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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Forty-fourth Ordinary Session
15 January - 15 February 2024
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

EX.CL/1464(XLIV)
Original: English

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON NEPAD

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE (PRC) SUB-COMMITTEE
ON NEPAD
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2023**

INTRODUCTION

1. The PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD, (hereinafter the Sub-Committee), displayed unwavering commitment in carrying out its activities throughout the year 2023. During the period under review, the Chairmanship of the Sub-Committee was handed over from **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Lamine Laabas**, the Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, to **H.E. Mr. Victor Adekunle Adeleke**, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
2. Furthermore, following the appointment of **H.E. Mr. Victor Adekunle Adeleke** as the State Chief of Protocol of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in May 2023, the Chairmanship of the Sub-Committee was assumed by **H.E. Mr. Abdi Mahamoud**, Ambassador of the Republic of Djibouti, the First-Vice Chairperson of the Sub-Committee.
3. Over the course of the year, the Sub-Committee held regular meetings during which it received briefings on the status of implementation of AUDA-NEPAD related programs. The briefings were jointly presented by AUDA-NEPAD and the Commission Officials as well as other relevant stakeholders when required. Additionally, through its Chairman, the Sub-Committee participated in other activities, including the meetings of the NEPAD Steering Committee.
4. During the Year 2023, the composition of the Sub-Committee remained as follows:
 - **Bureau:** Nigeria (Chairperson); Djibouti (1st Vice-Chairperson); Congo (2nd Vice-Chairperson); Botswana (3rd Vice-Chairperson); Algeria (Rapporteur)
 - **Members:** Burundi; Equatorial Guinea; Ghana; Lesotho; Madagascar; Mauritania; Niger (Suspended); Rwanda; Senegal; Zambia.
5. This report provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the Sub-Committee on NEPAD throughout the year 2023 and puts forth recommendations for advancing the support of the implementation of AUDA- NEPAD programs and, to a larger extent, Agenda 2063.

I. SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON NEPAD FOR THE YEAR 2023

A. Activities of the Chair of the Sub-Committee on NEPAD on behalf of the Sub-Committee

6. Pursuant to Rule 3 of the Rules of procedure of the Steering Committee on NEPAD, the Chair of the Sub-Committee **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Lamine Laabas** participated in the 67th meeting of the AUDA-NEPAD Steering Committee which

took place on the 7-8 of February 2023 in a hybrid format. The meeting was co-chaired by **H.E. Madam Diyana Gitera**, Advisor in the Office of the President of the Republic of Rwanda and **H.E. Madam Gnouka Diouf**, the Ministerial Advisor of the President of the Republic of Senegal and Minister of Economic Affairs.

7. The Steering Committee examined the annual report of AUDA-NEPAD for the financial year 2023 and received an update on the implementation of strategic initiatives as follows:
 - I. 2nd Dakar Financing Summit for Infrastructure Development
 - II. Energize Africa
 - III. Health Financing and Sustaining Action to End AIDS and related Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases
 - IV. Second decade of Agenda 2063
 - V. Triple Nexus on Peace, Security and Development
8. The First Vice Chairperson of the Sub-Committee **H.E. Ambassador Abdi Mahamoud** participated in the 68th Meeting of the AUDA-NEPAD Steering Committee held from 31 October – 1 November 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
9. This meeting was co-chaired by **H.E. Ambassador Ashraf Swelam**, Personal Representative of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and **H.E. Ambassador Youssouf Assoumani**, Ambassador of the Union of Comoros, Chair of the PRC. The Sub-Committee was represented by its acting Chair, **H.E. Ambassador Abdi Mahamoud**, **H.E. Ambassador Daniel Owassa**, the 2nd Vice-Chairperson and **H.E. Ambassador Lamine Laabas**, Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee.
10. During this meeting, the Steering Committee received updates on the status of implementation of the following AUDA-NEPAD Programs:
 - I. The First Ten-Year Implementation Plan
 - II. Human Capital & Institutional Development
 - III. Infrastructure
 - IV. Science, Technology, and Innovation
 - V. Agriculture, Food Security & Environmental Sustainability

