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**REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE ACTIVITIES  
ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION**

## REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE ACTIVITIES ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

### INTRODUCTION

1. During the period under review the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation and the Commission worked in close collaboration with an objective to enhance the Strategic Partnerships Africa has entered into with other countries and continents. In this regard, they carried out substantive reflection on how to improve on the coordination of the African side to make it more effective and yield benefits from all Partnerships for the betterment of the living conditions of the African people.

2. It is against this background that preparations for different meetings with partners or Summits/Forums listed below were undertaken. Draft working documents such as Declarations and Action Plans received from Partners were reviewed and amended for them to capture African concerns in keeping with the principle of mutual benefit. Meetings with Partners at the AUC Headquarters were also jointly prepared. Furthermore the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation used to convene meetings in order to sort out pending issues or provide clarifications and guidance in connection with the preparations of various Summits.

3. This report aims at shedding light on the preparatory processes and results of the Partnerships referred to below. In its last part, some indications will be mentioned as proposals for the way forward in the area of implementation.

#### A. Africa-Arab Cooperation

4. The Multilateral Committee was represented through its Chair at the First Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Africa-Arab Partnership, which was held at the Headquarters of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa on 5 November 2012.

5. The First Meeting of the Coordination Committee was called on the basis of the recommendation of the Tripartite Brainstorming Session, held in Cairo, Egypt on 4 October 2012, to consider issues related to the preparation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-Arab Summit, planned to be held in Kuwait in November 2013. The Coordination Committee was established by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-Arab Summit held in Libya in October 2010 as one of the implementation and follow up mechanisms of the Africa-Arab Partnership Strategy. The Committee was requested by the Brainstorming meeting to guide and follow up preparations for the Summit in addition to its original mandate.

6. At the First meeting, the Coordination Committee discussed theme, dates, focus areas, structure, working documents and other matters related to the organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-Arab Summit. The Committee referred some of these issues for further consultation between the African Union, League of Arab States and the State of Kuwait.

7. The Committee also considered the Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on African-Arab Cooperation on Migration held at the Headquarters of the African

Union Commission on 4 November 2012. The Working Group considered and endorsed the Draft Terms of Reference of the Africa-Arab Technical and Coordination Committee on Migration and discussed issues related to the establishment of the Africa-Arab Center on Migration.

8. The Sub-Committee has stressed the importance of this Partnership based on longstanding historical and geographical relationships and common developmental goals and the need to concretise the intended activities. Concern has been raised that there has been no active project implementation within this Partnership since the holding of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-Arab Summit in 2010.

## **B. TICAD V**

9. The Working Group of the Sub-Committee held three meetings to consider the Draft Yokohama Declaration and Action Plan of TICAD-V. At these meetings the Working Group examined the two draft documents in detail and revised the content and the format. The revised drafts were endorsed by the Sub-Committee as the African version of the Yokohama Declaration and Action Plan of TICAD-V.

10. The Yokohama Declaration and the Plan of Action, focus on areas such as trade and investment, tourism, private sector development, infrastructure and energy, science and technology, education, health, agriculture and food security, water and sanitation, gender, peace and security and disaster risk reduction. The documents also propose more coherent implementation and follow up mechanisms.

11. Both the zero draft document crafted by the Japanese side and the African revised version were presented to the TICAD-V High Level Officials meeting, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 15 to 17 November 2012.

12. As proposed by the African side, a joint Drafting Committee composed of the Co-organizers of TICAD-V namely the Government of Japan, the African Union Commission, World Bank, UNDP and UNOSSA has been established to craft the first draft of Yokohama Declaration, Action Plan and Implementation Matrix. The Drafting Committee will meet in early February 2013 in Tokyo. The documents will be validated by a Senior Officials meeting (to be held on 15 March 2012) before the TICAD-V Ministerial Meeting which will take place in Addis Ababa on 16 and 17 March 2013. The documents will finally be endorsed by the TICADV Summit to be held in Yokohama, Japan on 1-3 June 2013.

