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**REPORT OF THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON MULTILATERAL
COOPERATION JULY TO DECEMBER 2014**

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INTRODUCTION

1. During the period under review, the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation, chaired by the Republic of Chad, held series of meetings, focusing mainly on the preparations of the 2nd Africa-Turkey Summit and the 10th Senior Officials Meeting of the FOCAC as well as other matters related to strategic partnerships. This report highlights the achievements and challenges relating to Africa's Strategic Partnerships, and make recommendations where appropriate.

A. TICAD

2. Since the Ministerial Meeting was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in May 2014, no significant activity has been recorded, specifically in respect of the implementation of the TICAD V Action Plan. However, subsequent focus was on the preparations for the TICAD VI Summit, scheduled to be hosted in Africa during 2016. To this end, the Commission has received and forwarded the offers from Member States to host the Summit. A TICAD co-organizer's TV Conference was held at the Commission Headquarters on 17 December 2014. Participation included members of the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation. The main item on the agenda was the venue and the date of the forthcoming TICAD VI Summit. In addition, discussions included the substance of the said Summit and the format of the reporting on the implementation of the TICAD V Action Plan. The following Member States offered to host the Summit: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Gambia and Kenya. Ethiopia officially withdrew its application to host the Summit in support of the offer by Kenya. In the same vein, Burkina Faso has withdrawn its offer to host the summit. Subsequently, the Sub-Committee has referred the matter to the PRC with the view that consultations would be undertaken between the various Member States in order to select the host country.

3. However, the Sub-Committee would like to highlight that during the consultation to identify the host country for TICAD VI, the Japanese Government shared information on the necessary logistical arrangements for holding summits and has indicated that it would prefer to hold the summit in a country in which it has a diplomatic mission.

4. With regard to the date of the Summit, the meeting of the co-organizers, which was held on 25 September 2014 on the margins of the 69th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York and the TICAD Co-organizers TV Conference, held on 17 December 2014, proposed the following tentative dates:

- June / July 2015: meeting of Senior Officials;
- Late October 2015: Ministerial meeting;
- Mid-January 2016: Summit TICAD VI, in Africa.

5. Concerning the above dates, the Sub-Committee was of the view that the Senior Officials Meeting could hold in late July 2015, and the Ministerial meeting in late October

2015, in conformity with the Japanese proposal. However, the mid-January 2016 date for the summit was considered not convenient and requested the Commission to further engage the co-organizers to agree on a suitable date.

Recommendations

- i) Requests the PRC to encourage the Member States that have offered to host the TICAD VI Summit to finalize their consultations as soon as possible;
- ii) Requests the PRC to consider the holding of the Senior Officials Meeting in late July 2015 and the Ministerial meeting in late October 2015;
- iii) Requests the AU Commission to engage the co-organizers to propose a date convenient to all parties for the TICAD VI summit.

B. AFRICA-Arab PARTNERSHIP

6. During the period under review, the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation took part in the follow-up of the implementation of the outcomes of the 3rd Africa-Arab Summit, held in Kuwait City, Kuwait, in November 2013. This was achieved through the participation of the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee at the 2nd Ministerial and the 6th Senior Officials meetings of the Coordination Committee of the Africa-Arab Partnership, held in New York on 22 September 2014 and Addis Ababa 15 September 2014, respectively. The outcomes of the Summit include the Kuwait Declaration and Resolutions as well as the Initiative of H.H. The Amir of Kuwait on Investment and Development in Africa.

7. The Ministerial and Senior Officials meetings of the Coordination Committee, considered and endorsed the Consolidated Work Plan for the implementation of the Resolutions of the 3rd Africa-Arab Summit 2014-2016, jointly proposed by the African Union Commission and the League of Arab States. The Plan elaborates the different activities to be undertaken by the Commission and the League of Arab States to implement the eight Resolutions of the Summit effectively. In this regard, the meetings urged the two institutions to earmark the required budget and commence implementation of the Consolidated Work Plan.