B. Joint retreat of AUDA-NEPAD and the Sub-Committee on AUDA-NEPAD.

11. The Sub-Committee held its annual retreat with AUDA-NEPAD at the latter's headquarters in Midrand, South Africa from the 13th to the 14th of March 2023. The primary objective of this retreat was to discuss key issues related to the progress in the implementation of the Agency's mandate and programs. The meeting was chaired by **H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Lamine Laabas**, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Chair of the PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD.

12. During the retreat, the CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, **H.E. Madam Nardos Bekele-Thomas** delivered a comprehensive overview of the strategic program focus for the period 2022-2024. She emphasized the collaborative efforts between AUDA-NEPAD and the African Union Commission (AUC) in evaluating the first decade of Agenda 2063 and preparing for the Second Ten-Year implementation plan. In addition to this, AUDA-NEPAD Directors presented on various thematic areas, including:
- I. Agriculture, Food Security & Environmental Sustainability.
 - II. Infrastructure, Trade & Industry.
 - III. Human Capital & Institutional Development.
 - IV. Strategic Planning, Budget, and Operations.
13. Following the presentations made by the AUDA-NEPAD CEO and Directors, the members of the Sub-Committee put forth the following recommendations:
- a. The Sub-Committee highlighted concerns about coordination, urging AUDA-NEPAD to address duplication of efforts between AUDA-NEPAD and other AU departments/Organs, as well as the need to enhance cooperation with the African Union Commission.
 - b. On the thematic issue on agriculture, emphasis was placed on AUDA-NEPAD's role in implementing National Agriculture Investment Plans, with a request for updates on Malabo Commitments progress.
 - c. On Energize Africa, the Sub-Committee stressed the need for youth involvement, Member State ownership, and recommended a communication strategy.
 - d. The importance of national awareness on Agenda 2063 was acknowledged, with a request for AUDA-NEPAD's support in enhancing visibility.
 - e. Regarding infrastructure, the Sub-Committee sought clarification on the Dakar declaration's implementation mechanism.
 - f. In operations, AUDA-NEPAD was encouraged to explore assistance from Member States to recruit specific expertise due to staffing and financial constraints.

C. Meetings of the Sub-Committee

14. In 2023, the Sub-Committee conducted a total of 9 meetings, spanning from the 34th to the 42nd meeting.
15. The 34th meeting held via videoconference on April 19, 2023, the meeting was dedicated to the adoption of the annual work program of the Sub-Committee for the year 2023, and the handing over of Chairmanship of the Sub-Committee from **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Lamine Laabas**, Ambassador of Algeria, to **H.E. Mr. Victor Adekunle Adeleke**, Ambassador of Nigeria.

