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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 THE 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 33rd Session on Saturday, 13 June 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa prior to the 25th Ordinary Session of the 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 reaffirmed the need for stronger political will and determination to ensure the accelerated implementation of NEPAD as the strategic vehicle to fast-track the African Union's regional integration within the context of AU Agenda 2063.
3. H.E. Jacob ZUMA, President of the Republic of South Africa delivered the welcome remarks as host of the 33rd HSGOC Session. In specific, he noted that NEPAD had kept the African development agenda dream and potentials alive through its steady implementation of regional programmes and projects, especially in infrastructure.
4. H.E Robert MUGABE, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chairperson of the African Union expressed his deep appreciation to the NEPAD Agency CEO and staff for the breakthroughs in various areas of the NEPAD mandate since inception. He indicated that NEPAD Agency's progressive work and results in project conception, formulation and implementation are noteworthy achievements. The AU Chairperson commended the exceptional drive of NEPAD in resource mobilization, food security and nutrition and climate change, adding that the NPCA, as the economic development and technical body of the AU, should synergize with African regional institutions in promoting continental integration.
5. In addition, H.E. Muhammadu BUHARI, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria addressed the Session in his first participation since election through the Head of delegation of Nigeria. He re-affirmed the continued commitment from the Government of Nigeria to the implementation of the NEPAD vision and agenda.
6. High level participants at the 33rd Session included: Member Heads of State and Government of the NEPAD Orientation Committee; Chief Executive 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 the NEPAD Steering Committee (SC); Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group; and the Heads of partner institutions.
7. The 33rd NEPAD Session deliberated on the topic: NEPAD's Role in the Renewal of Africa's Regional Integration with specific focus on the Capacity Enhancement of

RECs and African Women's Empowerment. Specifically, three (3) substantive agenda issues were discussed, namely:

- a) Role of NEPAD in promoting Regional Integration and Women Empowerment;
- b) Institutional Transformation of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
- c) Update on Africa's Partnership Engagements.

Role of NEPAD in promoting Regional Integration and Women Empowerment

8. The 33rd HSGOC Session held a High Level Roundtable discussion on: NEPAD's Role in the Renewal of the Africa's Regional Integration. The debate focused on the RECs' Capacity Enhancement and Women Economic Empowerment. In this regard, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the NEPAD Agency, Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki presented the progress report on the results and evolving impact of NEPAD key programmes and projects including the support provided by the Agency to deepen regional integration. He reaffirmed the core values of NEPAD, particularly the African ownership and leadership which have informed the delivery of the NEPAD Agency.

9. In addition, Dr. Mayaki noted that NEPAD programmes and projects were conceived by Africans for Africans in all domains. Specifically, for the period January to June 2015, the CEO, NEPAD Agency disclosed that numerous results were achieved through programmatic interventions with quantifiable impacts: 20 at the continental level, 30 at the regional context and 264 at the national level. All the impacts are geared towards the industrialization of the Continent.

10. Particularly, the CEO referred to the efforts of NPCA to obtain accreditation as a regional implementing entity under the Green Climate Fund to mobilize new and additional resources for the funding of regional projects through the existing NEPAD Climate Change Fund and the setup of the NEPAD Development Partners Working Group to drive the Gender Agriculture Climate Change Programme. In this regard, the HSGOC recalled the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.563 (XXIV) and noted the accreditation process with the Green Climate Fund. Furthermore, the Session welcomed the launch of the African Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance and Forum as a platform for coordinated support in responding to the impact of climate change and variability. The HSGOC urged the NPCA through the Alliance, to increase collaboration with the RECs, NGOs and Partners in attaining the target of reaching 25 million farm households by 2025. The HSGOC also requested NPCA to develop the NEPAD Policy Framework on Youth Employment in Africa in partnership with the AUC, UNECA and UNDP, and submit to the HSGOC in due course for its consideration.

11. In furtherance of the Programme of Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and the NEPAD Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI), the HSGOC welcomed the formal launch of the Continental Business Network (CBN) in Cape Town on 1 June 2015 as a private sector action-oriented platform to drive investments and

financing of prioritized infrastructure projects based on the Dakar Agenda for Action (DAA).