8. The meetings also considered the report on the administrative and financial situations of the Africa-Arab Cultural Institute in Bamako, in light of the implementation of Resolution N°3 of the 3rd Africa-Arab Summit on the Institute. The meetings also discussed ways and means for operationalization of the Facilitation Unit of the Africa-Arab Joint Action Plan on Agricultural Development and Food Security. They also underlined the need to develop the Terms of Reference of Africa-Arab Working Groups and the study on Africa-Arab Disaster Response Fund, which will be undertaken with the financial support from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA). The Coordination Committee gave guidance on the measures to be taken by the two organizations to overcome some of the challenges observed with regard to the above issues.

9. The meetings also considered the report on the implementation of the three initiatives of H.H. the Amir of Kuwait, announced during the 3rd Summit, namely (i) to grant concessionary loans to African countries to the amount of one Billion US Dollars, in the coming five years, through the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development; (ii) to finance investment and its insurance in Africa, with emphasis on infrastructure, to the amount of one Billion US Dollars, through cooperation and coordination with the World Bank and other international institutions and (iii) to establish an Annual Prize of one Million US Dollars, to be allocated by the State of Kuwait, in memory of the late Dr. Abdurahman Al-Sumet, for development research in Africa, under the auspices of the Kuwait Scientific Development Institutions.

10. The Coordination Committee was accordingly informed of the establishment of a National Committee in Kuwait to facilitate the implementation of these initiatives. The list of countries that are benefiting from this initiative was also presented to the meetings under three categories; namely (i) countries that have already signed the loan agreement (10 countries with the total loan amount of 41.4 million Kuwaiti Dinar), (ii) countries whose projects are in the list of operation programmes 2014-2015 (14 Countries with a loan amount of 65.9 Kuwait Dinar); and (iii) countries whose projects will be submitted to the next Board of Directors meeting for the initial approval (10 Countries with a loan amount of 49 Million Kuwait Dinar). With regard to the Annual Prize, the meeting was informed that Rules and Regulations governing the Prize are still being developed.

Recommendations:

- i) Urges the AU Commission and League of Arab States to earmark the required budget and commence implementation of the Consolidated Work Plan;
- ii) Requests the PRC to acknowledge Kuwait for its efforts on this Partnership.

C. AFRICA-TURKEY PARTNERSHIP

11. The Sub-Committee held a number of meetings in preparation for the 2nd Africa-Turkey Summit, which took place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 19-21 November 2014.

12. The Summit adopted a Declaration, the 2nd Africa-Turkey Joint Implementation Plan and a Matrix of Key Priority Projects 2015-2018.

13. During the Summit, Turkey and Africa undertook to work closely on strategic issues in order to enhance the Partnership, specifically focusing on the development of Africa through technical and project support in the fields such as health, education, agriculture rural development, agribusiness, water resource management and small and medium scale enterprises. They also agreed on the possibilities to expand trade and investment volume from US\$30 billion in 2013 to US\$50 billion by 2019. In that regard,

Turkey shall offer Tariff preferences and/or duty free privileges to African countries in line with its obligations arising from its Customs Union with the European Union. Turkey and African countries will encourage these activities without prejudice to their previous agreements with other parties.

14. Another significant outcome of the Summit was the undertaking by Turkey to provide logistical and financial support to AU Peace Support Operations and United Nations peacekeeping efforts in Africa, as well as the operationalization of the AU Peace and Security Architecture, including training and exchange programmes.

15. Furthermore, the two sides undertook to focus on infrastructure, such as modern transport facilities; telecommunication; sustainable energy and investments in energy infrastructure, including promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency, and improving the management of energy resources in the socio-economic development of Africa and Turkey. They also agreed to cooperate to support the goals and objectives of 'the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa' (PIDA).