16. The 35th meeting, was held on the 8th and the 10th of May 2023 at the AUC headquarters, under the Chairmanship of **H.E. Ambassador Victor Adekunle Adeleke** to consider the 2024 budget proposals put forth by AUDA-NEPAD and the AUC AUDA-NEPAD Coordination Unit.
17. The AUDA-NEPAD 2024 draft budget presentation was given by AUDA-NEPAD's Chief of Staff, **Dr. Msingathi Sipuka**, and **Mr. Mohamed Abdisalam**, the Director of Operations. During the presentation, AUDA-NEPAD put forth a comprehensive budget of US\$15.1 million, which was intended to be allocated from Member States' contributions and US\$35 million was proposed to come from Development Partner funds. It is important to note that due to existing budget ceiling restrictions, AUDA-NEPAD Member States' contributions were constrained to US\$8.1 million.
18. **Mr. Mohamed Abdisalam** highlighted the following key priorities of the 2024 AUDA-NEPAD budget as follows:
 - i. Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security and Environmental Sustainability (CAADP, School Feeding)
 - ii. Human Capital and Institutional Development (SIFA, Energize Africa, Health Financing, STEM Education)
 - iii. Infrastructure, Trade and Industrialization
 - iv. Institutional Reform and Corporate Governance
 - v. Science Technology and Innovation
 - vi. Triple Nexus (Peace, Security and Development)
19. Furthermore, **Mr. Mohamed Abdisalam** highlighted AUDA-NEPAD's commitment to the implementation of its programs, showcasing a notable increase in budget execution rates from 95% in 2021 to 98% in 2022.
20. In response to AUDA-NEPAD's budget presentation, the Sub-Committee put forth the following recommendations:
 - a) **Adopting a Result-Based Approach:** The recommendation is to make the AUDA-NEPAD 2024 budget more result-based, clearly showing the impact of Member States' funding on budget and performance.
 - b) **Proactive Resource Mobilization:** AUDA-NEPAD is advised to proactively seek innovative source of funding, especially considering its current funding structure with 33% from Member States and 67% from Development Partners.
 - c) **Avoiding Duplication:** Emphasis is placed on preventing duplication of efforts between AUDA-NEPAD and other AU departments/organs.
 - d) **Budget Revision for Science and Technology:** There is a recommendation for a budgetary revision to align resources with the thematic focus, noting an imbalance between the allocations for Science and Technology and Infrastructure, Trade, and Industry.
 - e) **Report on Dakar Summit on Financing for Infrastructure:** AUDA-NEPAD should prepare and submit a concise report on the 2022 Dakar

Summit on financing for Infrastructure, addressing concerns raised by Member States.

- f) **Clarity on Mandate and Activities:** A meeting is suggested to provide clarity on AUDA-NEPAD's mandate and activities, highlighting distinctions from other AU Departments and Organs.
 - g) **Multi-Year Budget Framework:** AUDA-NEPAD is urged to develop a multi-year budget framework, setting a precedent for other AU Organs and departments to follow.
21. The Acting Head of the Coordination Unit, Mrs. Aïssatou Hayatou, presented the 2024 budget for the AUDA-NEPAD Coordination Unit. In her presentation she highlighted the following priorities of AUDA-NEPAD Coordination Unit for the year 2023 as follows: To facilitate joint planning between AUC departments and programmes and AUDA-NEPAD on relevant programs and act as the Secretariat to the PRC Sub-committee on NEPAD.
22. Additionally, Mrs. Aïssatou Hayatou informed the Sub-Committee that the AUDA-NEPAD Coordination Unit achieved a budget execution rate of 98% in 2021, but saw a significant decline in 2022 with an execution rate of 10%. The low budget execution rate in 2022 is attributed to the Sub-Committee retreat not taking place and the delayed conclusion of the recruitment of Youth Volunteers for the Coordination Unit which constituted 90% of the budget.
23. Furthermore, she suggested that the allocation of funds for organizing the Retreat for the Sub-Committee should be reverted back to the AUDA-NEPAD Coordination Unit's budget.
24. In alignment with the previously mentioned recommendation, the Sub-Committee suggested an increase in the budget ceiling of the AUDA-NEPAD Coordination Unit to accommodate the expenses associated with the retreat.
25. At the 36th meeting of the Sub-Committee convened on May 23, 2023, significant updates were provided on the implementation progress of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and Food Security in Africa. The meeting, presided over by **H.E. Victor Adekunle Adeleke**, the Ambassador of Nigeria, featured comprehensive briefings on these crucial initiatives.
26. The briefings on the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and food security were made by **H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki**, the African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems and Former CEO of AUDA-NEPAD and by Dr. Manyewu Mutamba, The Head of Food Security Division, AUDA-NEPAD.
27. In his presentation, **H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki**, emphasized the growing geopolitical importance of food, highlighting the potential for positive outcomes in the African agro-food system through policy implementation and structural

changes, and underscored the critical need to align initiatives like CAADP, AfCFTA, and PIDA for significant growth in food production and distribution at national and continental levels.

