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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Thirty-Nine Ordinary Session

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**MID-TERM REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON
MULTILATERAL COOPERATION
FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY TO JULY 2021**

INTRODUCTION

1. During the period of January to July 2021, the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation (SCWMC), first under the Chairmanship of H.E. Amb. Fafré Camara, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mali who then handed over the Chairmanship of the Sub-Committee to H.E. Amb. Edward Xolisa Makaya, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa, who will lead the work of the Sub-Committee over a two-year term, from April 2021 to March 2023, held two (2) Meetings, as follows:

- (i). 49th Meeting, held on 13 January 2021, during which Member States considered and adopted the 2020 Annual Report of the SCWMC and the Draft Executive Council Decisions on Multilateral Cooperation as well as the Criteria for hosting Partnerships Conferences;
- (ii). 50th Meeting, held on 23 July 2021, which considered the Draft Report of the SCWMC for the period of January to July 2021 and reviewed specific partnerships issues presented by the Commission;

2. The focus of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation during the first half of 2021 was mainly to follow-up on the implementation of the Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.1107(XXXVIII), taken during its 38th Ordinary Session held on 3 – 4 February 2021, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which:

- (i) *Requested the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Groups of African Ambassadors in Partner Countries, to finalize the development of the Draft Partnership Strategy and Policy Framework document for submission to the Executive Council in February 2022.*
- (ii) *Requested the Chairperson of the Commission, to undertake consultations with Partners and Member States designated to host partnership Summits in order to make proposals on the Partnerships Summits which may be held in 2021, and to report to Member States, on the outcomes of the said consultations, taking into consideration the improvement in public health conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and in line with Decision EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII), of January 2016.*

3. This Report, which is divided into two parts, summarizes the issues discussed and conclusions reached during the Sub-Committee meeting held on 23 July 2021. . The first part of the report addresses general issues related to Partnerships, and in particular provides an update on the Development of the AU Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework as well on the outcomes of the consultations undertaken by the Chairperson of the Commission on partnerships meetings to be held in 2021, while the second part summarizes the deliberations regarding each Strategic Partnership.

PART I. GENERAL ISSUES ON PARTNERSHIPS

1.1 Development of an AU Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework

4. The Executive Council, by Decision No.: **EX.CL/Dec. 1107 (XXXVIII)**, taken during its 38th Ordinary Session held on 3 - 4 February 2021, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, requested the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Groups of African Ambassadors in Partner Countries, to finalize the development of the Draft Partnership Strategy and Policy Framework document for submission to the Executive Council in February 2022.

5. In line with the above-mentioned Decision, the Commission hired the service of a consultant to assist in the development of the Partnership Policy and Strategy Framework;

6. The consultancy has since commenced its work and is currently in the phase of extensive consultations with all the stakeholders involved in the management of AU Partnerships activities including Members of the AU Permanent Representatives Committee.

7. The consultant is expected to deliver and present a first Draft of the AU partnerships Strategy to the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation in August 2021.

Recommendations

8. The Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes to PRC to recommend to the Executive Council to:

- (i). **WELCOME AND APPRECIATE** the appointment of the consultant to lead on the development of the Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework;
- (ii). **TAKE NOTE** of the ongoing consultations which the Consultant has with Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AUDA-NEPAD and the Groups of African Ambassadors in Partner Countries in the development of the draft Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework for its submission to the 40th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in February 2022, in line with Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.1107(XXXVIII) of February 2021.

1.2 Consultations undertaken by the Chairperson on the partnerships Meetings to be held in 2021

9. During its 38th Ordinary Session held on 3 - 4 February 2021, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Executive Council, through Decision No.: **EX.CL/Dec. 1107(XXXVIII)**, requested the Chairperson of the Commission, to undertake consultations with Partners

and Member States designated to host Partnerships Summits in order to make proposals on the Partnerships Summits which may be held in 2021, and to report to Member States on the outcomes of the said consultations, taking into consideration the improvement in public health conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and in line with Decision **EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII)**, of January 2016.

10. Regarding the 5th Arab – Africa Summit to be held in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Commission received a Note Verbale No.: **028/AUC/LAS.AA/21**, dated 21 May 2021, from the Permanent Mission of the League of Arab States (LAS) in Addis Ababa, informing the Commission that the Kingdom of Saudi has expressed its willingness to host the 5th Arab – Africa Summit in May 2022 and requested the Secretariat of LAS to coordinate with the AUC in order to mutually agree on an appropriate date for the Summit to be convened in May 2022.

