

**AFRICAN UNION**

**الاتحاد الأفريقي**



**UNION AFRICAINE**

**UNIÃO AFRICANA**

---

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 517 700

Fax: 5130 36

Website: [www. www. au.int](http://www.au.int)

---

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Forty first Ordinary Session**

**20 June – 15 July 2022**

**Lusaka, Zambia**

**EX.CL/1344(XLI)**

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION FOR THE PERIOD  
OF JANUARY TO JUNE 2022**

## Introduction

1. During the period of January to June 2022, the PRC Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation (SCWMC), under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Edward Xolisa Makaya, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa, followed up on the implementation of the Decisions of the AU Executive Council, achieved substantial results and coordinated its activities through the holding of five (5) Meetings as follows:
  - (i). The 54<sup>th</sup> Meeting, held on 14 January 2022, during which Member States considered the Executive Summary of the Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework, various updates on partnerships activities as well as the 2021 Annual Report of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation;
  - (ii). The 55<sup>th</sup> Meeting, held on 21 January 2022, which considered and reviewed specific partnerships issues concerning in particular the Consideration and adoption of the 2021 Annual Report of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation as well as the Consideration of the Draft Declaration for the 6<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Summit and its annex;
  - (iii). The 56<sup>th</sup> Meeting, held on 09 February 2022, during which Members of the Sub-Committee considered mainly the Draft Working Documents of the 6<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Summit, which was held on 17 – 18 February 2022;
  - (iv). The 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 20 May 2022, which reviewed and considered outstanding issues on Partnerships as they relate to the finalization of the AU Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework, upcoming Partnerships Meetings and Summits as well as the Mid-term Report of the Sub-Committee;
  - (v). The 58<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation held on 17 June 2022, which mainly considered the Report of the SCWMC for the period of January to June 2022;
2. This Report of the SCWMC is divided into two parts and summarizes the issues discussed, the conclusions and recommendations made by the Sub-Committee in accordance with Executive Council Decisions No.: EX.CL/Dec. 1143(XL) of February 2022. The first part addresses general issues, while the second part summarizes the deliberations regarding specific Partnerships.

## Part I. General issues on Partnerships

## 1.1 Development of the AU Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework

3. The Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation (SCWMC) recalls that the Executive Council, during its 40<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held on 2-3 February 2022, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, adopted decision No.: EX.CL/Dec. 1143(XL), which:

- (i) Took note of the progress made towards the finalization of the AU Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework;
- (ii) Requested the PRC, in close collaboration with the AU Commission, to ensure that the AU Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework is finalized for submission to the Executive Council in June/July 2022.

4. However, while substantive progress has been made in the development of the African Union Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework, including the formation and convening of a Technical Working Group between the AU Member States and the Commission, there have been some administrative and financial challenges, which did not enable the Partnerships Management and Resources Mobilization Directorate to present a revised Draft to the Sub-Committee for review and finalization. The financial challenge faced by the Commission was firstly related to the unavailability of funds to support the extension of the implementation of the project as it was not budgeted for in 2022. The initial planning was to finalize the development of the Draft Partnership Strategy in 2021. In addition, following the securing of the funds, further delays were experienced within the Directorate of Operations Support Services.

## Recommendations

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

- (i) **NOTES WITH CONCERN** the delays in the finalization of the Draft Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework;
- (ii) **REQUEST** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission to finalize the Draft Partnerships Strategy and Policy Framework for consideration by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in February 2023.

## Part II. Partnerships Specific Issues

### 2.1 AU – EU Partnership

6. In line with Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec. 1143(XL) of February 2022, which *“urged the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission and the European Union to finalize the outcome documents for the 6<sup>th</sup> AU – EU Summit to be held physically on 17 – 18 February 2022, in Brussels, Belgium, and to ensure that the*

*preparatory process of all the Statutory Meetings are inclusive*”, the 6<sup>th</sup> AU – EU Summit was effectively held in Brussels, Belgium, on 17 – 18 February 2022, with the participation of all AU Member States;

7. The 6<sup>th</sup> AU – EU Summit adopted the Brussels Declaration, which highlights new areas of cooperation with the European Union for the period of 2022 – 2025, as follows: a) prosperity and sustainability; b) a renewed and enhanced cooperation for peace and security; c) an enhanced and reciprocal partnership for migration and mobility; and d) a commitment to multilateralism. The Summit also reiterated both sides commitment to following up on engagements to monitor the implementation of commitments made during AU-EU Summits and reaffirmed that the Follow-up will be done on a regular basis via existing AU-EU structures, including the AU-EU Ministerial Follow-up Committee.

## Recommendations

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

- (i) **EXPRESS APPRECIATION** to the European Union and to the Government and people of Belgium for the successful hosting of the 6<sup>th</sup> AU – EU Summit on 17 – 18 February 2022, in Brussels, Belgium;
- (ii) **RECOMMEND** to the Assembly to endorse the Declaration of the 6<sup>th</sup> AU – EU Summit;
- (iii) **REQUEST** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission and the European Union to follow-up on the implementation of the Commitments made during the 6<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Summit and in particular to operationalize the AU – EU Partnership Ministerial Follow-up Committee, adopted during the 2<sup>nd</sup> AU – EU Ministerial Meeting held in Kigali, on 25 - 26 October 2021, in line with the Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.1143(XL), taken during its 40<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held on 02-03 February 2022, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## 2.2 Africa – Arab Partnership

9. The major priority regarding the Africa–Arab partnership is the holding of the 5<sup>th</sup> Africa–Arab Summit, which will give clear orientation for the future of the partnership and adopt the Africa–Arab Action Plan for the coming years. In this regard, and as a follow up to other Note Verbales previously sent in 2021, the Commission sent Note Verbale No.: CC/PMRM/RM/30/116/2022, dated 8 March 2022, welcoming the proposal by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (GS-LAS) to hold the Summit in May 2022, and further requested GS-LAS in consultation with the host country to propose date/dates in May 2022, for the holding of the Summit. The Commission did not receive any formal notification from LAS on possible date/dates in May 2022, for the holding of the Summit.

