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CONSOLIDATED REPORT

CONSULTATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST ACTION PLAN OF THE AFRICA-EU JOINT STRATEGY

PART A: INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The African Union Commission convened two consultative meetings with Member States and a separate one with civil society on the Implementation of the First Action Plan of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy, pursuant to the adoption of the Strategy and Plan by the Africa-EU Summit held in Lisbon, Portugal, on 8-9 December 2007.

2. The first meeting, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 19-20 March 2008, brought together Member States from the Western, Central and Northern Regions of the Continent. Thirteen Member States participated in the meeting, namely, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Egypt, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Chad, and Togo. Representatives of the European Union/European Commission and the African Union Commission also took part.

3. The second meeting was held in Maseru, Lesotho, on 14-15 April, 2008. It brought together Member States from the Eastern and Southern Regions of the Continent. Fifteen Member States participated, namely, Angola, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Representatives of the European Union/European Commission and the African Union Commission also took part.

4. The consultative meeting with civil society, under the coordination of the Directorate of Citizens and Diaspora Organizations (CIDO), was held in Bamako, Mali, on 3-5 March 2008. It was attended by forty-five participants comprising the representatives of African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), research institutes, academia, social and professional groups, as well as youth, women and the media. Representatives of the two Commissions also attended.

II. PRESENTATION OF THE AU COMMISSION'S APPROACH TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST ACTION PLAN OF THE AFRICA-EU JOINT STRATEGY

5. In all the three meetings, the Commission made a detailed presentation of its proposed approach to the implementation of the First Action Plan of the Joint Strategy.

6. In the presentations, the presenters recalled the adoption of the Joint Strategy and First Action Plan by the Lisbon Summit and emphasized the need for effective implementation. They gave an overview of the two documents and outlined the proposed implementation architecture.

7. It was pointed out that the AU Commission had developed a proposed implementation approach, the key elements of which were:

- i) **Formation of an inter-departmental Task Force** at the AU Commission;
- ii) **Formation of Joint Experts Group** for each of the eight partnerships of the First Action Plan: Member States could propose names, finance experts' participation, and help to further develop the concept as well as specify the exact role to play in each partnership;
- iii) **Development of a proposed coordination structure:** The Troïka had the responsibility to give political guidance regarding implementation of the Action Plan. However, the need for some form of technical coordination function to serve as a link between the Joint Experts Groups and the Troïka had been identified. This had not been provided for in the implementation architecture. Three options presented were:
 - (a) Maintain the existing Troïka format;
 - (b) Form a Steering Committee, comprising one African and one EU representative per partnership; one representative of the AUC, EC and EU Council; the Chairperson of the PRC and representatives of the RECs; and
 - (c) Distribute the partnerships among the five regions and develop a coordination structure by region, each one comprising the relevant REC, the AU Troika and the EU Troïka.

The advantages and disadvantages of each option were presented as follows:

Option 1: The Troika

Advantages:

- The format has been tested and has worked;
- Light structure (less bureaucracy);
- Not costly; and
- Quasi-inclusive structure.

Disadvantage

- Not all-inclusive.

Option 2: Establishment of a Steering Committee

Advantages:

- All inclusive;
- Involvement of RECs, pillars to the African economic community; and
- Shared responsibility with RECs on the basis of the Principle of Subsidiarity.

Disadvantages:

- Heavy structure (Bureaucratic) and costly;
- Increasing functioning costs; and
- High Transaction costs related to coordination.

Option 3: Distribute the partnerships among the 5 regions

Advantages:

- Decentralization as a source of efficiency and efficacy;
- The regions are further involved and given responsibilities;
- Functioning costs are shared; and
- Joint implementation.

Disadvantages

- Risk of isolationist behavior of the stakeholders; and
- Risk of a complicated coordination.

- (iv) Regarding the current “***chef de file***” ***configuration*** at the AU, the need for a change in line with interests expressed by Member States in the eight partnerships covered in the Action Plan was stressed.
- (v) A series of **consultations** were being held targeting Member States, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to build consensus on the way forward regarding implementation.

The **expected outcome** of the consultations were:

- i. Member States’ interest in the various partnerships;
- ii. Identification of concrete projects to be financed; and
- iii. Resources (human, financial, technical, etc.) to be made available by Member States for the implementation of the partnerships.

8. It was emphasized that these ideas were evolving and hence, Member States’ inputs were needed to develop them further. Member States were requested to communicate their interests in the various partnerships and submit a list of concrete projects within a period of one month from the date of each meeting, meaning 20 April for the Ouagadougou meeting and 16 May for the Maseru meeting.

III. BRIEFING BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON THE EU’S APPROACH TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST ACTION PLAN

9. In each of the three meetings, the EU was invited to make a briefing on its approach to implementation.

10. In their presentations, the EU representatives said, from the EU perspective, the Joint Strategy is a joint policy document to guide both the EU Member States and the European Commission relations with Africa. Regarding the implementation of the Joint Strategy, they said there can no longer be “business as usual”. They, therefore, stressed the importance attached to the follow-up processes to the Lisbon Summit. They called for the active involvement and contribution of EU and AU Member States as well as the need to achieve early and concrete results by the end of 2008. These, they said, required urgent action. They stressed that the two sides had a shared responsibility for the implementation of the strategy. For such implementation to be effective, it was necessary that consolidated positions be established first on both sides, followed by joint decision making on implementation modalities. They said the next Africa-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting scheduled for June 2008 would need to take a final decision on the joint implementation structure.

