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**ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
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**REPORT OF H.E. MACKY SALL, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SENEGAL AND CHAIRPERSON OF NEPAD HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT ORIENTATION COMMITTEE
(HSGOC)**

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Opening

1. The NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) held its 32nd Session on 29 January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia prior to the 24th Assembly of the African Union (AU).

2. H.E. Macky SALL, President of the Republic of Senegal and the Chairperson of the HSGOC presided over the Session. In his statement, the HSGOC Chairperson reiterated that NEPAD represents the inclusive ownership of Africa's development programmes which attracts international recognition and serves as a robust model of implementation in solving Africa's multi-dimensional challenges. H.E. Dr. Nkosazana DLAMINI ZUMA, Chairperson of African Union Commission (AUC) also addressed the Session.

3. High level participants at the 31st Session included: Member Heads of State and Government of the NEPAD Orientation Committee; Chief Executives of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Chairperson and Members of the Panel of Eminent Persons of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM); AU Commissioners; Members of NEPAD Steering Committee (SC); Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); Vice President of the African Development Bank (AfDB); UN Under Secretary General and Special Adviser on Africa; and the Heads of partner institutions.

4. The 32nd NEPAD Session deliberated on four (4) substantive agenda issues:

- a) Annual Performance Report of the NEPAD Agency for 2014;
- b) Implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa;
- c) Update on Africa's partnership engagements; and
- d) Inclusiveness in the NEPAD Governance Structures: Election for HSGOC Membership.

Annual Performance Report of the NEPAD Agency for 2014

5. In line with the mandate of the NPCA as the technical body of the AU, the 32nd HSGOC Session considered the Agency's 2014 Annual Performance Report presented by the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki. The Report highlights the measures and integrated approach towards the implementation of major NEPAD programmes and projects undertaken from January to December 2014.

6. The 32nd NEPAD Session endorsed the 2014 NPCA results-based Performance Report and welcomed efforts by the Agency towards achieving integrated and inclusive impact in the context of advancing regional integration. The Session urged the continued sharing of lessons and experiences on NEPAD implementation amongst NPCA, NEPAD

National Offices, RECs and partners under the auspices of the NEPAD Coordinating Structures and Focal Points Platform.

7. Specifically, the HSGOC noted the development and elaboration of the Malabo CAADP Implementation Strategy and Roadmap (IS&R) to translate the 2025 vision and goals of the Africa Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation into concrete results and impact in response to the Assembly/AU/1(XXIII) Declaration of June 2014. The Session welcomed the emphasis on enhanced support to small-holder farmers, women, youth, and promotion of value-chains, preference for regional markets and natural resources governance.

8. Furthermore, the NEPAD HSGOC requested the NPCA in liaison with the AUC and RECs to develop a coherent Programme of Work to operationalise the IS&R and monitor implementation performance in line with the CAADP Results Framework. In this regard, it called upon the NPCA to accord greater importance to Africa's structural economic transformation and to build knowledge and provide technical support to the AU Member States to appropriately put in place robust planning and evidence-based analytical capacity in African institutions to foster spatial inclusion and economic growth.

9. The HSGOC recalled the Assembly Decision/AU/Dec.540(XXIII) and welcomed the establishment of the NEPAD Climate Change Fund as an innovative mechanism to accelerate action in support of Member States to build resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change. It therefore requested the NPCA to mobilize new and additional resources towards converting the existing Fund into a Multi-Partner Pool Fund.

10. While noting the Decision Assembly/AU/2(XXIII) which reaffirmed support for the Abuja Declaration on Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa, the HSGOC welcomed the Women in Agribusiness Platform convened by the NPCA in Durban, South Africa in October 2014 and urged the Agency to support the continued sharing of experiences and capacity building efforts amongst African women agricultural entrepreneurs.

11. In the context of implementing the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA): 2014-2024 adopted at the 23rd Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, the HSGOC commended the NPCA programmatic efforts to increase technical support for health research as means of addressing the continent's health challenges and help in translating the political commitments made by African Leaders into transformative approaches for effective healthcare delivery.

12. Accordingly, the HSGOC requested the NPCA in partnership with the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) to establish and operationalize the Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA) which is expected to serve as the platform to stimulate breakthrough innovations in health to improve the livelihoods of marginalized and stigmatized communities. AU Member States, regional and global partners as well as private foundations were further encouraged to support the Alliance to strengthen health research and innovation in Africa.

