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**REPORT OF THE 2ND MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE
DIASPORA, NEW YORK, USA, 24 SEPTEMBER 2011**

REPORT OF THE 2ND MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE AFRICAN DIASPORA, NEW YORK, USA, 24 SEPTEMBER 2011

Introduction

1. The Executive Council will recall that the Assembly of the Union at its 16th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, approved a roadmap for the Implementation of the Diaspora Initiative as part of the process of its preparations for the Global African Diaspora Summit through Assembly/AU/Decision 354(XVI). The Roadmap contained benchmarks and indicators for accelerating and measuring the pace of progress. Among others, that Roadmap required that a Technical Experts Committee meeting be held in Pretoria, South Africa, in February 2012 to review and update the outcomes of the 1st Ministerial Conference on the Diaspora held in 2007. The Assembly further stipulated that the report of that Technical Committee meeting along with a progress report of the Roadmap should be submitted for evaluation to the 17th Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in July 2011. The Progress Report was duly submitted and appraised as providing a solid foundation for moving forward. Accordingly, the 17th Ordinary Session adopted the Assembly/AU/Decision 367(XVII) on the Global African Diaspora process. That Decision amongst others, requested the Commission of the African Union and the Republic of South Africa to submit the outcomes of the Technical Experts Meeting to a 2nd Diaspora Ministerial Conference to be held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in New York, USA, in September 2011 as part of the process of preparations for the Global African Diaspora Summit to be held in South Africa on 25 May 2012.

Composition and Attendance

2. The meeting was convened as an enlarged version of the Executive Council in accordance with the precedence set by the 1st Diaspora Ministerial Conference of 2007. Thus it involved Ministers of Member States of the Caribbean Community and others in South and Latin America including Cuba and Brazil where a significant proportion of the African Diaspora population lives. A total of about 51 participants from 31 countries were represented at the meeting. The list of the participants is attached.

Objectives of the Meeting

3. The main objectives of the meeting were three-fold. First was to rigorously examine the outcomes of the Technical Experts Committee meeting (TCEM) held in South Africa in February 2011 and use them to improve the Ministerial Outcome Documents of 2007 with a view to finalizing the Summit Declaration, Programme of Action and Implementation Mechanism for consideration by the Heads of State and Government in the course of the Global Diaspora Summit. In particular, this Conference was intended to update the previous Ministerial document to take account of significant and contemporary developments since 2007 and to further facilitate a resolution of outstanding issues in the Declaration and Plan of Action that could not be resolved by the previous Ministerial Summit. Second was to synthesize the outputs arising

therefore, into a framework Charter or Magna Carta for the organization and management of the Global Diaspora programme in the aftermath of the Summit. Third, was to use this event to build the necessary momentum towards the hosting of the first Global African Summit on 25 May 2012 in Pretoria, South Africa.

Opening Session

4. The opening session received four main presentations. The first was an introductory address by the Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Mr. Jean Ping. He noted that the meeting was convened on the margins of the UN General Assembly to take advantage of the presence of a large number of African leaders in the same location and accelerate that pace of preparation for the Global Diaspora Summit. He urged participants to scrutinize and thoroughly review the outputs of the Technical Expert meeting that was before them along with the recommendations of the Commission and the Government of South Africa in order to consolidate the Draft Outcome Documents to be reviewed by Heads of States. Furthermore, he observed, actions and decisions taken at the level of Ministers and the Assembly of the Union must take cognizance of the status of the Diaspora as a resource intensive project that would ultimately produce multiplier effects. The Diaspora programme would not begin and end with the Diaspora Summit and the desired results would only be achieved if the programme is adequately resourced at the level of implementation so that it is viable and sustainable.

5. In turn, the representative of the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community, thanked the AU for extending the invitation to the Caribbean Community. He explained that the experience of the Caribbean in trying to organize its Diaspora highlighted the enormous task of the African Union and the need for both the African Union and the Caribbean to work together in this regard in view of their common origin. There were several crises confronting both the African Union and the Caribbean Community which are best resolved through collaborative efforts. The Global Diaspora Summit is a laudable framework that affords both the opportunity for dialogue and consultation and a joint platform for mutual efforts. He saw the participation of CARICOM in this Ministerial meeting in particular and the Diaspora programme in general as a demonstration of commitment and solidarity in this enterprise and looked forward to consolidating this process through the Global Diaspora Summit.