11. Concerning the 6th EU – AU Summit to be held in Europe, exchanges between high-level Officials from both sides have featured the request from the European Union to postpone the 6th EU – AU Summit to the first quarter of 2022.

12. From the two (2) remaining Partnerships Summits, namely, the 3rd Turkey-Africa Summit and the 4th Africa – India Summit, the Partnerships Directorate wishes to inform that it has no indication of the willingness of India to host the Summit in 2021. A meeting held between the Partnerships Directorate and the Indian Ambassador did not feature any confirmation, rather the Indian Ambassador indicated that he would engage his Capital and revert. Conversely, Turkey has indicated its interest to hold its Summit this year and has been engaging with the Commission in this regard.

Recommendations

13. The Subcommittee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- (i). **RECOMMEND** to the Assembly to endorse the holding of the 6th EU-AU Summit during the First quarter of 2022 and to request the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission and the European Commission to agree on suitable dates for the 6th EU-AU Summit in 2022, in Europe;
- (ii). **RECOMMEND** to the Assembly to approve the holding of the 5th Arab – Africa Summit to be held in May 2022, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and to request the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission, the Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the host country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to agree on a suitable date;
- (iii). **TAKE NOTE** of the ongoing consultations with India on the holding of the 4th Africa-India Summit;

- (iv). **REQUEST** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission to consider the dates proposed by Turkey for the holding of the 3rd Turkey-Africa Summit and agree on a mutually acceptable date.

PART II. PARTNERSHIPS SPECIFIC ISSUES

2.1 AU – EU Partnership

14. Decision No.: **EX.CL/Dec. 1107 (XXXVIII)** of the Executive Council of February 2021, requested the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission to agree with the EU on a suitable date for the 2nd AU-EU Ministerial Meeting to be held in 2021, in Kigali, Rwanda, subject to improvement in public health conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the relevant decisions on the organization of AU partnership meetings.

15. In accordance with the above-mentioned Decision of the Executive Council, consultations were undertaken between the Chair of the Executive Council, the European Commission leadership and the host country, Rwanda. From those consultations, an agreement was reached to host the 2nd AU-EU Ministerial Meeting on 25 – 26 October 2021.

16. Preparations for the 2nd AU – EU Ministerial Meeting have therefore started both on the substantive outcome documents and logistical arrangements. Representatives from both the AU and EU have met during the joint Steering Committee meeting of the AU-EU Partnership to review the Draft communiqué as well as the Draft Agenda and Programme of Work for the Joint Senior Officials and the Ministerial Meeting to be held in Kigali, Rwanda. With regard to the Administrative and Protocol arrangements, preparations are also at an advanced stage as several consultations have been held between the Commission, the EU and the host country, Rwanda.

Recommendations:

17. The Subcommittee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- (i). **TAKE NOTE** of the current preparatory process for the holding of the 2nd AU – EU Ministerial Meeting; and request the Commission to circulate the draft Communiqué as well as the draft Agenda and Programme of Work to Member States as soon as the Joint Steering Committee has finalized them;
- (ii). **ENDORSE** the proposed dates of 25-26 October 2021 for the holding of the 2nd AU – EU Ministerial Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, subject to the improvement in public health conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (iii). **RECALL** Assembly Decision No.: Assembly/AU/Dec.762(XXXIII), of February 2020, which: “**REAFFIRMS** the right of all AU Member States to participate in

Statutory Meetings, related to partnerships between the African Union/African Continent and another Continent or Regional Organization”;

2.3 Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

18. The activities focused on the follow-up of the outcomes of the TICAD 7 Summit held in Yokohama, Japan, in August 2019, including the finalization of the 2019 Yokohama Action Plan and the preparations for the TICAD 8 Summit to be held in the Republic of Tunisia, in 2022.

19. The finalization of the 2019 Yokohama Action Plan was marked by consultations with Japan for the inclusion of the African Union’s Initiatives/Measures in the Action Plan, as well as the modalities of collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Bank on their respective Initiatives/Measures in order to ensure synergy in the implementation of the Action Plan. As part of the finalization process of the said Action Plan, the activities also focused on the development and launch of the TICAD 7 Monitoring Website in order to allow registrations and reporting on the implementation of the TICAD 7 Action Plan.