11. The representatives indicated that discussions with EU Member States regarding the implementation architecture concluded on 8 April 2008. A number of principles had been agreed, namely, the implementation modalities should be flexible, light, efficient and lean. Furthermore, it should avoid duplication and rely as much as possible on existing groups, networks and mechanisms. In addition to these, a relationship of institutions only should be avoided. Hence, the need for the active involvement of Member States on both sides, Regional Groupings on the African side as well as civil society, parliaments and other non-state actors is vital.

12. They reported that the EU side would establish eight “implementation teams”, one for each partnership. These will comprise technical experts from the Commission and particularly interested/committed Member States. These will subsequently work with their African counterparts in the “Joint Experts Groups”. They added that the “informal implementation teams” on the EU side would include any EU Member State which has a specific interest, specific expertise, funding possibilities or existing national programmes in the area covered by the respective partnership of the Joint Action Plan. These teams would also include representatives of the European Commission and the Council Secretariat.

13. They indicated that one of the first tasks of the various implementation teams would be to draw up an implementation roadmap as well as identify financing sources and mechanisms. They, therefore, emphasized the need for the African side to quickly put in place its own internal cooperation and steering arrangements to enable the joint experts groups on the two sides to have a first meeting prior to the next Ministerial Troika. They also called for the active involvement of international partners, civil society, parliaments, local authorities and other non-institutional actors in the monitoring and implementation of the Strategy.

PART B: OUTCOME OF MEMBER STATES CONSULTATIONS

IV. MEMBER STATES' RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROPOSED APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION

14. Below are the key recommendations of Member States regarding the Commission's proposed approach to the implementation of the First Action Plan:

- i) Regarding the three options for technical coordination, it was recommended that the African side adopts a structure which has worked effectively in the past, namely, the Troika. This can be improved to make it function better, for example, by involving RECs.
- ii) The dialogue should be inclusive. In this regard, efforts should be made to ensure the participation of RECs and civil society at future meetings as well as in the implementation of the Action Plan;
- iii) Assurance should be made to mainstream women and gender concerns into all the programmes, projects and activities in the implementation of the First Action Plan;
- iv) It was suggested that in the event that there is difficulty in implementing all the eight partnerships within the given timeframe, it might be helpful to prioritize and focus on the implementation of a selected few partnerships. Priority should be given to projects/programmes that are currently ongoing;
- v) The African Union should take stock of existing instruments, structures, policies, projects and programmes;
- vi) Each Department of the Commission should always be present at relevant meetings to give advice on specific areas of relevance to respective departments;
- vii) Regarding other partnerships that the AU has entered into, such as with China, India, and Japan, it is important that the African side evaluates what it gets from each, avoid duplication and identify synergies. This will require capacity;
- viii) On the issue of chefs de file, it was suggested that there would be wisdom in retaining them given the expertise accumulated over the years. However, creative means of making the system work more effectively should be explored.

V. MEMBER STATES' RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE EIGHT PARTNERSHIPS OF THE FIRST ACTION PLAN

15. Below are the key recommendations of Member States regarding each of the eight partnerships of the First Action Plan:

a. *Africa-EU Partnership on the Peace and Security*

Priority Action 1: Enhance Dialogue on Challenges to Peace and Security

- i) Strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism, including support for the Centre for the Fight Against Terrorism in Algiers, and other similar African centres in order to enable them to receive a large number of African candidates with a view to identifying a concrete action plan;
- ii) Control the trafficking of light weapons. This involves the search for ways and means to promote the development of civil society;
- iii) Organise a workshop on the eradication of explosives from remnants of war in Africa;
- iv) The AU (PSC) should engage the EU at a similar level, preferably at the end of the July 2008 AU Summit;
- v) The regional peace and security institutions should be able to engage their counterparts at the EU; and
- vi) The dialogue should take place at technical, official and political level.

Priority Action 2: Full Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture

- i) AU should identify and support regional structures which address issues of peace and security, including the speeding up of the process of making operational the African Standby Force (ASF), as well as the operationalisation of the Early Warning System by 2009. The Eastern Africa Region should be encouraged to have a standby force before 2009;
- ii) Strengthen the role of women for the implementation of Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council on the role of women in conflict and post conflict situations;
- iii) Create and strengthen a centre of excellence in Africa in the area of maintenance of peace and conflict resolution, maintenance of order, re-establishment of peace and the protection of high personalities;
- iv) Promote research and in-depth sociological studies in order to control sources of conflict;
- v) Encourage the signing and ratification of the Non-Aggression Pact;
- vi) Institutionalise mechanisms at levels of engagement on specific activities on peace and security;
- vii) The AU Commission should assist Ambassadors on modalities for engagement at international fora;
- viii) Organise training programmes, workshops and seminars on anti-terrorism. The EU can be engaged with a view to sharing experiences; and

- ix) The Department of Economic Affairs should make use of the Fridays of the Commission for the purpose of sharing analysis and reports on crises in the Continent.