16. It should be pointed out that the summit noted the non-implementation of the previous Action Plan and both sides agreed to give attention to the implementation process and the fact that the adopted Matrix of Key Priority Projects did not have the required funds.

Recommendations

- i) Requests the PRC to encourage both sides to give attention to the implementation process in order to achieve concrete deliverables;
- ii) Requests the AU Commission to prepare for the holding of the joint experts meeting scheduled for the first quarter of 2015 in Turkey, in order to operationalize the adopted matrix of Key Priority projects.

D. AFRICA-SOUTH AMERICA SUMMIT (ASA)

17. During the period under review, the Sub-Committee acknowledged with dissatisfaction that, in spite of commitments made at the 3rd Africa-South America (ASA) Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in February 2013, no concrete actions had been undertaken towards executing agreed projects/programmes.

18. However, the PRC Sub-Committee took part in the First ASA Ad Hoc Committee meeting held from 8-9 September 2014, in Quito, Ecuador, where a roadmap comprising concrete activities was developed leading up to the 4th ASA Summit. In addition, a proposal has been made to restructure and empower the Secretary General of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) to become an effective counterpart of the AUC towards establishing a truly bi-regional cooperation.

Recommendations

- i) Requests the AU Commission to engage the South American side in order to implement the outcomes of the 3rd ASA Summit;
- ii) Requests the AU Commission, in conjunction with the South American side, to take steps to strengthen the partnership in order to deliver concrete outcomes;
- iii) Requests the AU Commission, in conjunction with the South American side, to begin preparations for the 4th ASA Summit scheduled for Quito, Ecuador in 2016, including proposing a date for the Summit.

E. FORUM ON CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION (FOCAC)

19. During the period under review, the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation, working in close collaboration with the African Union Commission, held a preparatory meeting for the preparation of the 10th Senior Officials' Meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 9th to 10th December 2014.

20. The Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) was Co-chaired by H.E Ambassador Jerry Matthews Matjila, Director-General of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa and H.E. Lin Songtian, Secretary-General of the Chinese Follow-up Committee of FOCAC and Director-General of the Department of African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

21. The meeting was primarily aimed at reviewing the implementation of the follow-up actions of the 5th Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC and preparing for the 6th Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC scheduled to be held in South Africa in the fourth quarter of 2015.

22. After its deliberations the SOM welcomed the proposals to construct regional railway, highway and airline networks in Africa, and expressed appreciation at the further efforts to deepen structured ties with the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the African Development Bank

23. The meeting agreed to strengthen cooperation in priority areas such as investment and financing, development assistance, regional integration, infrastructure development, manufacturing, and beneficiation, agriculture and agri-business, technology transfer, market access and trade, regional peace and security, anti-terrorism, human resources development, capacity building, and people-to-people exchanges.

24. In order to foster the further development of FOCAC and deepen the FOCAC institution-building process, the meeting noted that closer cooperation and enhanced

coordination was required, specifically in respect of the Co-chairs role in the various agreed FOCAC sub-Forums.

25. The question of FOCAC institutional strengthening was discussed at length, in particular the participation of Africa in the follow up Committee of the Forum. In this regard, it was suggested that the Chinese follow up Committee could be more accessible to the African Ambassadors in China.

26. The Ambassador of Egypt, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the African Union, H.E. MOHAMED EDREES who represented the African Union in his capacity as first Vice-President of the Sub-Committee of the PRC, mentioned that the AU Commission is the appropriate structure to represent the African side in the follow up committee. However, the Chinese side was opposed to this arrangement.

27. On the preparation of the 6th Ministerial Conference scheduled to be held in South Africa at the fourth quarter of 2015, it was agreed that the exact date be agreed by mutual arrangement between the two sides. On the format of this meeting, it is proposed that the 6th Ministerial Conference should be upgraded to the Summit level, forthwith.

Recommendations

- i) Urges that the African side should set up its own follow up mechanism;
- ii) Requests the PRC to consider the proposal to upgrade the 6th Ministerial Conference to a Summit level.