20. In accordance with TICAD follow-up mechanism, the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) Meeting was held on 15 July 2021 and discussed the priorities and processes leading up to TICAD 8 as well as the follow-up of TICAD 7, so as to review the impact of COVID-19 on Africa’s economy and society, and the state of implementation of the Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019.

21. With regard to the TICAD 8 Summit to be held in Tunisia, in 2022, preparations have progressed in collaboration with Tunisia. In line with the Executive Council relevant Decisions No.: **EX.CL/Dec.1107 (XXXVIII)** of February 2021 that ‘*endorses the second half of 2021 for the holding in Japan of the Ministerial Meeting*’, Japan has proposed a preferred date of Saturday, 6 November to Sunday 7 November 2021, with an alternative date for Saturday, 13 November to Sunday 14 November 2021.

22. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, Japan’s proposal is for a hybrid format of participation (limited number of delegations attending physically, in Tokyo, Japan, and a full virtual participation) or through a complete virtual process, subject to improvement in public health conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the case of the hybrid as the primary format scenario, with a full online virtual participation and with a limited number of delegations attending physically, in Tokyo, Japan’s proposal is, as follows:

- (i). Foreign Ministers from the African Union Troika, namely, the previous, current, and incoming AU Chairs (South Africa (2020), DRC (2021), Senegal (2022));
- (ii). Foreign Minister from the host country of TICAD 8 in 2022 (Tunisia);

- (iii). TICAD Co-organizers (Japan, AUC, UN Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (UNOSAA), UNDP and World Bank).

23. While waiting for the AU side to finalize the consultations on the above proposed dates for the Ministerial Meeting, the other Co-Organizers, including Japan, the host of the Meeting endorsed the date of 6-7 November 2021 for the holding of the upcoming Ministerial Meeting through a virtual platform.

Recommendations

24. The Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- (i). **WELCOME** the finalization of the Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019 as well as the operationalization of the TICAD Monitoring Website;
- (ii). **TAKE NOTE** of the holding of the Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting through virtual means, on 15 July 2021 that advances AU's interest in the elaboration of the priorities and processes leading up to TICAD 8 as well as in the follow up of TICAD 7, so as to review the impact of COVID-19 on Africa's economy and society, and the state of implementation of the Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019;
- (iii). **RECOMMEND** the endorsement of the dates of 6-7 November 2021, for the holding of the Ministerial Meeting through a virtual platform;
- (iv). **REQUEST** the PRC to work in close collaboration with the Commission, Japan and the other Co-Organizers to finalize the working documents for the Meeting.
- (v). **RECALL** Assembly Decision No.: Assembly/AU/Dec.762(XXXIII), of February 2020, which: "REAFFIRMS the right of all AU Member States to participate in Statutory Meetings, related to partnerships between the African Union/African Continent and another Continent or Regional Organization"; and "DECIDED that African Union/African Continent shall be represented at the Statutory Meetings of partnership between the African Union/African Continent and a partner country by the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, the Chairpersons of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of AUDA-NEPAD and the Chairperson of the AU Commission";

2.4 Africa-Korea Partnership

25. The 38th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held on 3-4 February 2021, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia approved the holding of the 5th Africa–Korea Ministerial Forum during the first or second week of November 2021, in Seoul, Korea, subject to

improvement in public health conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and if necessary to explore the possibility of holding the said Ministerial Meeting by virtual means after consultations with Korea.

26. Following the 3rd Africa-Korea Policy Consultation Meeting held virtually on 24 February, 2021, consultations between the AU Commission and Korea commenced on preparations for the Forum and both sides are currently reviewing the Draft Concept Note submitted by Korea. Both sides are yet to work on the Draft Declaration and the Draft Action Plan, which must be in line with the priorities of AU Agenda 2063.

27. In the Draft Concept Note, the Korean side requested for a change of date for the Forum (to 9-10 December 2021), to be held back to back with the UN peacekeeping Ministerial scheduled for 7-8 December 2021.

