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**CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE PRC HELD ON 2 APRIL
2015 ON THE BRAINSTORMING ON THE DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE ON
THE THEME FOR 2015 “YEAR OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS AFRICA’S AGENDA 2063”**

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**MEETING OF THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES' COMMITTEE
2 APRIL 2015
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PRC/Draft/Rpt.1(3-2015)

DRAFT REPORT

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE (PRC)
HELD ON 2 APRIL 2015**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) met on 2nd April 2015 at 10:00 Hours in the Medium Conference Hall of the AU-New Conference Centre, under the chairpersonship of H.E. Albert Ranganai Chimbindi, Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chairperson of the PRC.

II. ATTENDANCE

2. The Meeting was attended by forty one (41) Member States. The list of countries that attended is appended as annexure 1 to this report.

III. DISCUSSIONS

Item 1: Opening Remarks

3. The Chairperson of the PRC in his opening remarks, congratulated the Government and people of Nigeria for holding a peaceful democratic and successful elections. He also paid homage to the victims of the terrorist attack on Garissa University in Kenya on 1st April 2015 which he condemned in very strong terms.

Item 2: Adoption of Agenda

4. The proposed draft agenda was therefore adopted with amendments as follows:

- i) Opening Remarks;
- ii) Adoption of the Agenda;
- iii) Consideration of the Draft Concept Note on the theme of the Summit "*Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063*";
- iv) Consideration of the Draft Agendas and Programme of Events of the 25th Summit meetings to be held in South Africa from 7 to 15 June 2015;
- v) Any Other Business.

Item 3: Consideration of the Draft Concept Note on the theme of the Summit "*Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063*"

5. The report was presented by the acting Director of Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) in which he highlighted the following:

- The activities undertaken by the Commission on the theme;

- The six priority areas on which action is expected from Member States;
- Focus in 2015 to be on financial inclusion of Women within the framework of empowerments with particular emphasis on Agri-business and the introduction of technological innovation in Agriculture;
- The expected outcome of all the activities undertaken or to be undertaken;
- The need for qualitative representation of Women in the various sector of public life.

6. Subsequent to the presentation of the Concept Note, members of the PRC made comments and observations as follows:

- i) There is need to identify the gap between the existing instruments on gender and actual implementation;
- ii) The constraints that impede the progress to be achieved should be analysed;
- iii) What is the measuring yardstick at the end of the year?
- iv) What are the performance indicators that enable articulating of where we are?
- v) There is need for a clear calendar of activities/events that shows where we are going;
- vi) The concept note does not show what has been done in Member States in respect to the empowerment of Women;
- vii) Para 3 of the Concept Note should be included in the protocol on the right of the welfare of the child;
- viii) There is need to indicate that AUC is building capacity on post conflict reconstruction;
- ix) Land ownership should be included as one of the expected outcomes;
- x) There is need to develop a database on progress made on best practices which can be shared;
- xi) The reporting format on Women empowerment should be reviewed;
- xii) Member States and RECs should be urged to set specific targets that are measurable at the end of the year;

- xiii) The report does not capture the cultural and religious dimensions that impede the progress on the empowerment of Women;
- xiv) Awareness should be raised through media to change existing cultural practices;
- xv) There is need to discuss the role the men should play in the empowerment of Women;
- xvi) There is further need to take stock of what has been done so far;
- xvii) Meetings and academic debate should be avoided, time for concrete action;
- xviii) AUC should come up with a matrix on actions taken to empower Women and which can be used for comparison;
- xix) The education of the girl child needs to be addressed if women empowerment is to be attained;
- xx) Violence in Women is part of the constraints, including Female Genital Mutilation;
- xxi) AUC Chairperson should send special envoys on mission to Member States that have not met targets;
- xxii) Women need to come together to fight violence on Women;
- xxiii) The budget allocated to some of the activities seems to low. What criteria was used in allocation of funds for the various activities?

7. The acting director for WGDD provided clarifications as follows:

- i) The political will is crucial. Some Member States have not ratified some of the instruments;
- ii) On coordination, there is need for sensitization of Member States through effective communication;
- iii) AUC started building a database but only 12 Member States have provided data so far;
- iv) On reporting, only 15 countries reported on the solemn declaration in 2014;
- v) Economic empowerment is being addressed under financial inclusion and agriculture;

- vi) There is need for a shift in mind set to overcome a cultural and religious challenges;
- vii) The Directorate of WGDD is currently working on a detailed revised matrix to be shared with Member States in due course;
- viii) Education of the girl child was the theme of the CSW meeting which took place in New York;
- ix) Along with UNFPA a joint strategy is being developed on violence against women;
- x) On budget, WGDD received only 63,000.00 dollars for activities on the theme;
- xi) On capacity building, there is a programme with partners, e.g. Turkey, on capacity development for Women Entrepreneurs.