Priority Action 3: Predictable Funding for African-led Peace Support Operations

- i) Organize workshops (targeting relevant parties such as the United Nations) with a view to highlighting the need to finance African peace keeping operations;
- ii) Establish a continental database on issues of conflict;
- iii) Strengthen the early warning system of the African Union;
- iv) AU should engage the EU to assist in setting up joint assessment missions to conflict and post conflict areas;
- v) Identify peace-keeping institutions and build capacity of these institutions on prevention and resolution of crisis. Training of regional brigades should continue and the EU should consider sponsoring Centres of Excellence within the region that focus on peace keeping;
- vi) AU should identify its own sources of funding and any other donations should be put in the African Peace Fund. In this regard, the issue of low absorption capacity should be addressed; and
- vii) Gender issues, particularly in relation to UN Resolution 1325, should be taken note of. Women should be involved in peace building.

b. *Africa-EU Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human rights*

Priority Action 1: Enhance Dialogue at Global Level and in International Fora

- i) Africa and the EU should work together to protect the rights of minorities, particularly the protection of Africans in the Diaspora and Europeans in Africa;
- ii) Build the democratic capacities of African institutions;
- iii) Organize workshops on preventing and combating the trafficking of human beings;
- iv) The AU should identify relevant AU and UN instruments that have not been signed and/or ratified by Member States and take appropriate steps to encourage Member States that have not signed/ratified them to do so;
- v) Encourage countries which do not have anti-corruption institutions to establish them;
- vi) Attempt to develop a standard form of legislation that improves the effectiveness of anti corruption institutions;
- vii) Emphasise exchange programmes between existing anti-corruption commissions to include the development of hot liners and protection of whistle blowers;

- viii) Enhance capacity building in investigation and law enforcement;
- ix) Build capacities of the African media for the promotion of governance and development in Africa; and
- x) Recognise and develop indigenous knowledge systems for economic and social development.

Priority Action 2: Promote the African Peer Review Mechanism and Support the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance

- i) Promote capacity building programmes for members of parliament and civil society;
- ii) Carry out a sensitization campaign for the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;
- iii) Build the capacities of countries emerging from conflict;
- iv) Take steps to enhance the APRM process, especially its capacity to anticipate and prevent conflicts or crises as well as strengthen the follow up process after APRM reviews;
- v) Strengthen AU's capacity to monitor elections, develop guidelines for the process of monitoring elections, impose penalties for violation of democratic practice, and improve on the present monitoring mechanisms for elections; and
- vi) Support on-going processes to create an African Court of Justice and the setting up of the African International Law Commission.

Priority Action 3: Strengthen Cooperation in the Area of Cultural Goods

- i) Build the capacities and skills of managers and technicians of cultural heritage of African Museums for inventories, preservation, conservation, restoration, promotion, research on cultural goods and registration of important sites on UNESCO Heritage list;
- ii) Develop the Ouagadougou school and other similar schools that train cultural agents and museologists into a Regional Training Centre for professions in the area of culture and museology;
- iii) Carry out archeological excavations in countries of the Sahel and other countries of the forest region, and organize itinerant exhibitions of works discovered;
- iv) Establish a project to support decentralized cultural initiatives within the framework of the African Union;
- v) Organize meetings of museum experts to define a format on existing cultural goods and the establishment of a database;
- vi) Organize training courses in areas relating to the management of sites, the protection of antiquities and excavations as well as the establishment of inventory systems;

- vii) Organize meetings of legal experts with a view to the establishment of appropriate mechanisms to stop trafficking in cultural goods and improve the process for the return of cultural goods;
- viii) Organize seminars on the best practices for the protection and return of cultural goods;
- ix) Establish a mechanism to combat the looting of cultural goods;
- x) Request the European Union to deposit part of funds received from the visiting of African cultural goods into an African Fund managed by the African Union and intended to finance cultural activities in Member States;
- xi) Encourage the effort to harmonize legal texts at African level and carry out lobbying for the return of looted items;
- xii) AU should, with the assistance of UNESCO, create an inventory of cultural goods and organize a meeting of museum experts to define a system of cultural goods and establishment of a data base;
- xiii) Declarations (viii), (xi) and (xii) on cultural goods in the Ouagadougou Report should be implemented; and
- xiv) Member States should be encouraged to launch national inventories of cultural goods.

c. Africa-EU Partnership on Trade and Regional Integration

General

- i) Regional Economic Communities should participate in the deliberations of the Joint Expert Groups. However, Member States could participate therein on the basis of their area of interest;
- ii) There is need to build the capacity of Africa's private sector to enable it to participate fully in public-private partnerships and to impact positively on the informal sector;
- iii) Emphasis under this partnership should be laid on value addition through the processing of raw materials into semi-finished and finished goods; and
- iv) Training and exchange programmes on trade policies should be organized.