Recommendations

28. The Subcommittee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- (i). **TAKE NOTE** of the preparations for the holding of the 5th Korea-Africa Ministerial Forum;
- (ii). **RECOMMEND** the endorsement of the dates of 9-10 December 2021, for holding the Forum in Seoul, subject to the public health situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and, if necessary to explore the possibility of holding the Ministerial Forum by virtual means after consultations with Korea;
- (iii). **REQUEST** the Commission to work with Korea to develop all the required documents namely the Draft Declaration and Draft Joint Action Plan.
- (iv). **UNDERScore** that representation of the AU side to the 5th Korea-Africa Ministerial Forum shall be in line with Executive No.: EX.CL/Dec.1073(XXXVI), of February 2020, which decided that: *“African Union/African Continent shall be represented at the Statutory Meetings of partnership between the African Union/African Continent and a partner country by the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, the Chairpersons of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of AUDA-NEPAD and the Chairperson of the AU Commission;*

2.5 Africa – Turkey Partnership

29. On 8 April 2021, the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, through Note Verbale No.: **Z-2021/56014670/32555902** made proposals to hold the 3rd Africa-Turkey Summit between 8-10 September 2021, or 16-18 September 2021, in Turkey and also submitted the Draft Action Plan and the Joint Implementation

Report for review by the AU Commission. In this regard, work on the Joint Implementation Report and the Draft Action Plan is currently ongoing, taking into account priorities of the African Union.

30. Both sides will continue working together on the preparation of the Draft Declaration and the Draft Action Plan for the next Summit.

Recommendations:

31. The Subcommittee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- (i) **TAKE NOTE** of the consultations that have taken place between the Commission and Turkey;
- (ii) **RECOMMEND** that the Turkey-Africa Summit should be convened before the end of the year on a date to be mutually agreed. The format thereof and the confirmation of the date will be determined by Bureau of the Assembly and the Chairs of the RECs;
- (iii) **REQUEST** the Commission to work closely with Turkey to finalize the outcome documents and circulate them for consideration by the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation;
- (iv) **RECALL** Assembly Decision No.: Assembly/AU/Dec.762(XXXIII), of February 2020, which, “DECIDED that African Union/African Continent shall be represented at the Statutory Meetings of partnership between the African Union/African Continent and a partner country by the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, the Chairpersons of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of AUDA-NEPAD and the Chairperson of the AU Commission”;

2.6 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

32. During the meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation held on 23 July 2021, the Representative of Senegal, the country of the next FOCAC Ministerial Meeting, briefed Member States on the state of preparation for the upcoming FOCAC Ministerial Meeting. He informed the meeting that the next FOCAC Meeting will be held at the end of November 2021.

Recommendations:

33. The Sub Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- (i) **TAKE NOTE** of the preparations for the holding of the 8th Ministerial Conference of FOCAC;
- (ii) **REQUEST** the Commission in collaboration with China to expedite the preparations for the holding of the 8th FOCAC Ministerial Conference, working closely with the AU representation in Beijing, China, and the host Country, Senegal.
- (iii) **RECALL** Assembly Decision No.: Assembly/AU/Dec.762(XXXIII), of February 2020, which: “REAFFIRMS the right of all AU Member States to participate in Statutory Meetings, related to partnerships between the African Union/African Continent and another Continent or Regional Organization”; and “DECIDED that African Union/African Continent shall be represented at the Statutory Meetings of partnership between the African Union/African Continent and a partner country by the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, the Chairpersons of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of AUDA-NEPAD and the Chairperson of the AU Commission”;

DRAFT DECISION ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

The PRC Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

A. On the Development of an AU Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework

- (i). **WELCOME AND APPRECIATE** the appointment of the consultant to lead on the development of the Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework;
- (ii). **TAKE NOTE** of the ongoing consultations which the Consultant has with Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AUDA-NEPAD and the Groups of African Ambassadors in Partner Countries in the development of the draft Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework for its submission to the 40th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in February 2022, in line with Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.1107(XXXVIII) of February 2021.

B. On Partnerships Meetings to be held in 2021

- (iii). **RECOMMEND** to the Assembly to endorse the holding of the 6th EU-AU Summit during the First quarter of 2022 and to request the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission and the European Commission to agree on suitable dates for the 6th EU-AU Summit in 2022, in Europe;
- (iv). **RECOMMEND** to the Assembly to approve the holding of the 5th Arab – Africa Summit to be held in May 2022, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and to request the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission and the Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the host country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to agree on a suitable date;
- (v). **TAKE NOTE** of the ongoing consultations with India on the holding of the 4th Africa-India Summit;
- (vi). **REQUEST** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission to consider the dates proposed by Turkey for the holding of the 3rd Turkey-Africa Summit and agree on a mutually acceptable date.