28. Following **H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki's** presentation, Dr. Mutamba, provided an overview of AUDA-NEPAD's current initiatives in the field of food security. He informed the Sub-Committee that AUDA-NEPAD is actively involved in supporting member states and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to implement vital programmatic processes addressing the challenge of low food production across the continent.
29. Following the briefings, the Sub-Committee put forth the following recommendations:
 - I. African developmental institutions should play a pivotal role in championing food production across the African continent.
 - II. Food security should be embraced as a collaborative effort involving the alignment of CAADP, PIDA, and AfCFTA, recognizing the interconnectedness of these initiatives.
 - III. It is advisable for Member States to review and adapt their National Agricultural priorities in consideration of the available expertise and changing circumstances of Food Security in Africa.
 - IV. African countries should prioritize trading fertilizers among themselves rather than exporting them outside the continent to boost self-sufficiency and agricultural productivity.
30. The 37th meeting of the Sub-Committee took place via videoconference on June 1, 2023. The principal focus of the meeting was to receive an update on the advancement of AUDA-NEPAD's 100,000 MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) Initiative. The meeting was chaired by the Sub-Committee's first Vice-Chairperson, **H.E. Mr. Abdi Mahamoud**, Ambassador of Djibouti.
31. The presentations regarding the 100,000 MSMEs Initiative were made by Mrs. Ron Osman Omar, the Acting Head at the Economic Development, Tourism, Trade, Industry, Mining (ETTİM), AUC, and Ms. Sara Ferdjani, AUDA-NEPAD Senior Program Officer.
32. In her presentation, Ms. Sara Ferdjani provided an overview of the 100,000 MSMEs Initiative, aimed at fostering job creation in Africa by empowering 100,000 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The initiative comprises four key components:
 - I. The MSME Academy
 - II. The MSME Financing Support Programme
 - III. The MSME Marketplace
 - IV. The MSME Digital Platform

33. Following the presentations on the 100,000 MSMEs Initiative, the Sub-Committee put forth the following recommendations:
- I. The initiative should ensure the active inclusion of women and youth in all implementation policies, recognizing the importance of their participation in the initiative's activities.
 - II. The initiative should support young entrepreneurs, to ensure that they are provided with accessible financing options and credit facilities at favorable, low-interest rates.
 - III. The Initiative should focus on training and capacity-building efforts, enabling these enterprises to develop their skills and abilities.
 - IV. Coordination between AUDA-NEPAD and the ETTIM Department should be strengthened to achieve even better results.
34. On June 5, 2023, the Sub-Committee conducted an induction session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, chaired by **H.E. Ambassador Abdi Mahamoud**. The session aimed to familiarize new members with the Sub-Committee's scope of work, ensuring their preparedness to carry out the responsibilities attached to their membership efficiently.
35. During the induction session **Mr. Mohamed Abdisalam**, the Director of Operations at AUDA-NEPAD, provided a comprehensive overview of the agency's historical background, institutional framework and normative apparatus and the Acting Head of the Coordination Unit, Ms. Aïssatou Hayatou gave an overview of the agenda and the work plan of the Sub-Committee.
36. The 39th meeting of the Sub-Committee on July 28, 2023, chaired by **H.E. Mr. Abdi Mahamoud**, reviewed its program of work for the year. In this respect, the Sub-Committee recommended adding an agenda item on the preparations for the 2024 theme on Education.
37. The 40th meeting of the Sub-Committee was conducted via videoconference on October 10, 2023. The main focus of this meeting was to receive briefings on the progress of the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa: Priority Action Plan (PIDA-PAP 2). The meeting was Chaired by **H.E. Mr. Daniel Owassa**, the Ambassador of Congo, in his capacity as acting Chair of the Sub-committee.
38. The briefings on PIDA PAP 2 were made by **Dr. Amine Idriss Adoum** the Director of Programme Delivery & Coordination, AUDA-NEPAD and **Mr. Kamugisha Kazaura**, the Director of Infrastructure and Energy, AUC accompanied by Mr. Ayoub Chajadine, the Coordinator of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), AUC.

