnership. Thus it would only concentrate on areas of comparative advantage. Four sectoral working groups were identified for this purpose as follows:

- a) Agriculture
- b) Infrastructure, Energy, Trade, Industry, SMEs and Finance
- c) Education and ICT
- d) Governance, Civil/Military Relations and Peacekeeping.

It was also agreed that while other areas beyond this could be reflected in the Declaration, the above could be the primary areas of reference.

21. Following this meeting, the Commission's delegation met with Ambassadors and Heads of African missions in New Delhi to brief them on the framework of the proposed cooperation and solicit their inputs and participation in the process. They expressed a desire to work closely with the Commission and offered to participate in the next follow-up meeting scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa.

### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Meeting**

22. As part of the process of preparing for the follow-up meeting, the AU Commission prepared a Draft Declaration and Plan of Action. This was the main subject of discussion with the India delegation from 23-24 May 2007 in Addis Ababa. Before the meeting, the Commission met with the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation to discuss the Draft Declaration, solicit inputs and amendments and arrive at a consensus on what should be presented to the Indian delegation. Thus, the draft documents discussed with India contained the input and views from Member States.

23. Furthermore, the Indian delegation met a joint AU delegation made up of the PRC Sub-Committee and the Commission. This meeting was co-chaired by the former Chair of the Sub-Committee and the Director-General for Africa in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs who led the Indian delegation. The Indian delegation also came with a revised draft based on the initial African Commission paper. The two drafts were broadly similar in content as they were both based on the outcomes of the first preparatory meeting in Delhi. At the end of discussion, the two sides agreed on an harmonized Draft Declaration that reflected and updated the conclusions of its preparatory meeting on the format and organizational aspects of the Summit and broadened the scope and depth of areas of cooperation.

24. In addition to the framework of Bilateral Summit agreed upon in Banjul, the meeting proposed that while at the Ministerial level participation of Member States of the Union would be restricted to Ministers of Heads of States and Government participating in the Summit itself, all Member States of the Union could participate in the Senior Officials meeting. Moreover, a proposal was made to include the immediate past Chairperson of the Union in such Summits to promote continuity but this decision has to be endorsed by Council and Assembly of the Union because it was not contained in the Banjul Decision.

25. Subsequently, the Commission provided briefings to the Multi-lateral Cooperation and made available the draft documents as, so far, amended during the meeting with

India. Member States had undertaken to forward the documents to their home governments with a view to obtaining their views. These views are still being awaited.

26. On 10th October 2007, the Commission received a proposal from India suggesting that the Summit should take place on 8 April 2008. The Chair of the Union was informed of this proposal. It is expected that the officials and ministerial meetings will take place before the Summit which the participating Heads of State and Government will arrive in New Delhi on 7 April 2008.

27. The Commission perceives an Africa-India partnership as a useful and important step in cementing relations with emerging powers, ensuring sustained and mutually beneficial inter-continental dialogue and cooperation, with emphasis on balancing the scope of the Union's global relationships and adding value to what already exists. There is still additional work to be done as the draft Declaration and Plan of Action are yet to be concluded. For this purpose the delegation from India could be expected in Addis Ababa sometime in the first quarter of the year for a final working session. In the meantime, Council may wish to give approval to the date proposed by India for the Summit on 8 April 2008.

### **III. Africa-Turkey Forum**

28. This process began with the visit of the Chairperson of the Commission to Turkey in 2005 and the subsequent visit of the Turkish Prime Minister to the African Union Commission in January 2007, where he delivered an important address to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. The momentum created at the Summit set the pace for acceleration of the process of developing stronger and a closer relationship between Africa and Turkey based on the framework of growing and existing relationships.

29. Accordingly, on 4 June 2007, an African Union team received a Turkish delegation of three, led by the Director General for Bilateral Political Affairs in the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to discuss the proposed Africa-Turkey Cooperation Forum. The African side included the then Chairperson of the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Affairs. The discussion focused, among others, on the objective of an Africa-Turkey Forum/Summit as a vehicle for enhancement of existing partnerships and consolidation of bilateral cooperation between Turkey and Member States of the AU.

