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**REPORT OF THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON
MULTILATERAL COOPERATION
JANUARY TO JUNE 2015**

REPORT OF THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION JANUARY TO JUNE 2015

INTRODUCTION

1. During the period under review, a transition from the two year tenure of the previous Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation, which came to an end in January 2015, took place. The handing over between the outgoing and the incoming Chair was conducted on 4th May 2015 during the Sub-Committee meeting, where a new bureau was put in place with the Republic of Egypt becoming the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee.

REPORT ON THE EVALUATION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS

2. Following the January 2015 Executive Council Decision (EX.CL/Dec.854(XXVI)) that requested the Commission to submit to the PRC Sub Committee on Multilateral Cooperation, a Report on the Evaluation of the Strategic Partnerships, the report was submitted to the Sub Committee at its meeting of 4th May 2015. The Sub-Committee was of the view that this Report should be thoroughly considered for substantive recommendations to be made to the PRC.

Recommendations

- i) Ensure that discussions and negotiations on substantive issues with respect to partnerships be guided by the outcome of the Evaluation of the Strategic Partnerships and to submit recommendations regarding the said Evaluation to the January 2016 Summit.
- ii) The Commission to come up with a chart indicating the dates of all major partnership and AU related meetings respectively and ensure that there would be no overlaps.
- iii) The Commission to adopt a mechanism for the application of the principle of rotation in hosting partnership summits and ensure that there are no overlaps.

TOKYO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (TICAD)

3. The Sub-Committee focused on the preparations for the TICAD VI Summit, scheduled to be hosted in Africa in 2016 including the implementation of the Executive Council January 2015 Decision n° EX.CL/Dec.854(XXVI) which “ENCOURAGES the candidate Member States to host TICAD VI Summit (The Gambia and Kenya), to finalize their consultations as soon as possible”, and “REQUESTS the Commission to engage the co-organizers and the host country for the determination of the date suitable to all stakeholders at the Summit of TICAD VI so as to embark on necessary preparations in this connection”.

4. Pursuant to the above-mentioned Decision, the Sub-Committee undertook, in collaboration with the Commission, initiatives to expedite the on-going consultation between The Gambia and Kenya in order to come up with the host country for TICAD VI Summit.

5. Alongside these consultations on the host country, the Commission, on the request from the Sub-Committee, and in line with the aforementioned Decision, is engaging with the other co-organizers to determine the date suitable to all stakeholders for the Summit of TICAD VI so as to embark on the necessary preparations.

6. Other TICAD Co-organizers have premised the setting in motion of the preparations process on the agreement on the venue and date of TICAD VI Summit. In the same vein, they have indicated that once the venue of the Summit is known, consultations on the preparatory meetings including Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings will take place.

7. In addition, during a Co-organizers TV Conference held on 26 May 2015, on the preparations for TICAD VI Summit the Co-organizers, on the assumption that a decision on TICAD VI host country will be taken at the AU June 2015 Assembly, proposed to hold TICAD VI Summit in May-June 2016. For the holding of the follow-up meetings they made proposals as follows:

- ✓ Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting: end of July 2015 or beginning of August 2015 in Tokyo;
- ✓ Follow-up ministerial meeting: December 2015 before the Senior Officials Meeting in a country in the African Southern Region;
- ✓ Pre-summit ministerial meeting in 2016: at least three months before the Summit in a country to be determined.

8. While The other Co-organizers (Japan, United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, United Nations Development Programme and World Bank) proposed that the TICAD VI Summit be held during the 3rd or the 4th quarter of 2016, the Commission proposed the 2nd or the 4th quarter.

9. With regard to the substance of TICAD, the Co-organizers agreed to include Agenda 2063 including the flagships programs of the First Ten Year Implementation Plan into TICAD VI Action Plan.

10. In line with the foregoing, the Sub-Committee urges that the issue of the venue of TICAD VI Summit be sorted out during the 25th AU Summit so that preparations could start taking into consideration the importance of the effective operationalization of the agreed principles of rotation.

