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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE (PRC) SUB-COMMITTEE ON NEPAD
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021**

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON NEPAD
(January - December 2021)**

INTRODUCTION

1. The PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD (hereafter the S-C) pursued its activities throughout 2021 despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, during the period under review, the S-C held regular meetings during which it received updates on NEPAD-related topics and made its annual visit to the Headquarters of the African Union Development Agency - NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD). Through its Chairperson, the S-C participated in other activities, including meetings of the NEPAD Steering Committee and the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), as well as at the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the AUC and RECs.

2. The year 2021 was marked by the renewal of the S-C membership for a period of two years, and the extension of the mandate of the current AUDA-NEPAD Chief Executive Officer, H.E. Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, until the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer planned for the next AU Summit in February 2022. The renewed Sub-Committee is composed as follows:

- **Bureau**: Algeria (Chairperson), Nigeria (1st Vice-Chairperson); Kenya (2nd Vice-Chairperson); Congo (3rd Vice-Chairperson); Botswana (Rapporteur)
- **Members**: Burundi; Cameroon; Ghana; Libya; Lesotho; Niger; Sudan; Togo; Uganda; Zambia.

3. The S-C working visit to AUDA-NEPAD Headquarters on 16 and 17 November 2021 allowed the S-C and the Agency to share views on the activities of the AUDA-NEPAD and the role of the S-C in supporting the implementation of the NEPAD programme.

4. This Report provides an account of the activities of the S-C on NEPAD in 2021 and presents recommendations on the way forward to support the implementation of NEPAD programmes from different perspectives.

I. SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON NEPAD FOR 2021

A. Activities of the Sub-Committee Chair on behalf of the S-C

5. The year 2021 started with the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of NEPAD. On this occasion, on 28 and 29 January 2021, AUDA-NEPAD organized a high-level colloquium and dialogue to assess the implementation of NEPAD programme over the

past 20 years and the capacities needed to support the implementation of the maiden continental development agency. The symposium reflected on the successes, achievements and challenges in implementing NEPAD objectives and discussed the relevance and future of the AU Development Agency as well as ways and means of enabling AUDA-NEPAD to best discharge its missions. The Sub-Committee was represented by its then Chairperson, the Ambassador of Botswana, H.E. Sinombe Zenene.

6. The S-C Chairperson also participated in the 65th Meeting of the NEPAD Steering Committee and in the 38th Session of the HSGOC which were held on 29 April and 25 May 2021 respectively.

7. The 65th Steering Committee Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mrs Diyana Gitera, Adviser at the Office of the President of the Republic of Rwanda. The Steering Committee reviewed the AUDA-NEPAD Annual Report for the 2020 financial year and received an update on the implementation of strategic initiatives as follows:

- i. Support Member States in developing and implementing their national development plans, Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- ii. Conduct effective research and develop innovation-driven solutions that benefit Member States and Regional Economic Communities;
- iii. Develop knowledge hubs for Africa's development in five thematic areas:
 - a. Rural resources and food systems
 - b. Climate resilience
 - c. Science, technology and innovation
 - d. Development of human capital and institutions
 - e. Supply chain and logistics.

8. The Meeting also discussed matters relating to preparations for the holding of the 38th Summit of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) on NEPAD, in particular the recruitment of a new Chief Executive Officer for the Agency.

9. The HSGOC held its 38th Session on the occasion of the Africa Day, on 25 May 2021, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda. The meeting discussed pressing development issues that have been exacerbated with the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on the increased role of AUDA-NEPAD in the era of COVID-19 and stressed the need for innovative solutions and, above all, increased regional cooperation to overcome this difficult ordeal. To this end, the HSGOC recommended that AUDA-NEPAD be entrusted with the responsibility for providing technical support to Member States and regions with a view to increasing domestic financing for health and stressed the importance of taking full advantage of the establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) by calling on Member States to sign and ratify the Treaty thereof for the Agency to quickly go operational.