10. The 16<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Africa-Arab partnership, which took place on 6 April 2022, was co-chaired by H.E. Mohamed Lamine Thiaw, Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Chair of the AU Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), on the AU side and H.E. Muhamed Bin Youssef, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia, Chair of the Arab side in its capacity as President of the Arab Summit and presented an opportunity to discuss the date/dates and nature of the 5<sup>th</sup> Africa-Arab Summit amongst other issues. The meeting subsequently recommended that LAS in consultation with the host country should propose at least three possible date/dates after May 2022, for the holding of the 5<sup>th</sup> Africa – Arab Summit. The meeting also recommended that the draft working documents for the Summit be disseminated by LAS as soon as possible. The Commission is yet to receive any formal notification from LAS regarding the aforementioned recommendations.

## Recommendations

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

- (i) **REQUEST** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the host country of the 5<sup>th</sup> Africa–Arab Summit, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to agree on suitable dates for the holding of the 5<sup>th</sup> Africa–Arab Summit and its statutory preparatory Meetings, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, subject to the improvement in Public health conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 2.3 Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

12. On 22 February 2022, a virtual meeting of the TICAD Co-Organisers was held to discuss the preparations for the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, preparations for the TICAD 8 Summit as well as the Report of the Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019;

13. In line with Executive Council Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1143(XL)** taken during the Fortieth Ordinary Session in February 2022, which endorsed the dates of 26-27 March 2022, for the holding of the TICAD Ministerial Meeting through a complete virtual process and requested the PRC to work in close collaboration with the Commission, Japan, the African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo and the other Co-Organizers to finalize the working documents for the Meeting, the TICAD Ministerial Meeting was held on 26 – 27 March 2022, by a completely virtual process (Zoom). It bears mentioning that one AU Member State was not invited to participate in the meeting despite the Commission's efforts. The two-day Meeting discussed the following themes, which will serve as the basis for the TICAD 8 Summit Declaration: ***“Achieving sustainable and inclusive growth with reduced economic inequalities”***; ***“Realizing a sustainable and resilient society based on human***

***security”; and “Building sustainable peace and stability through supporting Africa’s own efforts”.***

14. On 30 May 2022, the Commission received the zero draft of the TICAD 8 Summit Declaration from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The Commission is currently receiving and consolidating inputs from its technical departments, RECs, and other relevant stakeholders after which, the draft Declaration will be sent to all Members of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation for their consideration.

## **Recommendations**

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

- (i) **TAKE NOTE** of the consultations made during the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, which was held on 26 – 27 March 2022, through a complete virtual process;
- (ii) **REQUEST** the PRC in collaboration with the Commission, the Republic of Tunisia (host country of TICAD 8 Summit) and Japan, to fast track preparations for the TICAD 8 Summit and ensure the full participation of all AU Member States in the Summit;
- (iii) **REQUEST** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission and the African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo, to take the lead in consolidating the contributions from AU Member States with regard to the Draft TICAD 8 Summit Declaration;
- (iv) **REITERATE** 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 “**DECIDES** 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**

16. Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec. 1143(XL) of February 2022 “*endorsed the proposed date of 3 March 2022, for the holding of the 5<sup>th</sup> Korea-Africa Forum in Seoul, Korea, subject to the improvement in public health situation caused by the*

*COVID-19 pandemic and requested the PRC in close collaboration with the African Diplomatic Corps in Seoul, the Commission and Korea to finalise the outcome documents for the Meeting”.*

17. The 5<sup>th</sup> Korea-Africa Forum adopted the Seoul Declaration 2022; the Framework of Cooperation 2022-2026 and the Joint Implementation Report 2017-2021, and both sides agreed to strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation of the commitments made during the Forum.

18. The Forum agreed to hold the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa-Korea Forum in 2026, in Africa.

### Recommendations

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

- (i) **EXPRESS APPRECIATION** to the Government and people of the Republic of Korea for the successful hosting of the 5<sup>th</sup> Korea-Africa Forum on 3 March 2022, in Seoul, Republic of Korea;
- (ii) **ENDORSE** the 5<sup>th</sup> Korea – Africa Forum Declaration as well as the Korea – Africa Forum Framework of Cooperation 2022 – 2026;
- (iii) **REQUEST** the PRC, in close collaboration with the Commission and Korea to follow-up on the implementation of the commitments made during the 5<sup>th</sup> Korea-Africa Forum through the Annual Policy Consultation Meeting.

**AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE**

**African Union Common Repository**

**<http://archives.au.int>**

---

Organs

Council of Ministers & Executive Council Collection

---

2022-06-20

# Report of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation for the Period of January to June 2022

African Union

DCMP

---

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/10415>

*Downloaded from African Union Common Repository*