## **C. Africa-South America (ASA)**

13. Although the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASA Summit was initially scheduled to take place in May 2012 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, it could not be held due to the South American side indicating that the dates were inconvenient for South American Heads of State and Government. However, the Sub-Committee kept on tract preparatory activities.

**14.** Accordingly a meeting, co-chaired by H.E. The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Coordinator for the African side and H.E. the Ambassador of Brazil, Coordinator of the South American side, was held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at the Office of the Chairperson. During this meeting an agreement was reached that preparatory meetings should take place as early as possible. Accordingly, it was proposed that an ASA Coordination Mechanism Meeting should be held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York in September 2012.

**15.** In the interim, the Chairperson of the Subcommittee proposed that the ASA Coordination Mechanism and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Financing of ASA activities take place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, for one day between 5 and 7 September 2012. It should be noted that these two meetings were not held. The Subcommittee has raised its concerns, since September 2012, regarding the fact that the Executive Secretary of the ASA Secretariat has not complied with the Ministerial decision that he should convene a meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Financing of ASA Activities.

**16.** Following the above decision, an ASA Coordination Mechanism meeting, which brought together both the Africa and South American sides, was held on the margins of the UN General Assembly, in New York, USA, in September 2012.

**17.** The New York meeting considered issues related to the preparations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASA Summit, including the proposed dates; Documentation and Ad Hoc –Working Group on ASA Financing Mechanism. As for the dates for the Summit, the meeting reached an agreement on an alternative date, which was the second half of February 2013. The meeting further agreed that the two regional blocs should consult on the alternative date and conclude the process in two weeks' time from the date of the meeting and convey the conclusions to each side as soon as possible. With regard to the documentation, the meeting observed that considerable work had been done on the expected outcome documents of the Summit and agreed that it should be finalized once the dates for the Summit had been mutually agreed upon.

**18.** Subsequently, the Government of Equatorial Guinea has forwarded a Note to all AU Member States that the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASA Summit will be held from 20 to 23 February 2013 in Malabo.

**19.** It should be recalled that a Cultural Exhibition and a Trade, Investment and Tourism Forum, coordinated by Senegal and the Kingdom of Morocco respectively, are planned to take place as side events, on the margins of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASA.

**20.** The Sub-Committee has raised its concerns regarding the holding of the ASA Summit in February 2013 – especially taking into consideration that there has been no real developments (in terms of concrete implementation of the Partnership) since the Summit was initially scheduled to take place in May 2012. In addition, the Subcommittee has expressed the wish for a deeper reflection on the utility and intended benefits of this Partnership to be undertaken. Subcommittee concerns raised have focussed on the inactivity of the already set up ASA structures (Presidential Strategic

Committee and Secretariat). The Sub-Committee has called for an urgent meeting with the South American counterparts in order to craft a way forward regarding the holding of the ASA Summit in 2013.

#### **D. AU- EU**

**21.** In the context of the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, the fourteenth meeting of the Africa-EU Joint Task Force (JTF) was held from 8-9 March 2012 in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting was attended by the AU rotating Presidency represented by His Excellency the Ambassador of Benin, European and African co-chairs of the Joint Expert Groups (JEGs), the European and the Pan-African Parliaments, Civil Society from both continents, Senior Officials of the two Commissions and the European External Action Service (EEAS), as well as representatives from the Member States, the African Regional Economic Communities, the African Development Bank and the European Investment Bank.

**22.** The meeting reaffirmed the JAES as the overarching framework of cooperation between the two continents and agreed that the implementation of the JAES Action Plan in the eight thematic partnerships had not yet met expectations. Both sides also agreed that more work needed to be done in order to realize the full potential of the JAES, taking into consideration the next Africa-EU Summit scheduled for 2013. The 14th Joint Task Force meeting provided the opportunity to pursue further efforts so that the Partnership becomes even more dynamic and efficient in achieving commonly defined objectives.