39. The briefings stressed the importance of boosting Member State funding and technical resources, enhancing collaboration with stakeholders, creating a favorable environment for the private sector, and building institutional capacities for PIDA project implementation, including public-private partnerships.
40. **Dr. Amine** also recommended that Member States consider investing in PIDA and provide support for the established PIDA service delivery mechanism, which is responsible for conducting feasibility studies on PIDA projects. This mechanism plays a crucial role in conducting feasibility studies for PIDA projects. Notably, it oversees the feasibility studies for 22 out of the 69 PIDA projects currently. Unfortunately, the current reliance on funding solely from development partners poses a challenge for the sustainability of this mechanism.
41. The 41st meeting of the Sub-Committee took place on 14 November 2023. The primary agenda included an exchange of views on the status of preparation for the theme of the Year 2024: “Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa”, as well as updates on the Development Fund and the Feasibility study on Unused funds from International Partners. The meeting was chaired by **H.E. Mr. Abdi Mahamoud**, the Ambassador of Djibouti.
42. Briefings on the 2024 theme of the year, Education, were presented by Ms. Unami Dube, Senior Programme Officer for TVET Skilling (WorldSkills Africa and Skills Initiative for Africa Financing Facility) at AUDA-NEPAD, and Ms. Sophia Ndemutilla Ashipala, Head of the Education Division at the AUC. **Mr. Mohamed Abdisalam**, the Director of Operations at AUDA-NEPAD, provided insights on the Development Fund during the briefing.
43. In her presentation, Ms. Sophia provided an overview of the key themes for the year 2024. She recommended that the Sub-Committee reinvigorate Member States to actively pursue declarations outlined in CESA and SDG targets, which are still awaiting full implementation. Furthermore, Ms. Sophia emphasized the need to address the challenges linked to education financing.
44. Ms. Unami also put forward the following key advocacy messages for the Sub-Committee’s consideration:
- I. Build responsive and agile skills and employment systems to address the high levels of youth unemployment
 - II. Enhance policy and regulatory frameworks to create an enabling environment for transformation of TVET systems (demand-orientated curriculum; apprenticeships; etc)
 - III. Improve governance and coordination of vocational and professional training ecosystems
 - IV. Advocate for sector driven approaches to drive occupational needs of sectors
 - V. increase employability prospects for young people

- VI. Strengthen skills forecasting and anticipation strategies and mechanisms creating better linkages of the vocational training systems to labour market demands
 - VII. Rally Member States to join the WorldSkills Africa (Zambia, 2025)
45. Concerning the Development Fund's feasibility study, **Mr. Abdisalam** updated the Sub-Committee on its completion. The report will be shared with Member States following appraisal and review by the management of AUDA-NEPAD. **Mr. Abdisalam** highlighted a significant oversight in the FTYIP evaluation: the lack of detailed cost analysis, making it challenging to accurately determine the financial resources required for effective implementation. This omission hindered planning and resource allocation, making it difficult to assess the funding shortfall. Consequently, the STYIP has improved costing estimates for Africa in the ambitious development scenario, aligning with accelerated targets and sustainable financing in the decade ahead. The finalized feasibility study will be shared with Member States by the end of the year.
46. Additionally, **Mr. Mohamed Abdisalam** called on a stronger commitment from the Member States in due course, for the overall viability of the Fund. To enhance the fund's appeal and attract additional capital sources, he suggested leveraging the unique profile of the fund to drive and accelerate the STYIP priorities. This presents a significant opportunity for AUDA-NEPAD and the fund to strategically position themselves as leaders in advancing the key transformational agenda of the continent for the next decade and beyond.
47. The 42nd and final meeting of the Sub-Committee took place on 1 December 2023, via video conference and was chaired by **H.E. Mr. Abdi Mahamoud**, the Ambassador of Djibouti. The main agenda of this meeting was to review the progress in the implementation of the theme of the Year 2023: "Accelerating the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area". The Sub-Committee also considered its Draft Annual Report for the Year 2023, which will be submitted to the PRC Ordinary Session scheduled in January 2024.
48. The presentations on the 2023 theme of the year, AfCFTA, were delivered by Mr. Million Habte, the Coordinator for AfCFTA implementation and the Interim head of the AfCFTA Liaison Office, Mr. Mustafa Sakr, head of Trade and Markets at AUDA-NEPAD, and Mr. Chiza Charles Newton, Acting Director for Industry, Minerals Entrepreneurship, and Tourism at the Economic Development, Tourism, Trade, Industry, Mining Department (ETTİM), AUC.
49. In his presentation, Mr Million highlighted the initiatives taken by the AfCFTA Secretariat to facilitate negotiations and oversee the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement, in collaboration with the African Union (AU), as part of the promotion of the AU Theme of the Year 2023: "Accelerating AfCFTA Implementation." Through these activities the AfCFTA Secretariat recorded the following achievements:

- I. 47 out of 54 AU Member States ratified the AfCFTA Agreement.
 - II. The AfCFTA Dispute Settlement Mechanism became operational, and Phase 2 negotiations concluded with the adoption of three legal instruments.
 - III. 5 Member States were appointed to the Appellate Body, vital for the Continental Dispute Settlement Mechanism, with ongoing efforts to fill the remaining two positions.
 - IV. National implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement has started in 25 State Parties and one Regional Economic Community and approximately 20 AfCFTA National Implementation Committees were formed to fostering effective collaboration with various stakeholders to support AfCFTA implementation in alignment with the Theme of the Year 2023.
 - V. The AfCFTA Adjustment Fund, based in Kigali, Rwanda received a \$1 billion commitment from Afreximbank, as contribution to the \$10 billion target for the funding of AfCFTA implementation. .
50. Mr. Mustafa Sakr highlighted that, in alignment with the Theme of the Year, AUDA-NEPAD recognizes the pivotal role of AfCFTA and has identified key priorities focused on leveraging the interconnected relationships between AfCFTA and other frameworks, such as PIDA.
51. In regard to AfCFTA, AUDA-NEPAD outlined implementation areas, including stakeholder needs assessment, trade facilitation, capacity development, African trade analysis and market access expansion. Notable achievements in 2023 include: organizing a successful workshop on Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) /AfCFTA Impact Assessment Study, developing a proof of concept for ICT benefits at Zambia's border posts, and contributing to the capacity development of initiatives like Energize Africa. Progress is also evident in the implementation of the Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA), notably the SIFA Financing Facility in eight African countries.
52. Mr. Chiza Charles Newton on his part noted that the ETTIM Department had contributed significantly to the Theme of the Year through initiatives such as the development of the Roadmap for implementing outcomes from the AU Extraordinary Summit on industrialization. Other efforts include launching studies on export development, the development of the AU Guidelines for Participatory Trade Policy Making, and the African Union Green Minerals Strategy. ETTIM has also participated in initiatives like the Africa Women in Processing Program (AWIP), the Pan African Quality Infrastructure, and the 3rd Intra-African Trade Fair.
53. Following their briefings, the presenters submitted the following recommendations for consideration by the Sub-Committee:
- I. Member States should prioritize and allocate more financial resources to AfCFTA activities and minimize reliance on Development Partners.

- II. Consider the introduction of AU sub-themes in addition to the theme of the year for a considerable period of time beyond the current period of one year for effective implementation and optimal benefits.
- III. Enhance advocacy and awareness efforts for AfCFTA and its related programs at the national level.