30. The meeting also discussed the issue of structure or layer of the proposed Summit. The AU team indicated that participation on the African side would be governed by the Banjul Decision, with the same proposal for slight enlargement of the kind proposed for the Africa-India Summit. The meeting also examined possible dates for the Summit and agreed that the AU Commission should send a team of 8-10 Officials to undertake a working visit to Istanbul to further engage in discussions and come up with concrete and specific ideas for cooperation. The meeting deliberated on key sectors or areas for cooperation and that the outcomes document should include both a Declaration and Plan of Action. As with the Africa-India proposal, it was also agreed that emphasis would be on areas of comparative advantage that enhance and consolidate



existing relationships. New dimensions would be added where they add substantial value to what exists.

31. The proposed preparatory meeting was delayed by political upheavals and tensions in Turkey and the busy schedule of Members of the Sub-Committee and the Commission. However, on 17 December 2007 an AU delegation proceeded to Turkey on the invitation from the Turkish Government to discuss arrangements for a Summit. The delegation consisted of Members of the Bureau of the Multilateral Cooperation Sub-Committee and the Commission.

32. Just prior to this, on 27 November 2007, Turkey wrote to the Commission to indicate that, because of difficulties in securing appropriate facilities, it had made reservations for conference facilities and hotel accommodation between 18 and 27 August 2008 in Istanbul for the Summit. It requested that any three-day period could be chosen for the Summit within this period, and appealed that an early decision be taken on this in order for the reservations to be confirmed.

33. From the discussions that took place in June between the AU and Turkey and within the Multilateral Cooperation Sub-Committee when it was briefed by the Commission in 2007, it was agreed that the partnership with Turkey has to be focused and limited to specific areas where Turkey has particular strengths and could fill gaps not covered by other partnerships. The partnership with the country therefore had to take due note of Africa's partnerships with other regions and nations. The AU delegation that went to Ankara and Istanbul carried this message to Turkey and reflected it in its discussions with the Turkish authorities.

34. From the discussions between the AU and Turkey, the visits organized by Turkey for the AU Team that visited Turkey as indicated above, and the exchange of views the delegation had with African Heads of Mission as Ankara, it is recommended that the partnership with Turkey should focus on the following areas:

- i) Infrastructure and Energy Network in Africa;
- ii) Transportation – especially development of inland water ways and ports;
- iii) Industrialization, especially in the area of textile and transfer of Turkish technology and small scale industry;
- iv) Education and health – including e-education, support for Nyerere scholarship programme of the AU and tele-medicine;
- v) Peace and Security, particularly peace support operations, post-conflict reconstruction and development and the fight against terrorism;
- vi) Construction where Turkey has huge expertise;
- vii) Tourism – (between January and November 2007, Turkey received some 22 million tourists);
- viii) Co-operation in international fora, especially WTO negotiations, UN Security and Bretton Woods Institutions reforms;
- ix) Agricultural development; and
- x) Technical assistance to AUC and AU Institutions.

35. The AU team and Turkey also agreed that the format of the Summit should follow those with other partners but the AU delegation could only note the request from Turkey

that the first Africa – Turkey Summit should involve all African leaders. Council will need to consider this request bearing in mind the rationale for the Assembly decision to limit African leaders presence at single – nation partnership summits; the fact that India has accepted that format and the all inclusive nature of the preparatory process since all Member States are to be involved in it.

36. Finally, it is to be emphasized that additional preparatory work remains to be done and in this respect, Turkey has indicated its preparedness to send a team of officials to Addis Ababa after the January/February Summit, to further discuss the outcome Documents with the AU. In the meantime, it is necessary for a decision to be taken with respect to the proposals above, especially, the exact date the Summit could take place between 18-27 August 2008. The Commission considers that there is a great deal that could be gained with a partnership with Turkey and recommends that the African Union engages with it (Turkey).