**23.** In this connection, it is pertinent to point out that the participants exchanged views on the possible review and improvement of the current JAES architecture and the contents of the partnership, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of the Joint Expert Groups' efficiency. In this regard, the Sub-Committee has also decided that, on the African side, the time was ripe for a review of the composition of all the current African-Co Chairs of the JEGs so as to make the representation more geographically spread amongst the five regions. Furthermore, the Sub-Committee is of the view that a de-briefing should be given to the Sub-Committee/PRC on an update of the activities of the various JEGs during 2012.

**24.** The Joint Task Force Meeting (March 2012) was also updated on the financing avenues being considered by the EU to support the JAES more effectively, particularly the proposal for a Pan-African Programme in the new Development and Cooperation Instrument (DCI) for the next Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF). The Sub-Committee is of the view that a de-briefing should be given to the African side on an update on the financing mechanisms in place to further concretise this Partnership.

**25.** Reports of the break-out sessions between the two sides on the state of play of the implementation of the thematic partnerships were later submitted to a plenary session. The progress made was welcomed and the JEGs were called upon to focus on the prioritisation of activities aimed at achieving concrete outcomes.

26. The next Africa-EU Joint Task Force meeting which was scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa in the last quarter of 2012, has been postponed.

27. The Sub-Committee expressed its concern that the coordination of the Africa-EU Partnership is still not being done by Africa's Strategic Partnerships Unit, in the Bureau of the Chairperson. In order to ensure a common and coordinated approach to all partnerships, there is a call by the Sub-Committee, for this partnership (like all other partnerships) to be coordinated by the Africa's Strategic Partnerships Unit.

## **E. Africa-China**

28. Within the framework of the preparations for the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on Africa-China Cooperation (FOCAC), the Chinese side forwarded draft working documents (Declaration and Action Plan) to the African side. The Sub-Committee, in close collaboration with the Commission, reviewed these draft documents until an agreement was reached.

29. The 5th FOCAC was held on 19-20 July 2012 in Beijing, China, , under the theme "*Build on Past Achievements and open up New Prospects for new Type of China-Africa Strategic Partnership*". The Ministerial Conference reviewed the status of implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> FOCAC Action Plan 2010-2012, adopted in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in 2009. It also adopted the Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action 2013-2015.

30. In adopting the Plan of Action, the two sides committed themselves to develop cooperation in various domains such as Peace and Security, Agriculture and Food security, Investment and Enterprise Cooperation, Infrastructure, Trade, Finance and Banking, Energy and Resources, Information and Communication, Transportation, Tourism, Human Resource Development, Poverty Reduction, Medical Care and Public health, Climate Change and Environmental Protection, Culture and Education. They also agreed to intensify institutional cooperation between China and the African Union and Sub-Regional Organizations in Africa. Furthermore, China confirmed its commitment to provide a 20 billion dollars line of credit to African countries to assist them to develop their infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing and small and medium-sized enterprises. The Sub-Committee was of the view that the Chinese Government needs to explain how African countries can access the above-mentioned line of credit i.e. will the funds be accessible via bilateral relations or through the multilateral framework of FOCAC?

31. The Sub-Committee in collaboration with the Commission, Member States and Regional Economic Communities should, therefore, make every effort to ensure that all the necessary requirements are met for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action 2013-2015. The Sub-Committee, through the Commission, should work to secure its rightful place in the FOCAC process and enhance cooperation. The follow up mechanism should also be strengthened and expanded to include the PRC Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation and the African Diplomatic Corps based in Beijing.

## **F. Africa-South Korea**

**32.** The Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation and the Commission worked together in preparation for the Third Africa-Korea Forum, which was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 16 and 17 October 2012. The Third Africa-Korea Forum was held at both Senior Official and Ministerial levels in keeping with the Banjul Formula. In addition, H.E. Michael Chilufya SATA, President of the Republic of Zambia, was invited by Korea as a guest of honour.