13. The HSGOC noted the contributions of the NPCA to combating the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) under the auspices of the AUC and directed the NPCA to support the

acceleration of the evaluation of promising treatment options and vaccine candidates against EVD. This will be based on the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) Initiative as a platform for establishing Regional Expert Working Groups on Clinical Trials using Ebola vaccines and other therapies as pathfinder for scaling up regulatory oversight capacity to cover the current and future public health threats.

14. Towards accelerating regional integration in Africa, the HSGOC commended the efforts of the RECs, NPCA and AUC in partnership with UNDP, UNECA and ACBF to advance coherence and coordination in enhancing results-oriented capacities of RECs under the AU Multi-agency Capacity Development Programme for RECs (M-CDP). In this respect, the Session welcomed and endorsed the AU RECs Capacity Development Implementation Plan: 2015-2025 based on the NEPAD Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF) resulting from the scoping and capacity assessment exercise which was conducted in all the eight (8) AU-recognized RECs.

15. The 32nd NEPAD Session reaffirmed the important alignment of the Capacity Development Implementation Plan with the RECs Medium Term Strategic Plans, the AU Agenda 2063 and the Common African Position (CAP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The NPCA, AUC and the RECs in conjunction with UNDP, UNECA, ACBF and potential M-CDP partners to roll-out the Implementation Plan in order to support the realization of the institutional effectiveness of RECs and the prompt coherent delivery of regional programmes and projects.

Implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)

16. Through the High Level Roundtable on PIDA implementation, the HSGOC noted and welcomed with satisfaction the progress being made in the context of the NEPAD Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICl) presented by H.E. Jacob G. ZUMA, President of the Republic of South Africa and the Chairperson of the HSGOC PICl High-Level Sub Committee. The Session appreciated and also welcomed the outcomes of the PICl Ministerial and Technical meetings hosted by the Government of the Republic of South Africa in Pretoria in January 2015.

17. In the context of PICl, the HSGOC noted the successful completion of the East African Community Regional ICT project championed by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and the launch of the construction of the missing link of the Trans-Saharan Highway in November 2014. It agreed to include newly identified high-impact energy projects in the PICl portfolio. In this regard, the Session adopted the manufacturing of rail rolling stock to be championed by H.E. Jacob Zuma, President Republic of South Africa to support the deepened drive towards industrialization and the Lamu Port, South Sudan, Ethiopian Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor in East Africa to be championed by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya.

18. The Session recognizes the progress made under SMART Africa championed by H.E President Paul Kagame of Rwanda within the framework of the PICl. In particular, it welcomed the ONE Africa Network Initiative aimed at reducing the costs of electronic communications within regions and ultimately across the continent. In this respect, the

HSGOC recommended that Member States could adopt and roll-out this initiative in furtherance of Africa's socio-economic integration.

19. The 32nd HSGOC highly commends H.E. Jacob G. ZUMA, President of the Republic of South Africa and Champion Leaders for their firm commitment in promoting PICI projects as well as the NPCA, AUC, AfDB, ECA and RECs for their technical support to the Initiative.

20. In taking forward the outcomes of the June 2014 Dakar Financing Summit (DFS) on Africa's Infrastructure, the HSGOC endorsed the PIDA Implementation Acceleration Strategy (PAS) and the PIDA Service Delivery Mechanism (SDM) developed by the NPCA and AUC in conjunction with AfDB, ECA, RECs to implement the Dakar Agenda for Action (DAA), focusing on early infrastructure project preparation and increased bankability of the PIDA Priority Action Plan (PAP): 2020 projects. The HSGOC also noted the Infrastructure Skills for Development (IS4D) Initiative designed to enhance the capacity of the RECs and relevant agencies for the implementation of PIDA projects.

21. The HSGOC Session recalled the Decision Assembly/AU/.540(XXIII) validating the findings of the NEPAD-ECA Study on Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) and the related outcomes of the Dakar Financing Summit enshrined in the Dakar Agenda of Action (DAA). It noted the programmatic steps being taken by NPCA and UNECA to improve the enabling environment for infrastructure project financing in Africa and therefore requested the NPCA, ECA, RECs and relevant organizations to develop a common regional framework for the harmonization of policies, laws and regulations to enhance private sector financing specific to the 16 identified PIDA projects. In this regard, the NPCA was directed to submit the proposed framework to the HSGOC by January 2016 for consideration.