## **Conclusions**

37. The framework of Africa's emerging partnership with other regions of the world provides both opportunities and challenges. The challenges are obvious. There is need to weave the pattern and tapestry of relationships in a congruent and coherent manner that will allow for a principle of complementarity and subsidiarity. This has two broad implications. The Union's growing relationship with countries of the South must fill the necessary gaps in our relations with the North. It must be a relationship of mutuality, cross-advantage and a tool for economic, political and social development. It must also add significant value to what already exists in our Member States within the African sub-regions the continent.

38. Fortunately, the approach of the Commission working in close concert with the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral cooperation, has been to stress both the ideological interest of solidarity and common purpose and the need for mutual benefits as a platform for sustained interaction that would significantly improve the lives of the people of Africa and elsewhere. Specifically therefore, the framework of relationship, particularly in bilateral engagement, is focused on enabling comparative advantage to ensure that developing economies can support and add to each other.

39. Finally, a major significant effect of this growing network of relationships is that it has raised the profile, vision and image of the African Union in a manner that gives it high international credibility and standing. This has continued to attract the main crop of global decision-makers to interact with it meaningfully and also visit its Headquarters in Addis Ababa to seek meaningful solutions to problems affecting African the global international community. The consequence is that the Union has become a pole of influence in international circles, with credible impact and is certainly the prime actor on subjects and issues of Africa and others that affect the continent.

## **The Regional Preparatory Meetings of TICAD IV**

The fourth TICAD Conference will be held in Yokohama, Japan, in May 2008, preceding the G-8 Summit also in Japan in July 2008. The Conference will address issues on the following priority areas of African development, namely, accelerating economic growth; ensuring human security, including the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the consolidation of peace and democratization; and addressing environmental and climate change.

In preparation for the Conference, Japan and the co-organizers convened an Expanded Committee Meeting in New York on 2 and 3 October 2007, which was followed by preparatory meetings in Lusaka, Zambia, on 30 and 31 October 2007 for Eastern and Southern African and in Tunis, Tunisia, on 21 and 22 November 2007 for Western, Northern, and Central Africa. The purpose of the meetings were as follows:

1. to hear in particular from the regional participants concrete issues, including their challenges and concerns, as well as their own actions, which are related to the priorities and areas of cooperation of TICAD IV (accelerating economic growth, ensuring human security, including achieving the MDGs, consolidation of peace and democratization, addressing environmental issues and climate change) and which are of particular relevance to their countries and/or regions;
2. to explain from the co-organizers point of view, the state of preparations for TICAD IV, such as the schedule, draft agenda, logistical matters, and other practicalities;
3. to explain from the Japanese side the possible areas of cooperation which may be announced at the TICAD IV conference in Japan; and
4. to hear from the various international organizations the initiatives they are likewise considering for Africa.

## **Proceedings**

In his opening remarks, the Japanese ambassador for TICAD, Ambassador Odano, expressed sincere thanks to the governments of Zambia and Tunisia, for hosting the preparatory process of TICAD IV. He stated that Japan started the TICAD process in 1991 when development assistance to Africa was declining following the end of the Cold War. He said that the TICAD process has significantly contributed to the mobilization of the international community in support of African development.

Ambassador Odano pointed that the first TICAD Conference was organized in 1993 in Tokyo to promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and development partners. He noted that it has since evolved into a major global framework that facilitates the implementation of initiatives for promoting African development under the principle of Africa's "ownership and partnership" between Africa and the international community.

He further mentioned that since the first Meeting in 1993, TICAD has been recognized as a unique policy forum that discuss the future of African development for the African

people. However, he stressed that TICAD is not a pledging forum, but a policy dialogue forum where African development is discussed. He acknowledged the awareness among African people of their development initiatives through the African Union, NEPAD, the African Development Bank, and regional Economic Communities.

The ambassador pointed that preparations for TICAD IV have already started in Tokyo in early 2007. He noted that Japan has held series of discussions and consultations with the African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo. He called on representatives of the African countries to contribute to the process by voicing out their challenges, actions and concerns on their development drive.