Priority Action 1: Support the African Integration Agenda

- i) Efforts towards continental integration should focus on the harmonization of the activities of RECs. In this regard, the EU should be called upon to support Africa's ongoing rationalization process;
- ii) On the Minimum Integration Programme, focus should be on activities that yield tangible results, such as the free movement of goods and people;

- iii) The divergence between EU's regional configuration for the EPAs and the AU's configuration is a matter of concern and needs to be addressed urgently;
- iv) The January 2008 AU Summit Decision to hold a high level meeting between the AU and the EU to discuss the issue of EPAs should be implemented as soon as possible;
- v) Civil society and the private sector should be adequately consulted as part of ongoing discussions on the Minimum Integration Programme; and
- vi) Political and social integration should also be given greater attention.

Priority Action 2: Strengthen African Capacities in the Area of Rules, Standards, and Quality Control

- i) Capacity building of African States in the field of trade using existing pre-qualified training centres;
- ii) It is important, while improving rules, standards and quality control, to also address supply-side constraints resulting from limited productive capacity and technology development;
- iii) EU could assist in building the capacity of Africa Regional Standardization Organization (ARSO);
- iv) It is important to ensure, through dialogue with the EU, that standards are not used as non-tariff barriers;
- v) The EU should be engaged to assist in capacity building especially of countries where the standard setting authorities do not exist; and
- vi) Aid for Trade initiative should be supported.

Priority Action 3: Implement the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership

- i) Need to take into consideration the priorities of NEPAD in the area of infrastructure development;
- ii) Given the high cost of energy, there is need to favour maritime transport over other forms of transport;
- iii) Develop rural infrastructure (transport and electricity) to facilitate access to rural dwellers;
- iv) Provide support in project preparations so that viable projects can be brought to bankable stage;
- v) Ensure the coordination of various donor interventions in the area of infrastructure;

- vi) RECs and the NEPAD Secretariat should be involved in the implementation of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership;
- vii) Build capacity in the field of security standards and rules, particularly in air and maritime transport; and
- viii) Encourage Partners to contribute to the Trust Fund on Infrastructure established within the framework of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership.

d. Africa-EU Partnership on the Millennium Development Goals

Priority Action 1: Ensure the Finance and Policy Base for Achieving the MDGs

- i) Facilitate the monitoring and implementation as well as evaluation of the implementation of MDGs;
- ii) Debt relief in favour of certain projects;
- iii) Developed countries should be engaged with a view to increasing financial assistance to help in the attainment of MDGs;
- iv) Public-Private Partnerships should be encouraged;
- v) The APRM process should be supported to enhance good governance; and
- vi) A gender fund should be established to fill identified gender gaps after conducting a mapping.

Priority Action 2: Accelerate the Achievement of the Food Security Targets of the MDGs

- i) Capacity building, focusing on food security issues, should be enhanced; and
- ii) Technology transfer to Africa should be pursued with the EU.

Priority Action 3: Accelerate the Achievement of the Health Targets of the MDGs

- i) Use of modern energy sources (such as butane gas) and improved stoves to promote child and maternal health;
- ii) Promote the implementation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa;
- iii) Control communicable diseases such as AIDS, TB, and Malaria;
- iv) Provide mobile health facilities to guarantee access to health facilities particularly for rural dwellers;

- v) Increase access to affordable medication for diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; and
- vi) Enhance cooperation with the EU in the area of medical research.

Priority Action 4: Accelerate the Achievement of the Education Targets of the MDGs

- i) Promote the quality of education obtaining in schools through addressing special needs and the training of trainers;
- ii) Education for children with special needs or disabilities; and
- iii) Provide mobile schools to guarantee access to education facilities particularly for rural dwellers.

e. *Africa-EU Partnership on Energy*

Priority Action 1: Implement the Energy Partnership to Intensify Cooperation on Energy Security and Energy Access

- i) Develop renewable energy such as hydroelectric and solar energy;
- ii) Embark upon on sensitization programmes on energy efficiency;
- iii) Build capacities and training in renewable energy, especially in planning and maintenance;
- iv) Household energy consumption should be an area of focus for energy saving initiatives;
- v) AU Member States should be encouraged to ratify the Pelindaba Treaty;
- vi) Conduct research on nuclear waste disposal technologies and establish a regulatory framework for the development and use of nuclear energy;
- vii) Explore and encourage possibilities of increasing the processing of crude oil in the continent;
- viii) Strengthen and enhance the capacity of the African Energy Commission (AFREC) for greater effectiveness;
- ix) Take steps to enhance capacity, for example by twinning arrangements, with a view to addressing the problem of pricing energy products;
- x) Cultivation of plants used for energy generation should be popularized and encouraged;
- xi) Make resources available to train experts in the field of energy;
- xii) Private sector sources of financing energy development should be explored;
- xiii) Skills enhancement in the area of developing project proposals in the field of energy should be encouraged;
- xiv) Encourage the manufacture of solar panels; and