10. It is worth highlighting the presentation made by the AUDA-NEPAD Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, on the achievements of the Agency in 2020, in the strategic areas of the Organization, including:

- The operationalization of the AUDA-NEPAD roadmap since the institutional reforms of the African Union;
- The integrated delivery model on which the Organization operates;
- Findings on the needs of Member States;
- Operating in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Highlights of the AUDA-NEPAD COVID-19 response plan.

B. Meetings of the Sub-Committee

11. In 2021, the Sub-Committee held four meetings (one meeting every quarter), from the 24th to the 27th meeting, and a working visit to AUDA-NEPAD Headquarters in South Africa. The S-C also adopted its Terms of Reference, through a silent procedure, on Tuesday, 21 December 2021.

12. The 24th Meeting which was held on 1 February 2021, focused on the adoption of the 2020 Annual Report and on an exchange of views on the upcoming meetings of the NEPAD Steering Committee and HSGOC.

13. The 25th Meeting of the S-C was devoted to handover of the S-C Chair, the Ambassador of Botswana, H.E. Sinombe Zenene, to the new Chairperson, H.E. Salah El Hamdi, Ambassador of Algeria. The ceremony provided an opportunity for the outgoing Chair to brief the incoming Chair and members of the S-C on the work of the S-C, challenges faced and opportunities to contribute to the successful implementation of the NEPAD programme as well as support the Development Agency in delivering its mandate.

14. During its 26th Meeting on 25 June, the S-C reviewed its Annual Work Programme presented by the new Chair, the Ambassador of Algeria. The meeting also allowed an exchange of views on the Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee on NEPAD. The 2020 AUDA-NEPAD Annual Report was reviewed, likewise the 2022 draft budgets of AUDA-NEPAD and the Coordination Unit.

15. The 27th Meeting of the S-C was held on 20 September 2021. The meeting highly appreciated the participation of the AUDA-NEPAD Chief Executive Officer, Dr Mayaki, who presented the Agency's strategic plan for the period 2020-2023. The objective of the strategic plan is to speed up the emergence of an integrated Africa and to improve development results and the quality of life of all Africans. It aims to provide solutions

and innovative assistance to Member States and regional bodies to enable them respond effectively to development needs at national and regional level.

16. The Agency's Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2023 has two major strategic objectives:

Strategic objective 1 - Programmatic Interventions: Delivery of interventions through cross-sector programmes and projects, partnerships, financial and technical resources as well as knowledge-based advisory services to:

1. Integrate African economies;
2. Improve the well-being of Africans and strengthen the effectiveness and capacity of institutions;
3. Build healthy national and regional food systems and culture while empowering rural communities;
4. Facilitate access to affordable and sustainable energy;
5. Promote climate resilience, environmental sustainability and intergenerational equity in the management of renewable and non-renewable natural resources;
6. Advance science, technology and innovation to digitize African economies, scale up knowledge generation and use, and advance innovation.

Strategic objective 2 - Organizational Excellence: By the end of the fourth quarter of 2023, AUDA-NEPAD should emerge as:

1. A continentally and globally recognized learning and knowledge agency in support of Africa's development;
2. The African continent's leading institution and development agency in the implementation of AU priority programmes and projects, and assisting Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the implementation of their development policies, strategies, programmes and projects;
3. An organization that provides an AU development management platform and critical technical inputs to the African Union Commission towards the transformation and development of African economies;
4. An agency with increased operational effectiveness and efficiency, a well-established and supportive work culture and environment, sustained staff commitment and optimized productivity.

17. At the same Sub-Committee meeting (20 September 2021), there was an exchange of views on the Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee on NEPAD, with a view to their adoption at the next meeting.