Finally, he added that since the TICAD IV Conference in May 2008 will be followed by the G-8 Summit in July, Japan will use that opportunity to convey the African voices to the G-8 leaders during Summit. In conclusion, ambassador Odano announced that the TICAD IV Ministerial Conference will be convened prior to the Conference in Gabon in March 2008.

### **Break-out Sessions**

The opening ceremonies were followed by general discussions on the TICAD process, and representatives of member states highlighted their views and expectations from the meetings. The AU Commission was represented in both the Expanded Committee and the Regional Preparatory Meetings. A member of the AU delegation pointed during the meeting to the need for the involvement of the Commission into the TICAD process as co-organizer. He argued that the TICAD process could benefit African countries more if the Japanese government and the co-organizers could apply the multilateral rather than the bilateral approach. He also stated that since the Commission is working on harmonizing all policies relating to African development, its involvement into the process is a great necessity. Ambassador Odano noted the concern raised by the AU delegation and promised to convey the message to Japan. The meetings concluded with the following recommendations on the four priority areas of TICAD IV.

### **A. Acceleration of Economic Growth**

#### ***(i). Infrastructure***

- Promote regional power projects to increase the availability and lower cost of energy.
- Support the expansion of road and rail corridors, networks and air links throughout the continent, especially to link landlocked countries.
- Provide and mobilize financial support for existing transport plans and infrastructural development.

#### ***(ii). Trade and Investment***

- Provide assistance to countries so that they could develop their capacities to meet international standards for exports.
- Reduce non-tariff barriers that affect African exporters.

- Provide assistance to microfinance and micro-insurance schemes, and support the exchange of experiences, success stories and trainings within Africa and between Africa and Asia.

***(iii). Agriculture***

- Provide assistance to help agricultural producers move up the value chain and engage in agri-business and agricultural processing.
- Support mechanized agriculture, and focus on the provision of improved technologies and seeds to enhance land quality and increased agricultural productivity.
- Support the expansion of NERICA production and build on Japan's experience in assisting Asian countries to develop agricultural crops.
- Provide support to the CAADP under the auspices of NEPAD.

**B. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals**

***(i). Education***

- Provide support for science and technological development in Africa.
- Provide support for the exchange of scholars within Africa and between African countries and Japan.
- Increase financial assistance to the educational sector including primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational training.

***(ii). Health***

- Provide support for research in tropical diseases and medicine.
- Support national health systems to apply more horizontal approach to reach a wider population.
- Reproductive health should be more integrated into the TICAD process.

**C. Consolidation of Peace and Democratization**

***(i). Consolidation of Peace***

- Provide support to institutions, programs and processes dedicated to the control of small arms and light weapons.
- Provide capacity building on conflict prevention, management and resolution as well as post conflict reconstruction, including support to training capacity of peacekeeping forces.
- Provide support to peace building programs in Africa.

***(ii). Governance***

- Provide support to human resource development and institution building for executive, legislature and judiciary branches of governance.
- Support the building of capacity of national institutions to address corruption in the governing process.

- Encouraging donors to provide funding for the preparation and dissemination of best practices resulting from country peer reviews.

#### **D. Addressing Environmental Issues and Climate Change**

##### ***(i). Adaptation and Mitigation***

- Support the implementation of NEPAD Environmental Action Plan, especially through capacity building.
- Promote tree planting including windbreaks against desertification.
- Provide support for renewable and alternative sources of energy with the appropriate technology.
- Enhance access to technology to combat environmental degradation, e.g. reforestation, agro-forestry, and sustainable land use.

##### ***(ii). Energy Access***

- Support the establishment of mini and micro hydropower systems.
- Increase renewable energy sources on the continent, e.g. solar, wind, and biomass energy.
- Strengthening cooperation with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to promote regional integration efforts in the energy sector.

**EX.CL/373 (XII) – a**

## **THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS OF TICAD IV**

2008

# Progress report on the various strategic partnerships of the African union with Japan (TICAD IV), China, South America, India and turkey

African Union

African Union

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