Recommendations

- i) Appreciates the offer by The Gambia and Kenya to host the TICAD VI Summit, and urges the two countries to finalize their consultations for a decision to be taken in this regard at the AU June 2015 Summit.
- ii) Requests the AU Commission and the host country to engage the co-organizers to propose dates and venues to the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation that is convenient to all parties for the TICAD VI Summit and its preparatory meetings.

AFRICA-ARAB PARTNERSHIP

11. During the period under review, the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation was involved in the follow-up of the implementation of the outcomes of the 3rd Africa-Arab Summit, held in Kuwait City, Kuwait, in November 2013, through the participation of its Chairperson at the 7th Senior Officials meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Africa-Arab Partnership, held in Cairo, Egypt on 14th February 2015.

12. The 7th Senior Officials meeting monitored the implementation of the “*Consolidated Work Plan on the implementation of the Resolutions of the 3rd Africa-Arab Summit, 2014-2016*” endorsed by the 2nd Ministerial Meeting of the Coordination Committee held in New York, USA in September 2014. In this regard it considered (i) Progress Report on the Initiatives of H.H. the Amir of Kuwait on Investment and Development, (ii) Joint Planned Activities of 2015 as per consolidated Work Plan 2014-2016, (iii) Progress Report on the Facilitation Unit of the Africa-Arab Joint Action Plan on Agricultural Development and Food Security, (iv) Status of the Study on the Africa-Arab Disaster Response Fund, (v) Progress Report on the Africa-Arab Cultural Institute (AACI), and (vi) Preparation for the 8th Africa-Arab Fair 2016. The meetings also brainstormed on the date of the 4th Africa-Arab Summit, planned to be held in Equatorial Guinea, in 2016. The Committee agreed to hold its 8th meeting in Addis Ababa in August 2015. It also agreed that the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of the Coordination Committee be held at the margin of UNGA in New York in September 2015.

13. The Coordination Committee gave guidance on the specific measures to be taken by the African Union Commission and the League of Arab States to overcome some of the challenges observed with regard to the implementation of the Consolidated Work Plan.

14. Once the 3rd Ministerial meeting approves the Concept Note and the Roadmap for the preparation of the 4th Africa-Arab Summit, the Sub-Committee, in collaboration with the Coordination Committee, will be engaged in the preparation of working and final documents of the Summit.

Recommendation

- i) Urges the Commission to expedite the process of implementation of the Consolidated Work Plan for the Implementation of the Resolutions of the 3rd Africa-Arab Summit, held in Kuwait in November 2013, in collaboration with the League of Arab States.

AFRICA-INDIA PARTNERSHIP

15. During the period under review, no significant activity took place. It is to be recalled that the 3rd Africa-India Forum Summit was initially scheduled to take place in New Delhi, India, from December 1-5, 2014. The Government of India postponed the Summit on the combined grounds of the Ebola outbreak in some Western Africa countries and the then on-going general election process. After the newly elected Prime Minister took office, the Government of India, , proposed new dates for the holding of the 3rd Africa-India Forum Summit.

16. These dates were as follows:

- 26 October 2015: Senior Officials Meeting;
- 27 October 2015: Ministerial Meeting;
- 29 October 2015: Summit;
- 30 October 2015: Bilateral meetings with Heads of State and Government.

17. These dates were communicated to all AU Members States along with draft working documents, namely draft New Delhi Declaration and draft Framework of Cooperation.

18. The Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation has started reviewing these draft documents through its Working Group and will engage the Indian side.

19. It is to be recalled that the outcome of the 2nd Africa-India Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, May 24-25, 2011 included the adoption of the Addis Ababa Declaration and 2011-2014 Plan of Action of which the Government of India committed itself to providing Africa with six Pan African institutes, 32 institutes at regional level in close collaboration with RECs and 40 institutes at bilateral /national level.