18. The 27th Meeting of the Sub-Committee further listened to an update on the status of the implementation of the Great Museum of Africa (GMA) as presented by Algeria in its capacity as host of the GMA. The GMA is one of the flagship projects of the AU Agenda 2063. Algeria has offered a piece of land for the construction of its headquarters, which will greatly contribute to showcasing the culture and ancestral civilization of African peoples in order to preserve the identity and universal historical heritage of Africa. Built in the middle of a 14 Ha garden, the architecture of the Great Museum of Africa gives it changing shapes and silhouettes depending on the angle of view and the different times of the day. The entire structure consists mainly of exhibition spaces, workshops, an auditorium and a more central part comprising the reception, a cafeteria and a restaurant. It is intended to accommodate and exhibit the various forms of modern and contemporary African Art. The project is located on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea. The reinforced concrete building (base) spans over four superstructure levels, with a partial basement. The infrastructure will be built with special concrete and cased to protect it against sea water.

19. Also noteworthy is the attendance of members of the S-C at the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting, as AUDA-NEPAD plays a key role in the division of labour between the AUC and RECs in the implementation of Agenda 2063.

20. The Sub-Committee also underscored AUDA-NEPAD's important role in promoting the flagship project of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and sensitizing Member States on its ratification and entry into force. It should be noted that to date, 54 (fifty-four) AU Member States have signed the AfCFTA Agreement, 42 (forty-two) have ratified it, of which 39 (thirty-nine) have deposited the ratification instruments thereof. Accordingly, the year 2021 was marked by the launch of trade under AfCFTA, in accordance with the decision of the 13th Extraordinary AU Summit held via videoconference on 5 December 2020. However, the full operationalization of AfCFTA could take some time, since it is dependent on the finalization of the first phase of negotiations on the liberalization of trade in goods and services. It is also dependent on the accelerated implementation of practical mechanisms for the start of such trade, like the adoption of national provisions to manage preferential trade and support the various African economic operators, in order to allow them to truly take ownership of this Agenda 2063 flagship project.

21. The S-C intends to organize an interaction meeting with our partners to examine ways and means of strengthening cooperation and improving the management and implementation of development projects in a timely manner.

C. Working Visit of the Sub-Committee on NEPAD to AUDA-NEPAD Headquarters

22. The working visit of the newly-constituted PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD was held on 16 and 17 November 2021 at the Sandton Convention Centre in South Africa, and was hosted by AUDA-NEPAD. The Meeting was chaired by the Sub-Committee Chairperson, the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the African Union, **H.E. Salah F. Elhamdi**.

23. The working visit was attended by members of the PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD based in Addis Ababa, AUC officials, Ms. Nardos Bekele, United Nations Resident Coordinator in South Africa and of AUDA-NEPAD Programme Heads and Senior Managers.

24. It is worth highlighting the virtual address of the former President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Thabo Mbeki, in his capacity as a founding member of NEPAD. The key messages in the former President's address were that the focus of the NEPAD programme was not to increase aid, but to increase investment in viable infrastructure and business opportunities, and that the relationship between Africa and the developed world had to be very specific. Indeed, the NEPAD plan structured relations between Africa and the rest of the world on the basis of what Africans wanted for themselves.

25. During the two-day working session, members of the S-C were briefed on various topics relating to the work of the AUDA-NEPAD, including its mandate, duties and value-based mode of delivery. Presentations were also made on the strategic framework and integrated planning, programme implementation and coordination, operations, knowledge management and evaluation of Agenda 2063.

26. Extensive discussions ensued on the AUDA-NEPAD resource mobilization strategy, which is guided by AU Summit decisions and the AUDA-NEPAD Statutes, mandating the Agency to be committed in "total resource mobilization". The current resources of AUDA-NEPAD for the annual budget depend on four sources namely voluntary contribution from Member States, appropriations from the regular budget of the AU, grant management fees, and partner programme funding. In this regard, it is clear that AUDA-NEPAD needs to expand its resource mobilization capacity.

27. Particular emphasis was laid on the issue of the Development Fund. In this regard, members of the Sub-Committee noted that a draft framework document on Value Proposition, Partners, Cost Structure, Investment Streams, Key Activities, Funding Sources and Cost Recovery Mechanisms, was being finalized for a broader interaction with the specialized services of the Commission.