8. In conclusion, the PRC:

- i) Takes Note of the presentation by the Commission of the Draft Concept Note on the theme of the Year 2015, including the objectives, the Themes and Sub-Themes, the activities, the priorities and expected outcomes as well as related roadmap, timelines and the progress on the implementation of the Theme;
- ii) Recognizes the various instruments and frameworks put in place, including the African Women Decade and the SDGEA and stresses the need for Member States to show a more determined political will to implement them and to assess progress in concrete terms, using specific indicators and benchmarks in light with the said roadmap and timelines; in this regard, it tasks the Commission to engage more with Member States with a view to reflecting, with specific statistical data, on the progress so far achieved at national, regional and continental levels;
- iii) Stresses the need for the Commission to rationalize the activities and meetings envisaged in the Concept Note focusing more on the results;
- iv) Requests the Commission to review the reporting format so as to assist Member States to report on the implementation of the SDGEA in a more detailed and substantive manner, devoid of mere rhetorics;
- v) Invites Member States, RECs and AUC to come up with specific targets for the Year 2015 so as to facilitate the review of results obtained at the end of the year in concrete terms;

- vi) Underscores the importance of a sound communication strategy in the direction of Member States and other Stakeholders, including their sensitization towards the upholding and promotion of positive values, taking into account the peculiar situation of existing social and religious practices, with a view to accelerating the socio-economic transformation of the continent which would embrace the full integration and empowerment of Women in this process, in light with the objectives of the African Union Agenda 2063.

Item 4: Consideration of the Draft Agendas and Programme of Events of the 25th Summit meetings to be held in South Africa from 7 to 15 June 2015

9. The draft agendas and programme of events for the Summit were presented by the Secretary General of the Commission.

10. Subsequent to the presentation, members of the PRC made comments and observations as follows:

- i) Members of PRC need to be given some time to go through the documents and consult their capitals and reconvene on 15 April 2015 for full discussion. In the meantime, delegations can point out any amendments to the documents;
- ii) A Ministerial meeting should be convened in Addis Ababa to discuss the issue of Alternative Sources of Funding of the AU which should be all inclusive;
- iii) Details should be provided on the 2nd Ministerial Retreat, for which invitations have not yet been received;
- iv) Side events should be reduced;
- v) The content of the item on streamlining the Summit should be clarified;
- vi) Working documents on the strategic issues to be discussed in the closed session should be made available as soon as possible;

- vii) It may not be possible to have the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment meeting in South Africa to discuss the issue of Alternative Sources of Funding.

11. The Secretary General provided clarification as follows:

- i) Due note has been taken of the pertinent comments and observations;
- ii) Letters of invitation for the 2nd Ministerial Retreat have been prepared and dispatched;
- iii) A delegation from South Africa will be coming to Addis Ababa to brief the PRC on preparations for the June 2015 Summit during the meeting of 15th April 2015.

12. In conclusion, the PRC :

- i) Takes note of the draft agendas and programme of events;
- ii) Urges the Commission to dispatch as soon as possible letters of invitation to the 2nd Ministerial Retreat;
- iii) Agrees to consider in detail the draft agendas and programme of events for the Summit at its meeting on 15th April 2015 to allow time for more consultations;
- iv) Request the AUC to circulate the list of the new composition of PRC Sub-Committees.

Item 5: Any other Business (AOB)

13. A single issue was considered under this item: Briefing by the Permanent Representative of Burundi.

14. The Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi and Permanent Representative to the AU, H.E. M Alain Aimé Nyamitwe informed the PRC of the flood disaster that hit his country causing human and material damage and for which the country is soliciting support. He added that a Note Verbale to that effect would be sent out in due course.

15. In conclusion, the PRC:

- i) Takes note of the briefing;
- ii) Expresses its condolences to the government and people of Burundi for the loss of lives as a result of the flood;
- iii) Urges Burundi to send a Note Verbale formally informing Member States.

**LIST OF COUNTRIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING
OF THE PRC HELD ON 2 APRIL 2015**

1. Algeria
2. Angola
3. Benin
4. Botswana
5. Burundi
6. Cameroon
7. Chad
8. Comoros
9. Côte d'Ivoire
10. Democratic Republic of Congo
11. Djibouti
12. Equatorial Guinea
13. Eritrea
14. Ethiopia
15. Gabon
16. Ghana
17. Kenya
18. Lesotho
19. Liberia
20. Libya
21. Malawi
22. Mali
23. Mauritania
24. Mauritius
25. Mozambique
26. Niger
27. Saharawi Arab Democratic
Republic (SADR)
28. Senegal
29. Seychelles
30. Sierra Leone
31. South Africa
32. South Sudan
33. Sudan
34. Swaziland
35. Tanzania
36. The Gambia
37. Togo
38. Tunisia
39. Uganda
40. Zambia
41. Zimbabwe

2015

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held on 2 April 2015 on the
brainstorming on the draft concept note
on the theme for 2015 “year of women
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