- xv) Build capacity for biomass data collection.

f. Africa-EU Partnership on Climate Change

Priority Action 1: Build a Common Agenda on Climate Change Policies and Cooperation

- i) There is urgent need to develop strategies to enable Africa build resilience to the negative effects of climate change, including through learning by doing adaptation initiatives;
- ii) Develop early warning systems, including the establishment and strengthening of observation networks, to ensure the effective monitoring of climate change. The link between gender and climate change should be noted;
- iii) Empower climate monitoring centres to enable them expand their forecasting capabilities;
- iv) The AU should participate actively in the ongoing climate change discussions in international fora and ensure that Africa develops common positions on the approach to tackling climate change in accordance with existing international conventions;
- v) Hold annual climate change fora with a view to sharing experiences. As a matter of urgency, a meeting of African Ministers of Environment should be convened; and
- vi) Clean Development Mechanism contact points should be established in each country and measures taken to ensure the implementation of CDM strategies, for example to enable local communities to benefit from CDM.

Priority Action 2: Cooperate to address land degradation and increasing aridity, including the "Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative"

- i) Large scale re-forestation projects should be undertaken in different countries;
- i) Assess the impact of climate change on the continent, such as the effect on livestock; and
- ii) Financial and technical capacity building should be strengthened. In this regard, cooperation between the EU and AU Member States should be encouraged.

g. Africa-EU Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment

Priority Action 1: Implement the Declaration of the Tripoli Conference on Migration and Development

- i) Speed up the implementation of the Tripoli Plan of Action;
- ii) Update the study on the establishment of the common Africa-Europe fund on migration;
- iii) Prepare and implement a training programme on illegal migration for security agents, in cooperation with the EU;
- iv) Within the framework of the permanent dialogue with Europe organized regularly (every six months), organise a seminar involving governments, NGOs and other stakeholders on the problems related to migration;
- v) Entrust the studies on migration to the specialized institutions such as CAFRADEF, ACARTSO etc. which could carry them out in cooperation with the African Union. To that end, cooperation between the different research centres should be strengthened;
- vi) The studies entrusted to the different research centres should be carried out in synergy so as to make them coherent with the problem of migration/development. The studies should be operational and not be only of an academic nature in an effort to help decision making;
- vii) The issue of migration should be generally treated and solution should be found to the symptomatic problem of the spectacular effects of clandestine migration;
- viii) The Europe-Africa partnership on migration should not be limited to a simple administrative and security matter; it should encompass the development dimension and the movement of persons;
- ix) Enhance the protection of migrant workers in Europe through the compliance of European countries with the Convention on the Protection on the Rights of Migrant Workers and of their Families to take into account the issues relating to migration;
- x) Widen the high labour intensive approach of the ILO in areas where there is an influx of migrants so as to provide work to a large number of youths to stop migration;
- xi) Strengthen cooperation between Africa and the EU, particularly relating to exchanges;
- xii) Establish or create programmes that make people employable;
- xiii) Create a fund from which the unemployed can benefit; and
- xiv) Create an enabling environment to encourage investment, for example by introducing laws and regulations that encourage remittances.

Priority Action 2: Implement the EU-Africa Plan of Action on Trafficking of Human Beings

- i) The AU Commission should facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action on Trafficking in Humans;

- ii) Develop or strengthen national programmes or institutions in such areas as logistics to fight trafficking in humans;
- iii) Raise awareness on this scourge and encourage dialogue on inter-country cooperation;
- iv) Address the closely related issue of illicit trafficking of drugs in line with the AU Plan of Action on Trafficking and Abuse of Illicit Drugs and Crime Prevention;
- v) Stress the establishment of sensitization and information mechanisms on the texts relating to the trafficking in human beings; and
- vi) A joint mechanism for information on human trafficking should be urgently considered.

Priority Action 3: Implement and follow up the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Action Plan on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa

- i) With a view to improving education and training, and in line with the establishment of technical workshops/schools, Mali intends to extend the HIMO (Labour intensive work) approach, a successful experience in Bamako, to the regions where migrants originate. This will, therefore, become a sub-regional project in this respect. Traditional partners-include the ILO/Luxembourg/Mali;
- ii) In the framework of the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as the ILO Decent Work Agenda, create more jobs, especially for youth. This entails, among others, development of the informal sector in Africa;
- iii) Develop or strengthen programmes to promote social protection systems;
- iv) Promote regional initiatives on employment promotion and poverty reduction;
- v) Promote joint projects between European and African countries or institutions that result in job creation in Africa;
- vi) Reform national curricula to suit labour markets; and
- vii) Promote public-private sector partnerships.

h. Africa-EU Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space

Priority Action 1: Support the Development of an Inclusive Information Society in Africa

- i) Establish an African Centre on Science and Technology;
- ii) Establish an African Science Centre for HIV/AIDS and contagious diseases control;
- iii) Develop capacity with assistance from the EU (assembly and manufacturing);

- iv) Work towards computerizing our health systems and ensure inter-link in our countries' health system in partnership with the EU; and
- v) Encourage distribution of computers in all schools to include schools computer laboratories.