D. Observations

54. During the year 2023, through the engagements with AUDA-NEPAD, the AU Commission and other actors within the AU system, the Sub-Committee had the opportunity to appreciate the progress made by AU institutions and Members States in the implementation of Agenda 2063, with a particular emphasis on the key priority programs and initiatives.
55. As the AU is heading towards the adoption of the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063, within a challenging context in the Continent marked by both endogenous factors and, to a great extent, by developments in the global arena, AU institutions and Members States are compelled to step up their efforts in a significant manner, in order to succeed in the realisation of the vision of a peaceful and prosperous Continent.
56. The Sub-Committee appreciates the progress made in the coordination between the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD as noted on the occasion of the joint briefings mentioned in this report, which results in effective collaboration, better planning, and the rationalised use of resources.
57. Nevertheless, concerns remain in regard to the institutional and financial capacity of both AUDA-NEPAD and the AUC, to effectively shoulder their respective mandates. Furthermore, the admission of the AU to the G20, and the enlargement of the BRICS to more African countries signifies that the development of strategic foresight analysis and policies which will guide and support Africa's negotiations on the global arena in the medium and long-term, have become an imperative, if Africa is to succeed in protecting its resources, grow them and transform them into sources of prosperity for the next generation of Africans.
58. The lessons learnt from the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has, among others, exposed the critical need for Africa to strengthen her institutions at the State, as well as Continental level, in order to increase its reliance on domestic source of funding for its

integration and development Agenda. Against this background, the establishment of the Development fund and the adoption of a multi-year Budget for the AU are opportunities to significantly enhance the results of programs and the impact of policies.

59. Therefore, during the year 2024, in pursuit of its mandate, the Sub-Committee will seek to imprint a fresh dynamic in regard to its advocacy role. In this respect, the Sub-Committee envisages to institutionalise regular engagements with stakeholders, with a view to keeping the Sub-Committee up-to-date on critical issue areas, reinforcing synergies and harmonising views with other policy organs, in particular, the NEPAD Steering Committee, and the Ambassadorial Committee on Agenda 2063, as well as enlisting the contribution of the RECs and mobilising International partners.

E. Recommendations

60. The Sub-Committee requests the PRC to consider the following recommendations:

- a) Request AUDA-NEPAD to submit the feasibility study on the Development Fund to the relevant AU organs for review and adoption, in accordance with Executive Council Decision 1143 (February 2022) and in this respect, provide chapters relating to strategic development sectors within the framework of the Development Fund, in order to avoid the multiplication of funds, in accordance with the moratorium adopted by the Executive Council;
- b) Institutionalise, through a Decision, the annual retreat of the Sub-Committee with AUDA-NEPAD;
- c) Also Institutionalise a joint meeting between the Sub-Committee on NEPAD, the Ambassadorial Committee on Agenda 2063 and the Steering Committee on NEPAD;
- d) Support the enhancement of the institutional capacity of the Sub-Committee's Secretariat (Coordination Unit) through the rapid operationalisation of its structure;
- e) In light of their outstanding budget execution rates (AUDA-NEPAD 98% in 2022, Coordination Unit 100% 2023):
 - approve the review of the budgetary ceiling of AUDA-NEPAD and of the Coordination Unit in order to increase their budget allocations so as to accommodate the proposed activities;
 - Support an increase of Budget for AUDA-NEPAD as priority while raising awareness among partners of the importance of increasing their financial and technical support for the benefit of the Agency;
- f) Regarding the Triple Nexus of Peace, Security and Development, call on the Agency to work closely with the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security on this important aspect in order to promote a synergy of

efforts, in particular, by avoiding the organization of several African conferences on this same theme;

- g) Recall the need to strengthen coordination between the organs of the African Union and encourage, in this regard, AUDA-NEPAD to continue consultations with the relevant organs of the African Union with a view to harmonizing the Plans annual actions and avoid duplication;
- h) Include bi- annual briefings on AUDA-NEPAD to the Agenda of the PRC.
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