28. Members of the S-C supported a proposal for the creation of a basket fund for unused partner funds at the AU, to contribute to AUDA-NEPAD's funding needs and also to resolve the issue of losing funds (since unused funds are returned to the relevant contributors).

29. After listening to a presentation on AUDA-NEPAD COVID-19 pandemic response, the S-C concurred with the Chief Executive Officer that, to some extent, the pandemic has induced an increase in Africa's response capacities as the continent has started producing vaccines.

30. The S-C requested the Chief Executive Officer to contribute, before his departure from the Agency, to add input to what the S-C will be doing in the future. Furthermore, the S-C expressed the will to continue to interact with Dr Mayaki even after his departure, in order to capitalize his experience to make it beneficial to the Organization.

Recommendations

31. The Draft Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee on NEPAD, appended hereto, is submitted to the PRC for approval, in accordance with the latter's rules of procedure.

32. The Sub-Committee should intensify its advocacy actions including with regard to financing the AUDA-NEPAD budget and the envisaged Development Fund.

33. Based on the deliberations of its various meetings during the period under review, the Sub-Committee proposes that the PRC should recommend the following to the Executive Council:

- a. **Recall** the commitments made by Member States at the inception of NEPAD (Lusaka, Zambia, 23 October 2001) in order to give them a fresh impetus and bring them in line with the current international context;
- b. **Underscore** the need to invest in African citizens through a meaningful and comprehensive human resource strategy, to increase investment in the information and communication technology sector with a view to bridging the digital divide, to develop infrastructure, including transport and energy, and to build the capacity of Member States, particularly in the formulation of development projects;
- c. **Request** the Commission and AUDA-NEPAD to take the necessary steps to increase their coordination in order to promote synergy of efforts, optimal use of resources and facilitation of procedures for the implementation of triangular cooperation projects (Partners/African Union/relevant Member States);
- d. **Request** AUDA-NEPAD to speed up steps for the operational establishment of the Development Fund by the end of 2023;
- e. **Also request** AUDA-NEPAD, in conjunction with relevant departments of the AUC and other stakeholders, to work out a feasibility study and submit

a proposal, for approval by the Council, on the establishment of a basket fund for unused funds from partners;

- f. **Further request** the Commission to proceed with finalization of the framework documents of the Great Museum of Africa, including the Headquarters Agreement and the Statute which has already been validated by the GMA Advisory and Technical Committee;
- g. **Invite** Member States and international partners to increase their contributions to the AUDA-NEPAD budget;
- h. **Recommend** to AUDA-NEPAD to improve its communication strategy in order to increase the visibility of its programmes among Member States and African citizens;
- i. **Pay tribute** to **Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki**, Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD, for the outstanding work and exemplary leadership he demonstrated throughout his tenure.

EX.CL/1303(XL) Annex 1
Original: English

DRAFT
TERMS OF REFERENCE OF
THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON NEPAD

REV.8

DRAFT
TERMS OF REFERENCE OF
THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON NEPAD

I. BACKGROUND

1. Pursuant to Article 21 (2) of the Constitutive Act and Rule 4 (2)(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Representative Committee (PRC) the PRC decided to establish a Sub-Committee, comprising of (15) members, to deal with issues relating to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

2. NEPAD is an African developmental agenda/programme presented to African leaders at the OAU Summit in Lusaka in July 2001 and endorsed by declaration 1(XXXVII). The fundamental objective of NEPAD is to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development on the African continent in a manner that is consistent with the objectives and principles of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and emphasizes its social, economic and environmental dimensions. It also seeks to deepen Africa's integration into the global environment and markets by implementation of development-oriented foreign investment flow and effective interventions in institutions of global governance. The Lusaka Summit also adopted the NEPAD Framework.