Priority Action 2: Support S&T Capacity Building in Africa and Implement Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action

- i) Within the framework of the reduction of the digital divide, a World Fund has been established. A greater contribution to this Fund by European and African countries would make it possible to attain the objectives of the said Fund. Projects could be designed in that sense;
- ii) Develop laboratories for research and development both in the health and agricultural sectors;
- iii) Establish an Africa centre for science and technology;
- iv) Develop nuclear technology for developmental purposes;
- v) Encourage capacity building in science and technology and seek assistance on science inventions;
- vi) Encourage research into processing of minerals in order to increase benefits; and
- vii) Develop a framework to support African inventions and partnering.

Priority Action 3: Enhance Cooperation on Space Applications and Technology

- i) Enhance cooperation in the area of telecommunications and space technologies, e.g. telescope satellite;
- ii) Cooperation on ICT in the fields of Health and Education, in line with the programme on Africa/India cooperation and the WHO Initiative on e-health and telemedicine;
- iii) Develop schemes which promote the recycling of electronic and nuclear waste; and
- iv) Arrange for secondment of Africans to space agencies in the EU.

Observation

The Director of Political Affairs, AU Commission, made the following observations on the Partnership on Governance and Human Rights:

- 1) The new partnership on governance should be based on a certain number of basic principles able to give it added value in comparison to the existing partnership. Among other things, it is necessary to establish a partnership that fits into the framework of a genuine dialogue that takes the real interests of the two parties into account; a partnership that is based on a common

understanding of the fundamental concepts and issues of governance and that functions according to shared values;

- 2) The concept of governance should be perceived through a wider prism that encompasses global governance issues; this would make it possible to tackle subjects as important as governance and natural resources, governance and regional integration, local governance;
- 3) Particular attention should be given to the establishment of a platform for dialogue on issues of governance, as stated in the strategy and the action plan, the activities to be conducted in the framework of this platform, the actors to lead the dialogue and the structure within which the dialogue would be conducted and the funding of the partnership; and
- 4) Needed support should be given to the establishment of the pan-African governance architecture that rests, among others, on a certain number of legal pillars (Convention on the fight against corruption, African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance) as well as institutional pillars (Pan-African Parliament, ECOSOCC, APRM).

PART C: CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATIONS

VI. CIVIL SOCIETY RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST ACTION PLAN

16. Below are the key recommendations of civil society:

a. Mapping

- i) The Directorate of Citizens and Diaspora Organizations (CIDO) of the African Union Commission should anchor and coordinate the mapping process on the African side;
- ii) In doing this, it should take advantage of existing processes, including its own database and work done by existing institutions. It should also work with these institutions to establish a comprehensive database;
- iii) Certain cherished principles must guide the mapping process. It must be as inclusive as possible, reflecting the plurality and diversity of Civil Society. It should take into account organization requirements pertaining to ECOSOCC, cover the eight thematic areas identified in the Plan of Action in their varied perspectives, reflect grassroots orientations, as well as the different regions of the continent. It must also acknowledge the complication of Northern CSOs with regional tributaries on the continent; and
- iv) The mapping should also cover research institutions and think-tanks since they are part of Civil Society.

b. Establishment of a Platform for Research Institutes and Think-Tanks:

A bi-continental approach must be adopted towards the creation of a network in this context. Significantly also, the process must be inclusive involving private and government-sponsored institutes and think-tanks reflecting the different shades of opinion. The Consultation took note of the on-going efforts of ECDPM to launch a network along this line but recommended that the activation and governance base must be strengthened to embrace autonomous African input.

c. Inviting Representatives of European and African CSOs to Express Themselves Ahead of Ministerial Troika Meetings:

The Consultation applauded the idea but requested that such representatives should convey both individual and collective opinions derived from consultative processes. As anchor for this process, the Consultation recommended a pre-Ministerial Troika AU-CSO Consultation to consolidate ideas, opinions and representations that should be taken into account by the Ministerial Troika.

d. Creation of a Web Portal to Facilitate Consultation with CSOs Ahead of Key Policy Decisions:

The Consultation took note of technological challenges associated with this medium in the African context and debated the relevance of this proposal. There was agreement on the need for further reflection on this matter. There was however consensus on the need to improve the communication infrastructure to facilitate discourse and concerted action in this context especially in view of the speed with which things are happening. There is a need for CSOs to communicate and organize themselves in a manner that will facilitate their ability to cope with this rapid pace of action, particularly in the implementation phase of the Joint Strategy.

e. Expanded Spaces for CSO Interaction:

- i) CSOs must take critical advantage of the expanded spaces provided for its interaction within the framework of the Africa-EU Strategy, with particular emphasis on the use of existing regional structures. The Pan-African Parliament and ECOSOCC are of specific importance in this regard;
- ii) In this context, there is also a need to accelerate the development of PAP as an elected representative body deriving its mandate from the people and consolidate the gains derivable from the process of institution-building of ECOSOCC as an elected organ of African Civil Society. Particular effort must be made to sensitize the African public on their importance. In order to

enable CSOs to articulate and set the agenda of both PAP and ECOSOCC, they must establish a precise methodology or forum for assessing the performance of these organs in crucial areas especially during the interim period;