20. Following this offer from the Government of India, the Executive Council, through its Decision EX.CL/Dec.669 (XX) requested regional Deans and Members States to work out the distribution for the hosting of the six Pan African Institutes and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). This distribution was as follows:

- i) India-Africa Food Institute Processing cluster: Northern Africa (Mauritania);

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|------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ii) | India- Africa Integrated Textile Cluster : | Eastern Africa (Ethiopia); |
| iii) | India-Africa Institute of Life and Earth Science: | Western Africa (Nigeria); |
| iv) | India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development: | Southern Africa Region (Malawi); |
| v) | India-Africa Civil Aviation Academy: | Central Africa Region (Chad); |
| vi) | India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting: | (Mauritius). |

21. The Commission requested the esteemed Member States, in their capacity as host of these Pan African Institutes, to update her on the progress made on the establishment of these institutes. The purpose of the request from the Commission was to have a clear picture of the implementation of the 2011-2014 Action Plan with regard to the six Pan African Institutes. However, only Mauritius reported back to the Commission to indicate that she is no more in a position to host the India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting.

Recommendations

- i) The PRC to consider the following dates for the 3rd Africa-India Forum Summit as proposed by India, given that the Commission confirmed that there are no overlaps with other major partnerships related meetings or with other AU scheduled meetings:
 - 26 October 2015: Senior Officials Meeting
 - 27 October 2015: Ministerial Meeting
 - 29 October 2015: Summit
 - 30 October 2015: Bilateral meetings with Heads of State and Government
- ii) The Commission, in collaboration with the Sub-Committee to speed up the process of consideration of the draft working documents proposed by the Indian side.
- iii) Urges Member States hosting Institutions set up under the Africa-India partnership, to take all necessary steps to ensure the operationalization of these institutions.
- iv) Urges the necessity to identify a Member State to host the India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting following the withdrawal of Mauritius.

AFRICA-TURKEY PARTNERSHIP

22. During the period under review, the main activity related to Africa-Turkey Partnership was the preparations and the holding of the 6th Joint Senior Official Meeting in Ankara, Turkey, in March 2015. The meeting was held pursuant to the agreement by the 2nd Africa-Turkey Summit that was held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, and in the context of the follow up mechanism on the Africa-Turkey Partnership.

23. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the financing mechanism of the projects under the adopted Matrix of the key Priority Projects within the framework of Africa-Turkey Partnership for the implementation period 2015 and 2016. In the run up to this meeting, the Sub-Committee, in collaboration with AUC technical Departments, made the costing of the activities embedded in the Matrix and came up with a total amount of USD 28 million. Turkish side indicated that 1 million USD has already been contributed by Turkey to the African Union Commission in 2014, which would be mostly used to finance some of the projects under the adopted Matrix of the Key Priority projects, especially to meet the cost of international travel for African experts. The African Union side, however expressed reservations on the grounds that the 1 million US Dollars referred to above was contributed before the Malabo Summit and that, as such, could not be included and already have been earmarked for other activities by the African Union Commission. The two sides agreed to continue consultations on this issue. Meanwhile the allocation of funds to the specific and concrete projects had been done.

Recommendations

- i) The Commission to ensure effective implementation of activities agreed upon by both sides during the 6th Senior Officials Meeting and report back to the Sub-Committee.

AFRICA-SOUTH AMERICA SUMMIT (ASA)

24. With respect to the Africa-South America (ASA) Partnership, the Sub-Committee was briefed of the Evaluation Seminar on ASA under the theme “Rethinking ASA: Cooperation for Peace and Sustainable Development – a new ASA for a new international scenario,” and the 2nd Meeting of the ASA Ad-Hoc Committee that took place in Brasilia, Brazil from 26 to 27 March 2015. The PRC Sub-committee acknowledged the outcomes and recommendations of the above-mentioned meetings and noted that no achievement has taken place with regard to this partnership.