3. At the inaugural Summit of the African Union in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa, the Assembly adopted a Declaration on the Implementation of NEPAD **[Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (I)]**. The Declaration encouraged Member States to implement the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance **[AHG/235(XXXVIII)]** and to accede to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), a voluntary mechanism aimed at ensuring that the policies and practices of participating states conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards.

4. Going forward, within the framework of the African Union Institutional Reforms and in light of the evolutionary trajectory of the NEPAD, the Assembly successively adopted Decisions AU/Dec.635 of January 2017, AU/Dec.685 of January 2018 and AU/Dec.691 of July 2018, and decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1(XI) of November 2018 on the transformation of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (**NPCA**) into the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (**AUDA-NEPAD**) as a vehicle for the better execution of the African Union Agenda 2063.

5. It is against this background and given the importance attached to the broad developmental issues encompassed by NEPAD, which is a programme of the AU, that the PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD is established.

II. MANDATE

6. The Mandate of the Sub-Committee on NEPAD shall be to consider all matters relating to Programs and activities within the framework of NEPAD.

7. This mandate shall be implemented in the framework and the strict observance of the Legal instruments and Rules of Procedure governing the Organs and Institutions of the African Union.

III. FUNCTIONS

8. The PRC Sub- Committee on NEPAD shall:

- i. Advise the PRC as appropriate, on courses of action to be taken to enhance the implementation of NEPAD programs, including implementation of Agenda 2063, at national, regional and continental levels;
- ii. Monitor the progress made in the implementation of the AU strategic plan towards the effective promotion of AUDA-NEPAD priority areas and policy guidelines outlined in its plan of action, at national, sub-regional, regional and international level;
- iii. Assist AUDA-NEPAD in its efforts towards achieving the goals enshrined in both AU Agenda 2063 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs);
- iv. Follow up on the implementation of the decisions of the Assembly on NEPAD and the conclusions of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC);
- v. Advocate for the effective implementation of Programs and Projects of NEPAD in collaboration with African Union Commission and AUDA-NEPAD;
- vi. Support the functioning and activities of the AUDA- NEPAD governance Structures for full ownership of the AU development agenda by Member States;
- vii. Sensitize Member States and call their attention on the need to ensure that principles of geographical rotation are observers within the governance structures of AUDA-NEPAD,

- viii. Take part as observers in the NEPAD Steering Committee through the participation of two representatives of the Bureau of the Sub Committee namely: The Chairperson of the PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD and another member of the Bureau;
- ix. Deliberate and propose to AUDA-NEPAD areas/sectors and continental programs that could reverse Africa's marginalization and lay a basis for sustainable development;
- x. Contribute towards the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the policies, programs and projects of NEPAD and Agenda 2063, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and AUDA-NEPAD;
- xi. Invite AU Relevant Partners for interaction whenever deemed necessary;
- xii. Consider the draft budget of the AUDA-NEPAD prior to the Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters;
- xiii. Receive regular updates from the AUDA-NEPAD on its activities, as well as from the Commission, on NEPAD related programs and Agenda 2063, so as to in turn, brief the PRC;
- xiv. Consider the annual report of AUDA/NEPAD prior to its adoption by the NEPAD Governance structures and other relevant documents;
- xv. Report periodically to the PRC on activities undertaken in the implementation of the above Terms of Reference.

IV. COMPOSITION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE AND TERM OF OFFICE

- 9. The term of the sub-committee is for two (02) years.
- 10. The Sub-Committee shall be composed of fifteen (15) members.
- 11. The Bureau of the Sub-Committee shall be composed of a chairperson, 3 Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, designated in adherence to the principle of regional distribution, and as per the PRC rules of procedure and established practice.

V. MEETINGS AND QUORUM

- 12. The Sub Committee shall meet at least four times per year and as often as necessary for the effective discharge of its mandate.

13. The Sub Committee shall also meet prior to any major meeting of the AUDA-NEPAD and the NEPAD Governance structures as well as the AU policy organs meetings.