22. Furthermore, the HSGOC welcomed the finalization of the "Africa Power Vision (APV): From vision to action" and its Implementation Plan developed by NPCA, AUC, UNECA and the Government of Nigeria through the USA Power Africa initiative. The APV was indicated as a continental vehicle to advance Africa's position on the increased access to clean, reliable and affordable energy sources and enhanced promotion of national and regional energy impact based on the PIDA Priority Action Plan (PAP). The Session urged the NPCA to mobilize political support, project bankability, and financial closure and overall implementation for the APV prioritized projects.

Update on Africa's Partnership Engagements

23. The 32nd HSGOC Session recalled the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.540(XXIII) which approved the setup of the Africa Global Partnership Platform (AGPP) as the new umbrella formation in the context of the changing global order. With satisfaction, it noted the demarche to ensure the effective take-off of the Platform under the direction of H.E. Macky SALL, President of the Republic of Senegal and HSGOC Chairperson, through the formal invitation to Leaders of the potential AGPP partner countries.

24. The Session welcomed the growing positive response for the AGPP from partner countries and the joint efforts to convene the Platform's First Plenary Session during the

first quarter of 2015. It therefore requested the NPCA in consultation with the NEPAD Steering Committee, to develop a common position on Africa's outreach in 2015 in the context of the AGPP, based on strengthening the engagement with Germany and Turkey as the current G7 and G20 chairs, respectively.

25. Consequently, the HSGOC commended the Governments of the Republic of Senegal, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of South Africa along with the NEPAD Steering Committee, the NPCA CEO and AUC for their committed efforts in ensuring the take-off of the new Platform.

26. The NEPAD HSGOC also noted the main outcomes of the Brisbane G20 Summit and the Africa-NEPAD Week at the 69th UN General Assembly as presented by the Delegation of the Republic of Senegal and the Under Secretary General and the Special Adviser on Africa to the UN Secretary General, respectively. It thereafter underscored the need for Africa's commitment to its defined principles and values in advancing meaningful partnerships to realizing its development goals.

27. In this context, the HSGOC welcomed the finalization of the NPCA Stakeholders and Partnership Strategy as an institutional framework to guide partnership building and resource mobilization for the implementation of NEPAD programmes and projects. The Session in particular, approved the NEPAD Goodwill Ambassadors initiative which is an integral part of the Strategy. It also noted the collaboration between the NPCA and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation (MIF) on the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) while the NPCA was further urged to speed up the monitoring and evaluation exercise on Africa's partnerships and report to the HSGOC in due course.

Inclusiveness in the NEPAD Governance Structures: Election for HSGOC Membership

28. With reference to the Rules of Procedure of the NEPAD governance structures adopted by Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.442(XIX), the Session reiterated the continued need for the promotion of inclusiveness within the NEPAD process to promote higher levels of ownership and leadership by AU Member States.

29. After due consultations by HSGOC Leaders, the HSGOC agreed to present for endorsement the re-election of H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal as HSGOC Chairperson, H.E. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and H.E. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Algeria as HSGOC Vice Chairpersons for the final tenure of two-years. It was also agreed that the membership of the five (5) initiating countries and the re-election of the 15 rotating HSGOC members by the 32nd HSGOC Session should be endorsed as follows:

Central Africa	East Africa	North Africa	Southern Africa	West Africa
CAMEROON	ETHIOPIA	ALGERIA	SOUTH AFRICA	NIGERIA
GABON	RWANDA	EGYPT	MALAWI	SENEGAL
CONGO (Republic)	TANZANIA	LIBYA	ZAMBIA	BENIN
CHAD	UGANDA	MAURITANIA	ZIMBABWE	MALI

*Note: *SUDAN inclusive*

30. The 31st Session acknowledged the continued strategic leadership and guidance of African Leaders towards the accelerated implementation of NEPAD. In this context, the meeting warmly congratulated the re-elected AU Member States in the HSGOC and specially commended H.E. Macky SALL, President of the Republic of Senegal for his re-election as the HSGOC Chairperson and the Vice Chairpersons for the leadership in spearheading the strategic orientation to advance the implementation of NEPAD.

Closing

31. Overall, the HSGOC expressed profound gratitude to the Chairpersons of the Union, HSGOC and the Commission along with the NPCA Chief Executive Officer for the steadfast support for the implementation of NEPAD as the AU development strategy. The Session equally commended the sound cooperation received from the RECs, African institutions and development partners in taking forward NEPAD implementation.

32. The next 33rd Session of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee will hold on the eve of the 25th African Union Assembly in June 2015.

2015-01-30

Report of H.E. Macky Sall, president of the republic of Senegal and chairperson of NEPAD heads of state and government orientation committee (HSGOC)

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