Institutional Transformation of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs),

12. Dr. Stergomena Laurent TAX, Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) addressed the HSGOC Session and underscored the critical importance of capacity enhancement of RECs in delivering the expectation as the building blocks of regional integration in Africa. She emphasised that capacity development will determine the quality of result attainable by the RECs to accelerate regional integration. The SADC Executive Secretary added that sustainable and coordinated approaches to promoting the institutional capacity of RECs will move the implementation of Agenda 2063 forward. In this regard, she called for NEPAD to increase technical support for the RECs' Medium and Long Term plans and urged African Leaders to sustain the momentum. Furthermore, Dr. Tax stressed the overriding need to design homogeneous capacity development plans for better coherence and coordination of institutional strengthening processes of the RECs.

13. In recalling the AU Assembly Decision AU/Dec.563 (XXIV) of January 2015, the HSGOC specially welcomed the presentation by the SADC Executive Secretary and noted the scaling up of technical support by NPCA to strengthen the institutional capacity of the RECs through the roll-out of the 2015-2025 RECs Capacity Development Implementation Plan. The HSGOC Session underscored NEPAD's role in catalyzing institutional transformation of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). In this regard, the HSGOC welcomed the report presented by the SADC Executive Secretary and directed the NPCA to collaborate with the ECOWAS Commission to support the Short and Medium Term Capacity Plan in response to the invitation by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, Chairperson of NEPAD HSGOC and ECOWAS. The NPCA was requested to extend technical support to promote cross-REC cooperation on capacity enhancement involving the tripartite - COMESA, SADC and EAC as well as other RECs.

14. On the **African Development Goals (ADGs)**, Dr Carlos LOPES, the Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of UNECA, stated that the discourse on the MDGs provided lessons learning for Africa on the global mobilization of a common development cause. He informed that the ADGs were proposed as a unified system of goals and to serve as a dashboard to effectively track and capture progress in the implementation of Agenda 2063. He elaborated that these goals will highlight milestones for the objectives of existing AU programmes and frameworks not covered in the global agenda. Furthermore, these Goals will help monitor megatrends as they impact on Africa, particularly urbanization, agriculture, infrastructure, changing demographics, services and industrialization. Dr Lopes indicated that UNECA will continue to work and consult with the AUC, NPCA, RECs and stakeholders in finalising the ADGs, for presentation to the HSGOC by January 2016, and thereafter annual regular reporting.

Update on Africa's Partnership Engagements

Outcomes of 2015 G7 Summit

15. H.E. Macky SALL, President of the Republic of Senegal and the Chairperson of the HSGOC presented the synopsis of the outcomes of the G7 Summit held in Schloss Elmau, Bavaria, in Germany from 7-8 June 2015. The HSGOC Chairperson referred to the Outreach Dialogue with Africa with participating African Heads of State and Government. The engagement with the G7 Leaders provided the opportunity to exchange strategies on democratic governance, promotion of peace, security and stability as well as sustainable growth development in Africa. The HSGOC Chairperson re-affirmed the critical support of the G7 and G20 to the initiatives of the AU to ensure solid support for Africa's growth agenda.

16. The HSGOC noted the outcomes of the 2015 G7 Summit in relation to Africa's development priorities. The Session re-emphasized the enduring need for Africa's development priorities to constantly inform global partnerships and ensure that global commitments to the continent were fulfilled. It welcomed the G7 Summit's reiteration of continuous commitment to support Africa's peace, security and stability agenda, the strengthening of democratic institutions and the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease. In particular, the HSGOC requested the NPCA to follow up on the G7 commitments on the initiative for strengthening assistance for Complex Contract Negotiations (CONNEX), focusing initially on extractive industries.

Update on the Africa Global Partnership Platform (AGPP)

17. The NEPAD Agency CEO provided an update on the status of the establishment of the Africa Global Partnership Platform (AGPP). In this regard, the 33rd HSGOC Session commended the NEPAD Steering Committee and the NPCA for the preparatory consultations held with Africa's international partners towards the launch of the AGPP, hosted by the Government of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa in May 2015. It warmly welcomed the offer of HSGOC Chairperson to inaugurate the first Plenary Session of the new Platform in Dakar, Senegal in October 2015 and stressed the importance of the full functioning of the AGPP as an effective African-owned and led partnership mechanism.