14. In accordance with Rule 4 (3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Representatives Committee, the quorum for the Sub Committee is a simple majority of members (Eight [8]).

15. The Sub-Committee may invite other Member States, AU Organs, Regional Economic Community / Regional Mechanism to attend its meetings as it may deem necessary.

16. The Sub-Committee may engage with other stakeholders such as, but not limited to, African and International Development actors;

VI. OUTPUTS

17. Contribute to the follow up and realization of progress in the development of Africa and the implementation of Agenda 2063.

18. Annual or periodic reports of the work of the Sub-Committee prepared and submitted to the PRC.

19. Establish good working relations and flow of information between PRC, AUDA-NEPAD and Commission and NEPAD Governance structures.

VII. SECRETARIAT

20. The AUDA-NEPAD Coordination Unit of the Commission shall serve as the Secretariat of the Sub-Committee on NEPAD.

VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS: AMENDMENTS

21. These terms of reference may be amended as need arises by a simple majority of members of the Sub- Committee.

IX. ENTRY INTO FORCE

22. These terms of reference shall enter into force upon their adoption by the PRC.

EX.CL/1303(XL)
Annexe 2

**INTERVENTION OF H.E. FORMER PRESIDENT THABO MBEKI
AT THE WORKING VISIT OF THE S-C ON NEPAD
AT THE AUDA-NEPAD HEADQUARTER 16-17 NOVEMBER 2021
THEME: 20 YEARS OF NEPAD**

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1. The meeting was graced by an intervention of the former President of South Africa, H.E. Thabo Mbeki, in his capacity as founder of the NEPAD Program. His intervention was all the more pertinent and timely as the year 2021 marked the 20th year of existence of NEPAD. In this context H.E. President Mbeki provided a historical background on the creation of the NEPAD and offered his perspectives on the basis for defining the trajectory of NEPAD, going forward.

2. Narrating the “genesis” of the creation of NEPAD, President Mbeki illustrated the thinking behind the creation of the NEPAD by quoting the former President of Zambia, President Frederik Chiluba, at the 36th Summit of the OAU in Lomé, Togo in 2000 saying: “Africa must embrace economic cooperation and integration to be strong enough to withstand the new world economic order. The first and most important step is to make the Africa Economic Community a reality not only in documents and declarations but as expressed in the daily experience of our people, the goods they produce, trade and improved overall living conditions. Globalization is a reality which we should manage, but we have the power of numbers, and the challenge of necessity to make this happen.”

3. The Lomé Summit was the starting point on the reflection on an economic program on which economic relationship with industrialized nations will be structured; in other words, the basis of a partnership developed around what Africans have defined for themselves. It is against this background that the Lusaka Summit adopted the NEPAD Plan in 2001, with the aim to achieve the following objectives:

- Firm up the commitment by African leaders to take ownership and responsibility of its sustainable economic development, which includes a perspective and redevelopment plan for Africa;
- Develop an outline of a concrete program action that is multifaceted, as follows:
 - Create peace security and stability, democratic governance without which it is impossible to engage into meaning full economic activity;
 - Investing in African people through meaningful and comprehensive human resource strategy;
 - Harnessing and developing Africa’s strategic and comparative advantages in the resource base sectors to lead the development of an industrial strategy;

- Increase investments in the information and communication technology sector without which it will be impossible to bridge the digital divide;
- Developing infrastructure, including transport and energy
- Developing financing mechanisms
- Increase new investments by mobilizing both domestic and especially foreign savings;
- Participating African leaders could form a forum of leaders which will make decisions on and create sub-programs and initiatives;
- The plan envisaged both Africa wide and regional initiatives. conflict prevention an eradication of infectious diseases are examples on the program. Another example on the program is Africa Regulatory frameworks for key sectors like telecommunications and energy.
- partnership with the worlds especially developed countries, multilateral institutions and global and national private sector players.
- An important step in the implementation of the program would be to strengthen the capacity of the states.