- iii) Special effort must also be made to identify within the legal framework that govern these institutions, an explicit framework through which CSOs can participate as observers. ECOSOCC has started developing a framework for observer participation in this context. This must be finalized as soon as possible;
- iv) After the inauguration of the Permanent ECOSOCC Assembly at the end of May 2008, focus must be placed on activation of its Cluster Committees particularly in the area of democracy, governance and human rights, as well as peace and security;
- v) There is a need to build effective national chapters of ECOSOCC in Member States of the African Union to support these processes; and
- vi) Cooperation between AU and EU institutions must be on the genuine projects of partnership reflecting the interest and demands of the people, civil society and grassroots movements of both continents.

f. Informal Joint Expert Groups:

There must be effective representation of Civil Society in this framework. Given the wide range of expertise available within civil society and the relative dominance of state actors in other institutional framework of the strategy, CSOs should have a significant representation in the Expert Groups. The composition should also reflect a system of regional balance between Africa and Europe.

g. Joint Strategy:

- i) Civil Society must take full advantage of the reporting mechanism and their contribution towards it. They should organize themselves in a manner that can produce optimum outcome in this context and appropriately cover required thematic areas. There is also the need for the AU, through CIDO, to facilitate the convening of an inclusive consultation process bringing together sectoral actors to consolidate pre-Ministerial Troika reports that are submitted to the two Commissions; and
- ii) To take advantage of this process, CSOs must organize networks around thematic groups with sectoral leaders that will lead and invigorate the process.

The sectoral leaders and the network membership must be based on expertise, track record and proven capability.

h. Structures of Civil Society:

In order to maximize impact and influence and to take speedy action, one attempt should be made to revitalize the Steering Committee set up by the Accra Consultation to work with CIDO. The plenary mandated a Task Team to propose ways of activating the Steering Committee. This is essential to ensure institutional memory, vigorous input and timely action. In the alternative, a new Steering Committee should be based on sectoral leaders of networks in thematic areas. Whatever the case, the activity of the group must be supported by a concise and effective Work Plan.

i. Work Plan:

The meeting took note of certain important events in the near future including the AU Consultative meetings in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, scheduled for 19-20 March and Maseru, Lesotho, from 14-15 April 2008 and the European CSO Consultation in Brussels on 10 March 2008. It also recognized the need for participation by representative of African CSOs in these processes to underline the importance of the conclusions. It further recognized that CIDO, the Steering Committee and the proposed Sectoral Networks and leaders would have to establish a precise calendar of activities that takes into account the speed of things and the timetable and framework set by the first Action Plan of 2008-2010.

VII. AU COMMISSION'S COMMENTS

17. Following the various recommendations proposed by Member States and civil society at the three meetings, below are the comments by the Commission relating to some of the critical ones:

- i. **Formation of Experts Groups:*** These need to be formed as a matter of urgency. Hence Member States are urged to make the necessary pledges for participation as well as undertake to finance experts' participation.
- ii. **Inter-departmental Task Force:*** The Commission has formed an inter-departmental task force to work closely with Member States in the implementation of the Action Plan. Each of the eight Experts Groups to be formed will have at least one representative of the Commission who will also be a member/members of the Task force. These representatives will ensure that activities undertaken to experts groups are in line with policies/commitments/decisions taken by the African Union.
- iii. **Coordination of Experts Groups:*** The consensus appears to be that the Troika format should be retained to carry out the technical coordination function and that the Regional Economic Communities should be given a role. The Commission supports this proposal, given the advantage of greater inclusiveness as well as the significance of RECs in the continental integration agenda.

- iv. ***Chefs de file:*** It is the view of the Commission that this needs review. Many Member States have expressed the desire to participate as chefs de file and therefore, the current membership needs review. In dealing with the issue of membership, Member States' wishes to participate in the various Experts working groups should be taken into consideration.
- v. ***Prioritization:*** It is the view of the Commission that efforts should be made to implement all eight partnerships agreed in the First Action Plan within the 2008-2010 timeframe. However, as has already been proposed, priority should be given to projects/programmes that are already ongoing or are ready to take off.
- vi. ***Member States submissions:*** At both Ouagadougou and Maseru meetings, Member States were requested to submit a list of proposed projects; express interest in participating in the various partnerships; as well as pledge funds for financing the implementation of the Action Plan. It is important that these submissions be made as a matter of urgency.
- vii. ***Pre-ministerial Troika AU-CSO Consultation:*** Civil society has expressed the wish for the holding of such a consultation prior to Troika meetings. It is the view of the Commission that this is a step in the right direction as it is likely to address the concerns of many who expressed the need for more civil society involvement in ongoing processes. However, the question of financing such events needs to be addressed.
- viii. ***Participation of civil society in Joint Experts Groups:*** Civil society has expressed the wish to actively participate in the Joint Experts Groups. It is the view of the Commission that the involvement of civil society at the start should be in the form of pre-ministerial consultations, with arrangements for their outcomes to feed into the Troika meetings. The modalities and cost of their direct participation in the experts group should be studied and decision taken later.