Achievements of the NEPAD-Spanish Fund

18. As special invited guest, Mr Ignacio Ybáñez, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain highlighted the contributions of the NEPAD-Spanish Fund to the Women's Empowerment and Gender Development in Africa. He referred to the establishment of the Fund in 2007 through the significant support of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain. The Fund served as a mechanism to support key development projects in Africa on a national and regional scale. The Secretary of State also mentioned that the Fund served as a tangible expression of Spain's commitment to Africa towards meaningful advancement of gender equality. In addition, he highlighted the regional dimensions of the fund in supporting the Business Incubation for African Women Empowerment (BIAWE) through fund disbursement to COMESA and ECOWAS.

19. In response, the NEPAD Orientation Committee welcomed the accomplishments of the Fund, particularly the fact that over half million African women are direct beneficiaries of the Fund across a range of varied sectors based on the funding of 77

projects across 35 African countries. Therefore, the Session noted that the Fund contributed to the agenda of promoting African women's economic empowerment through skills transfer, access to finance and the set-up of small-businesses, as well as access to land. In addition, the HSGOC noted that at the institutional level, the capacities of government institutions and civil society organizations including grassroots women's associations were strengthened.

20. The HSGOC expressed deep appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Spain for its significant support to the Fund and called upon AU Member States, stakeholders and partners to build on the achievements of the NEPAD-Spanish Fund to sustain its key results and impact. This will help in strengthening African women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming in contribution to the implementation of Agenda 2063.

21. Prior to the opening of the 33rd NEPAD HSGOC Session, H.E. Robert MUGABE, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chairperson of the African Union, declared open the Exhibition on the Achievements of the NEPAD-Spanish Fund for African Women's Empowerment. The AU Chairperson was accompanied by H.E. Macky SALL, President of the Republic of Senegal and HSGOC Chairperson, as well as the host, H.E. Jacob ZUMA, President of the Republic of South Africa along with Members of the HSGOC.

22. In general, the Session was briefed on inputs for Africa's preparation towards the upcoming 21st Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by Dr. Donald KABERUKA, President of the African Development Bank (AfDB). The AfDB President's presentation was supported by Mr. Trevor Manuel, former Minister in the Presidency, South Africa and Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, former Minister of Finance, Nigeria. The HSGOC noted the presentation and urged that the appropriate AU process through the CAHOSCC be consulted to ensure coherence and coordination on Africa's voice and position at COP21 in Paris.

Special Valedictory Recognition of Outgoing AfDB President

23. The HSGOC paid a special tribute to Dr. Donald Kaberuka, outgoing President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group. The NEPAD Orientation Committee Chairperson appreciated the special contributions of the AfDB President towards the implementation of the NEPAD vision and mission. In particular, the HSGOC indicated that Dr. Kaberuka, during his tenure, had raised the profile of infrastructure development under the AU Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). The Session further recalled the outgoing AfDB President's landmark achievements through the establishment of the Africa50 and high level support for the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure as well as capacity building support to the AU Institutions and RECs in advancing PIDA.

24. Accordingly, the 33rd HSGOC Session expressed profound appreciation to Dr. Donald Kaberuka in acknowledgement of his immense contributions and consistent support for the African Union development objectives and initiatives, particularly NEPAD implementation. On behalf of the HSGOC, H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of

Senegal and HSGOC Chairperson subsequently presented the special award of recognition as a Most Valued Partner of NEPAD to Dr Kaberuka.

25. Responding, Dr. Donald Kaberuka underlined the importance of continued high level political support for Infrastructure development in Africa. He pointed out in particular the need for accelerated infrastructure attention in South Sudan/Sudan and Central Africa region as well as the Mano River Union. He added that the AfDB had contributed USD 28 billion over a period of 10 years towards infrastructure projects in the continent and urged for the AU to address the removal of non-tariff barriers in to facilitate greater intra-African trade. In specific, Dr KABERUKA encouraged the Heads of State to support the energy development and called for the development of regional energy markets.

Closing

26. The HSGOC thanked H.E. Jacob ZUMA, President of the Republic of South Africa, the Government and people of South Africa for successfully hosting the 33rd Session of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee and the facilities provided for the meeting.

27. Overall, the HSGOC Chairperson expressed profound gratitude to the Chairpersons of the African Union and the AU Commission along with the NPCA Chief Executive Officer for the steadfast support for the implementation of NEPAD as the AU development strategy.

28. The next 34th Session of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee will hold on the eve of the 26th African Union Assembly in January 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

2015

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