**33.** The Forum adopted the Seoul Declaration and the Action Plan 2013-2015. The main outcomes of the Forum, as contained in the Action Plan, dealt with the following areas: Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development, Developing Human Resources, Agriculture and Development, Public Health Service, Assistance in the Public Administration, Green Growth and Climate Change, Trade and Investment, Peace and Security, Regional and International Cooperation and Cross Cutting Cooperation.

**34.** Both sides agreed to jointly craft an implementation Matrix within the first three months following the closure of the meeting. The Sub-Committee has stressed the importance of the finalisation of the Implementation Matrix - by both the AU Commission and the Government of the Republic of Korea - by January 2013.

## **G. Africa-Turkey**

**35.** In accordance with the outcomes of the First Africa-Ministerial Review Conference held in Istanbul in December 2011, the Chairperson of the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation convened a meeting of the members of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee, the Commission and the Ambassador of Turkey, H.E. Ygur Kenan IPEK on 5 July 2012 at the Office of the Chairperson of the Commission.

**36.** During the meeting the Turkish Ambassador announced that the Government of Turkey has already endorsed six priority projects under the framework of the Joint implementation Plan of Africa-Turkey Partnership 2010-2014 in the areas of Trade and Investment, Agriculture, Agribusiness, Rural development, Water resource Management, SME's, Peace and Security, Culture, Tourism and Education. The remaining ten projects are still under consideration by the Turkish Government. The Sub-Committee has raised its concerns as to how the already approved projects will be financed. Therefore, there is a call for a concrete, implementable financial Road Map to be put in place in order to effectively concretise the Partnership.

**37.** The Sub-Committee has also expressed concern as to the delays in starting the implementation of the already agreed-upon projects. In this regard, the AUC Departments are urged to provide the necessary information to the Government of Turkey.

**38.** The meeting further considered the dates and venues of the forthcoming Senior Official Meeting (SOM) and the next Africa-Turkey Summit scheduled to take place in

2013. Although the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-Turkey Summit has to be held in Africa in line with the principle of rotation, the Turkish side is requesting, on specific reasons, that the African side exceptionally considers convening the Summit in Turkey. Based on the request by the Turkish Government, the PRC may wish to further deliberate on this matter.

39. Furthermore, the Sub-Committee is also of the view that key deliverables and outcomes for the Summit should be identified.

#### **H. Africa-India Forum**

40. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-India Forum Summit took place in Addis Ababa on May 2011 and came up with a Plan of Action for cooperation for the period 2011-2014. Indian side agreed to establish six Institutions in Africa under the Africa-India Partnership, which are as follows: (i) India-Africa Food Processing Cluster; (ii) India-Africa Integrated Textile Institute; (iii) India-Africa Institute of Life and Earth Sciences; (iv) India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development, (v) India-Africa Civil Aviation Academy, (vi) India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting. Consultations among the Regional Deans of the African Union were undertaken. Following these consultations, five Institutions were allocated to identified countries. Regarding the India-Africa Integrated Textile Institute, consultations are still on-going.

41. Furthermore, during November 2012, the African side and India reached an agreement on outstanding initiatives/projects as contained within the 2010-2014 Action Plan. The Sub-Committee has called for the implementation of all projects and programmes to be concretised within this Action Plan – taking into account that the Action Plan is almost mid-way through.

42. It is worth recalling that the Mwalimu Nyere African Union Scholarship Scheme (MNAUSS) has received support under the Africa-India strategic partnership for some special school scholarships in the field of Agriculture for the year 2013.

#### **CONCLUSION**

43. The Sub-Committee and the Commission are committed to improve the management of the partnerships within the African side. In this regard, it has been agreed that African side will be coordinated jointly by the Commission, the Sub-Committee, NEPAD and relevant the African Diplomatic Corps. The Follow-up Mechanism in view of implementation of activities agreed upon will be translated into Implementation Matrixes. These Matrixes, which will be jointly crafted by the African side and its respective partners, will ease the implementation and evaluation and monitoring processes.



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