Annex 1

Member States' views on the proposed implementation architecture

Area	Ouagadougou Meeting	Maseru meeting
Coordination of Experts groups	1. Existing monitoring and implementation mechanisms should be used. However, the need for well-functioning implementation teams with effective Member State participation was emphasized.	1. The African side should adopt a structure which has worked effectively in the past, namely the Troika. This can be improved to make it function better.
	2. Some role should be given to the RECs in the implementation of the Action Plan.	RECs should be involved in the implementation process.
	3. The dialogue should be inclusive. In this regard, efforts should be made to ensure the participation of RECs and civil society at future meetings.	
Chefs de file	No comment	1. There would be wisdom in retaining the existing Chefs de file given the expertise accumulated over the years. However, creative means of making the system work more effectively should be explored.
Prioritization	No comment	1. In the event that there is difficulty in implementing all the eight partnerships within the given timeframe, it might be helpful to prioritize and focus on the implementation of a selected few partnerships. Priority should be given to projects/programmes that are currently ongoing.
Miscellaneous suggestions		
	1. Assurance should be made to mainstream women and gender concerns into all the programmes, projects and activities in the implementation of the First Action Plan.	No comment

	No comment	1. The African Union should take stock of existing instruments, structures, policies, projects and programmes.
	No comment	2. Each Department of the Commissionshould always be present at relevant meetings to give advice on specific areas of relevance to respective departments.
	No comment	3. Regarding other partnerships that the AU has entered into, e.g. China, India, and Japan, it is important that the African side evaluates what it gets from each, avoid duplication and identify synergies. This will require capacity.

Annex 2

One of the expected outcomes of the consultations was Member States' proposals for projects to be considered for implementation within the framework of the First Action Plan. Most Member States requested for more time to come up with a list of projects and this request was granted.

The few that were proposed during the meetings are listed below:

1. Africa-EU Partnership on Trade and Regional Integration

Priority Action 1: Support the African Integration Agenda

- i.* "Exchange of trade data and regional integration" project through, inter alia, establishment of websites;
- ii.* Maritime interconnection project.

Priority Action 2: Strengthen African Capacities in the Area of Rules, Standards, and Quality Control

- i)* "Quality-UEMOA on norms and standards in the sub-region" project;
- ii)* African Leadership Programme in ICT Professional Development.

Priority Action 3: Implement the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership

- i)* "ECOWAS Railway interconnection" project;
- ii)* Hydraulic and navigation project with the Senegal River Development Organization (OMVG);
- iii)* "Pooling and securing of supplies in petroleum products" (UEMOA) project.

2. Africa-EU Partnership on the Millennium Development Goals

Priority Action 2: Accelerate the Achievement of the Food Security Targets of the MDGs

- i)* Biogas and energy project for rural settings;

3. Africa-EU Partnership on Energy

Priority Action 1: Implement the Energy Partnership to Intensify Cooperation on Energy Security and Energy Access

- i)* The Rural Electrification Project over 5 years by photovoltaic systems, or thermal generators or by distribution network;

- ii) Renewable Energy atlas Project, including the evaluation of renewable energy resources: wind, solar, geothermal, biomass;
- iii) ‘ECOWAS Gas Pipeline’ Project;
- iv) Project for the exploitation of coal in Sakadamna-Niger for producing electricity;
- v) ECOWAS Electric Projects within the framework of WAAP;
- vi) Bio-gas project in African rural areas;
- vii) Regional Butane Gas Project (UEMOA);
- viii) Electric Interconnection Project: Burkina Faso-Ghana-Côte d’Ivoire;
- ix) Feasibility study on the establishment of a nuclear station in Niger to provide the countries of the sub-region with electricity;
- x) Hydro-electric power project of Kandadji in Niger;
- xi) Gas pipeline between Nigeria, Algeria, Niger and Europe; and
- xii) FELOU hydropower project on Senegal River (OMVS) for Mali-Mauritania and Senegal.

4. Africa-EU Partnership on Climate Change

Priority Action 1: Build a Common Agenda on Climate Change Policies and Cooperation

- i) 19 project briefs available on the programme of adaptation to climate change (PANA) in Mali;
- ii) Francophone Initiative on capacity building project (MDP);
- iii) The programme of separation of carbon with the support of the World Bank to which the EU is called upon to contribute so as to extend it to several countries;
- iv) Greenhouse gas reduction programme through the manufacture of digesters for bio-gas production;
- v) Manufacturing and popularization of improved stove programme;
- vi) Information exchange and research programme on climate change;
- vii) Establish waste water management systems in African countries; and
- viii) Use of waste water in the production of bio-fuel.

Priority Action 2: Cooperate to address land degradation and increasing aridity, including the "Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative"

- i) Dakar-Djibouti Green Wall on a 15km wide band; and
- ii) Forest Development Project for fuel wood production.

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