F. AFRICA-KOREA FORUM

28. The Government of the Republic of Korea provided the Commission with a non-objection letter in July 2014, leading to the use of the fund of US\$500 000, for the implementation of projects in three Departments of the Commission, namely, Department of Agriculture and Rural Economy, Department of Trade and Industry and Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology. These projects were designed in line with the Action Plan agreed at the Third Africa Forum - Korea held in Seoul in October 2012.

29. The 4th Africa – Korea Forum was scheduled to be held in 2015 in Burkina Faso following the offer of the Government of Burkina Faso, which was then endorsed by the Summit of the African Union held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014. However, Burkina Faso recently withdrew its hosting rights of the Summit, but will still be hosting the Senior Officials Meeting in March 2015, in Ouagadougou.

30. It will be recalled that the Sub-Committee received the Korean Ambassador in Addis Ababa, at the request of the latter, on Friday, 16 January, 2015. At that meeting, the Ambassador briefed the Sub-Committee where he highlighted the existing excellent relations between Korea and Africa and the position of his Government with respect to

holding the 4th Africa-Korea Forum. He emphasized that, following the withdrawal of Burkina Faso, his Government was in consultation with Ethiopia to host the Summit in Addis Ababa, between June-August 2015.

31. After the briefing session, members of the Sub-Committee made comments and observations, and expressed concern over the manner this issue was being handled by the Korean side, pointing out the need for AU partners to adhere to set rules and procedures in identifying a host country for statutory meetings and Summits.

Recommendations

- i) Requests the PRC to invite Member States to offer to host the 4th Africa-Korea Forum;
- ii) Requests the AU Commission, together with the Korean side, to commence preparations for the Senior Officials Meeting scheduled for March 2015, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

G. AFRICA-INDIA FORUM SUMMIT (AIFS)

32. Notwithstanding the stage of preparation for the holding of the 3rd Forum of the Africa-India (AIFS III) Summit initially, scheduled from December 1st to December 5th, 2014 in New Delhi in India, the Forum has been postponed indefinitely by the Indian side on the ground of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in West Africa. However, the Indian Government in collaboration with the Commission and the Sub-committee will undertake consultations in order to fix new dates for the holding of the Third Forum of the Africa-India Summit in 2015 in New Delhi, India.

33. Regarding this partnership, the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation would like to propose that the PRC finalize the issue of the establishment of the six Pan African Institutions offered by the Indian Government at the second forum of the Africa-India Summit held in May 2011 in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia. These Institutions are: The Africa-India Food Processing Cluster (Mauritania), AfricaIndia Integrated Textile Cluster (Ethiopia), Africa-India Institute of Life and Earth Sciences (Nigeria), Africa-India institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (Malawi), Africa-India Civil Aviation Academy (Chad), and Africa-India Center or Medium Range Weather Forecasting (Mauritius).

Recommendations

- i) Requests the AU Commission to consult the Indian side in order to propose new dates for the 3rd Africa-India Summit to be held in 2015 in India;
- ii) Urges Member States that have agreed to host the Pan-African Institutions offered by India to speed up their implementation.

H. EVALUATION OF AFRICA'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

34. The Sub-Committee notes that Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.786(XXIV) of January 2014 specifically "Requests the Commission, working with a Panel of African Experts, and in collaboration with the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation, to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of all Africa's Strategic Partnerships, bearing in mind Africa's Agenda 2063 and to submit the Report during the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Au Summit in June/July 2014."

35. The Sub-Committee observes that the report on the "Evaluation of Africa's Strategic Partnerships" has not yet been presented to it.

Recommendations

- i) Requests the AU Commission to submit the Evaluation Report of Africa's Strategic Partnerships to the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation latest March 2015, for consideration and further action;
- ii) Further requests the AU Commission to elaborate guidelines on the rules of engagement between the AU and its strategic partners.

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