C. AU-EU Partnership

- (vii). **TAKE NOTE** of the current preparatory process for the holding of the 2nd AU – EU Ministerial Meeting; and request the Commission to circulate the draft Communiqué as well as the draft Agenda and Programme of Work to Member States as soon as the Joint Steering Committee has finalized them;

- (viii). **ENDORSE** the proposed dates of 25-26 October 2021 for the holding of the 2nd AU – EU Ministerial Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, subject to the improvement in public health conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (ix). **RECALL** Assembly Decision No.: Assembly/AU/Dec.762(XXXIII), of February 2020, which: “REAFFIRMS the right of all AU Member States to participate in Statutory Meetings, related to partnerships between the African Union/African Continent and another Continent or Regional Organization”;

D. Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

- (x). **WELCOME** the finalization of the Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019 as well as the operationalization of the TICAD Monitoring Website;
- (xi). **TAKE NOTE** of the holding of the Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting through virtual means, on 15 July 2021, that advances AU’s interest in the elaboration of the priorities and processes leading up to TICAD 8 as well as in the follow up of TICAD 7, so as to review the impact of COVID-19 on Africa’s economy and society, and the state of implementation of the Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019;
- (xii). **RECOMMEND** the endorsement of the date of 6-7 November 2021 for the holding of the Ministerial Meeting through a virtual platform;
- (xiii). **REQUEST** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission, Japan and the other Co-Organizers to finalize the working documents for the Meeting.
- (xiv). **RECALL** Assembly Decision No.: Assembly/AU/Dec.762(XXXIII), of February 2020, which: “REAFFIRMS the right of all AU Member States to participate in Statutory Meetings, related to partnerships between the African Union/African Continent and another Continent or Regional Organization”; and “DECIDED that African Union/African Continent shall be represented at the Statutory Meetings of partnership between the African Union/African Continent and a partner country by the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, the Chairpersons of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of AUDA-NEPAD and the Chairperson of the AU Commission”;

E. Africa – Korea Partnership

- (xv). **TAKE NOTE** of the preparations for the holding of the 5th Korea-Africa Ministerial Forum;

- (xvi). **RECOMMEND** the endorsement of the dates of 9-10 December 2021, for holding the Forum in Seoul, subject to the public health situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and, if necessary to explore the possibility of holding the Ministerial Forum by virtual means after consultations with Korea;
- (xvii). **REQUEST** the Commission to work with Korea to develop all the required documents namely the Draft Declaration and Draft Joint Action Plan
- (xviii). **UNDERScore** that participation on the AU side to the 5th Korea-Africa Ministerial Forum shall be in line with Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.1073(XXXVI), of February 2022, which decided that: "*African Union/African Continent shall be represented at the Statutory Meetings of partnership between the African Union/African Continent and a partner country by the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, the Chairpersons of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of AUDA-NEPAD and the Chairperson of the AU Commission*";

F. Africa – Turkey Partnership

- (xix). **TAKE NOTE** of the consultations that have taken place between the Commission and Turkey;
- (xx). **RECOMMEND** that the Turkey-Africa Summit should be convened before the end of the year on a date to be mutually agreed. The format thereof and the confirmation of the date will be determined by the Bureau of the Assembly and the Chairs of the RECs;
- (xxi). **REQUEST** the Commission to work closely with Turkey to finalise the outcome documents and circulate them for consideration by the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation;
- (xxii). **RECALL** Assembly Decision No.: Assembly/AU/Dec.762(XXXIII), of February 2020, which, "DECIDED that African Union/African Continent shall be represented at the Statutory Meetings of partnership between the African Union/African Continent and a partner country by the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, the Chairpersons of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of AUDA-NEPAD and the Chairperson of the AU Commission";

G. Forum on China-Africa Cooperation(FOCAC)

- (xxiii). **TAKE NOTE** of the preparations for the holding of the 8th Ministerial Conference of FOCAC;

- (xxiv). **REQUEST** the Commission in collaboration with China to expedite the preparations for the holding of the 8th FOCAC Ministerial Conference, working closely with the AU representation in Beijing, China, and the host Country, Senegal;
- (xxv). **RECALL** Assembly Decision No.: Assembly/AU/Dec.762(XXXIII), of February 2020, which: “REAFFIRMS the right of all AU Member States to participate in Statutory Meetings, related to partnerships between the African Union/African Continent and another Continent or Regional Organization”; and “DECIDED that African Union/African Continent shall be represented at the Statutory Meetings of partnership between the African Union/African Continent and a partner country by the Members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, the Chairpersons of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) of AUDA-NEPAD and the Chairperson of the AU Commission”.

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