25. In conclusion, the Sub-committee advised the African side to seriously reflect on the stand of many South American countries which are opposed to the setting up of an ASA Permanent Secretariat and a Trust Fund for the financing of projects.

Recommendations

26. The PRC Sub-committee on Multilateral Cooperation:

- i) Requests the Council, through the PRC, to approve the proposal by Ecuador to hold ASA IV Summit in Quito from 5-7 May 2016 given that the Commission confirmed that there are no overlaps with other major partnerships related meetings or with other AU scheduled meetings.
- ii) Requests the AU Commission, together with the South American side, to take the necessary steps to ensure effective preparation of the 4th ASA Summit scheduled for Quito, Ecuador in 2016.

FORUM ON CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION (FOCAC)

27. Since the 10th Senior Officials' Meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was held in Pretoria, South Africa, in December 2014, no significant activity has been recorded, specifically regarding the preparation process of the 6th Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC scheduled to take place in South Africa during the fourth quarter of 2015.

28. On the preparation of the 6th Ministerial Conference, it was proposed that the exact date and the working documents of the Forum be agreed upon between the two Co-chairs (South Africa and China). and submitted to the Ministerial Conference for consideration.

29. It was also proposed that the 6th Ministerial Conference be upgraded to a Summit level as it coincides with the 15th Anniversary of FOCAC process.

Recommendations

- i) Requests the PRC to encourage the two Co-chairs to finalize their consultations on the date and working documents of the Forum.
- ii) Requests the PRC to consider the proposal to upgrade the 6th Ministerial Conference to a Summit level.

AFRICA-KOREA FORUM

30. The work of the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation was mainly focused on the follow-up of the implementation of the Executive Council Decision No. EX.CL/Dec.854 (XXVI) endorsed at its Twenty-Sixth Ordinary Session, 23 – 27 January 2015, Addis-Ababa, ETHIOPIA on the Africa – Korea partnership, as recalled below:

- i) Inviting Member States to submit their candidature to host the 4th Africa-Korea Forum.

- ii) Requesting the Commission in collaboration with Korea, to begin preparations for the holding of the meeting of Senior Officials in March 2015 in Burkina Faso.

31. The Commission invited all Member States to offer to host the 4th Africa-Korea Forum which will be held in Africa for the first time during this year. After the deadline of 31st March 2015, only the government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia expressed its willing to host the 4th Africa-Korea Forum.

32. With respect to the Senior Officials meeting the Government of Burkina Faso informed the Commission, of its withdrawal for hosting of the said meeting.

Recommendations

- i) Requests the Council through the PRC to approve the offer of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to host the 4th Africa-Korea Forum and its preparatory meetings.
- ii) Urges the Commission, in close collaboration with the host country and the partner to propose a suitable date for the 4th Africa-Korea Forum, and to start the preparatory processes of the Forum.

AFRICA – EU Partnership

Joint Annual Forum

33. With respect to the Africa – EU Partnership, it is to be recalled that during the 4th African – EU Summit held in Brussels in April 2014, both sides agreed to pursue and deepen political dialogue and cooperation. Summits, ministerial meetings, institution to institution meetings of the two Commissions and meetings between the Peace and Security Council and the Political and Security Committee would continue to be held within the framework agreed at the Cairo Summit. Furthermore, in the Roadmap 2014-2017 adopted during the Summit, it was also agreed that implementation of the actions set forth will be evaluated in the Joint Annual Forums which replaced the Joint Task Force, with the participation of all stakeholders in the partnership.

34. To implement the aforementioned recommendation, the Working Group of the PRC Sub Committee on Multilateral Cooperation held meetings in collaboration with the AUC technical Departments to consider the initial draft of the Concept Note of the Africa–EU Joint Annual Forum

Recommendation:

- (I) Requests the Commission, in collaboration with the Sub-Committee, to finalize the Concept Note of the Africa–EU Joint Annual Forum and to also propose, in consultation with the EU side, appropriate dates for the meeting of the Forum.

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