4. President Mbeki emphasized that the focus of the Nepad program was not to increase aid, but increase investments in viable infrastructure and business opportunities. He added that, there was a very direct sense of ownership of NEPAD by the Heads of States and Governments and that the relationship with the developed world, including the partnerships with the G8 then the G20 and the EU and china, was very specific.

5. The NEPAD plan structured the relationships between Africa and the rest of the world of the on the basis of what Africans wanted for themselves. He expressed hope that this was still the case.

6. Concluding his remarks, having deplored the prevalent lack of knowledge about NEPAD at regional and national levels, President Mbeki recommended a review of what was sought and initiated at the formation of NEPAD, and if necessary restore them.

DRAFT DECISION ON NEPAD

1. **Recalling** the vision of the founding members of NEPAD and the commitments made by AU Member States at the inception of NEPAD in Lusaka, Zambia, on 23 October 2001 to give them a fresh impetus and bring them into line with the current international context, notably through:
 - Investment in African citizens through a meaningful and comprehensive human resources strategy;
 - Increased investment in the information and communication technology sector, with a view to bridging the digital divide;
 - Infrastructure development, including transport and energy; and
 - Member States' capacity building, particularly in the preparation of development projects;
2. **Further recalling** Decision No. Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVIII) of the Twenty-Eighth Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly held in January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the reform of the AU which, among others, integrates NEPAD as an African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), aligned with agreed priorities and underpinned by an enhanced results-monitoring framework;
3. **Recalling also** Decision No. Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XI) of the Eleventh Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly held in November 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which endorses the AUDA-NEPAD Terms of Reference and calls for the implementation of the roadmap on the clarification of the division of labour, as well as effective collaboration between the African Union, Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Mechanisms;
4. **Lastly, recalling** the mandate given to AUDA-NEPAD by the previous decisions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU and the Statutes of AUDA-NEPAD, to undertake "the full range of resource mobilization" as well as that of coordinating and executing priority regional and continental projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realization of Agenda 2063, including that of coordinating, facilitating and promoting cooperation with Africa's strategic stakeholders and partners to ensure effective resource mobilization,

The Council

- a. **Takes note** of PRC recommendations relating to the NEPAD Programme;
- b. **Welcomes** the outstanding achievements of AUDA-NEPAD over the past 20 years and **notes with satisfaction**, in particular, the results obtained in the COVID-19 pandemic response;
- c. **Requests** the Commission and AUDA-NEPAD to take the necessary steps to strengthen their coordination in order to promote the synergy of

efforts, the optimal use of resources and the facilitation of procedures for financing and implementing triangular cooperation projects (Partners/African Union/relevant Member States);

- d. **Notes with concern** the budgetary challenges facing AUDA-NEPAD and in this regard:
- i. **Requests AUDA-NEPAD** to accelerate steps for the operational establishment of the Development Fund by the end of 2023;
 - ii. **Also requests** AUDA-NEPAD, in conjunction with the relevant departments of the African Union Commission and other stakeholders, to work out a feasibility study and submit a proposal, for approval by the Council, on the establishment of a basket fund for unused funds from partners, to support the financing of NEPAD-related programmes;
 - iii. **Urges** Member States and international partners to increase their contributions to the AUDA-NEPAD budget to enable it to better deliver its mandate, particularly the effective implementation of development and cooperation projects with Member States of the African Union;
- e. **Expresses satisfaction** over the progress made in the implementation of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063 and, as such, **Requests** the Commission to proceed with finalization of the framework documents of the Great Museum of Africa (GMA), including the Headquarters Agreement and the Statute which have already been validated by the GMA Advisory and Technical Committee.
- f. **Recommends** to AUDA-NEPAD to strengthen its Communication Strategy in order to increase the visibility of its programmes among Member States and African citizens;
- g. **Pays eloquent tribute** to **Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki**, Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD, for the outstanding work and exemplary leadership he demonstrated throughout his mandate.

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