6. In her presentation, Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, the Minister for International Relations and Cooperation recalled the history of the Development of the AU's Diaspora Programme and underlined the directive of the Assembly of the Union that the AU Commission and the Republic of South African should collaborate actively to guide this process. She thanked the AU Commission for its strong collaboration with the Republic of South Africa that had set the stage for the development of the programme, the Roadmap and the two Ministerial meetings en route to the Summit. She noted that the process had recognized very early that its success depended on promoting active cooperation not just with its Diaspora populations but governments in the areas where they live. That recognition gave special status to the Caribbean Community, Cuba, Brazil and key states of South and Latin America. She thanked these states for their

energetic support and cooperation which was reflected in their presence and participation in this Ministerial meeting and the one that preceded it in 2007. She emphasized the need to ensure that the momentum for the implementation of the Diaspora programme remains energetic and committed in its inspiration as we set the pace for the conclusion of the Diaspora Summit. It would be important in this regard to faithfully implement the Roadmap approved by the Assembly of the Union by ratifying the related amendment of the Constitutive Act which incorporates the Diaspora as an important component of the Union and to strengthen relations between Africa and its Diaspora and vice-versa.

7. She also emphasized the need to focus on specific bankable projects that will strengthen the economic and cultural ties of Africa and its Diaspora as well as the need to reprofile Africa's image by setting up a Youth Network programme. She expressed the hope that Africa will take up this challenge because there is enormous goodwill in the international society that Africa can tap into for its Diaspora programme as long as it is prepared to lead and organize itself appropriately. However, in order to do this the AU itself must respect the priorities and programmes approved by the Assembly in the Roadmap and resource them adequately. Moreover, the Ministers who are also the Members of the Executive Council of the Union have a duty to see that this is adequately covered in the programs and budgets that they are called upon to approve. She was confident that Africa's effective response to the challenge of building the Diaspora Programme and its effective implementation would enable the continent to substitute Afro-optimism for Afro-pessimism as part of its renaissance. She promised to submit the report and outcome of the meeting on behalf of the Ministers directly to the next Executive Council and Assembly sessions in Addis Ababa in January 2012.

8. Finally, the Chair of the Executive Council, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Equatorial Guinea, noted that the current impetus for the revival of the momentum towards the hosting of the Global Diaspora Summit could be located within the changing political landscape in Africa and the global economic downturn. The need to confront regional and global challenges in a collaborative manner was therefore a strong factor in the initiative to rebuild the global African family. He expressed satisfaction at the timely implementation of the Roadmap leading to the Summit and identified this as one of the significant milestone of his country's leadership of the African Union. He expressed the hope members of the African Diaspora from outside the continent would continue to work with the African Union to realize the objectives of the Diaspora programme.

Report of the Technical Committee Meeting and Proposals on the Draft Outcome Document

9. Subsequently, the Ministerial Conference focused on the Report of the Technical Committee meeting and its proposals and recommendations for improving the Ministerial Outcome Documents of 2007. Two key presentations were made jointly by the Commission of the African Union and the Republic of the South Africa to assist this process. The first by Ambassador Rakwena of South Africa provided a brief but detailed historical background on programme development. He reviewed the successive decisions of the African Union that led to both the Technical Committee Meeting and the

Ministerial Conference. He highlighted the provisions of the Roadmap which requested the Technical Committee meeting to review the Outcome Document of 2007 and refine it for consideration by the Ministerial Conference. He gave details of the work of the Technical Committee and its outcomes. Dr. Jinmi Adisa, the Director of CIDO in the AU Commission then directed attention to the specific proposals that the Technical Committee meeting had provided for improving the roadmap, the reasons and justifications provided for each of them and its implications for the tone and content of the document. He then offered the text of the refined document as proposed for consideration and evaluation by the Ministerial Conference. The changes were in four dimensions. First were changes to reflect significant and contemporary developments that had taken place within Africa, among the Diaspora and the larger international society since the first outcome document was prepared in 2007. Second were changes of a stylistic and editorial nature. Third were programmatic elements reflecting new and important factors that should be accommodated in this context. Fourth, he drew attention to the Annex II on short term actions of the 1st outcome document. The Technical Expert meeting considered that several of those actions had already been implemented. Moreover, those that had not been implemented within the period between 2007 and 2011 could no longer be regarded as short-term actions and should be absorbed in the wider programme of action. He recommended that the Ministerial Conference should seriously consider this proposal.

Discussion

10. The ensuing discussion by the Ministerial Conference reflected on two issues. First were issues raised by the opening presentations on programme requirements for the success of the Diaspora Initiative. Several Ministers of Member States and the Diaspora also made related and succinct contributions in this regard. Second was a detailed consideration of specific proposals emanating from the Technical Experts meeting for the consideration of the Draft Outcome Documents.

OUTCOMES

On Programmes

The Ministerial Conference :

- a) Mandated the AU Commission and the Republic of South Africa to continue the process of their strong and close collaboration leading to the Global Diaspora Summit. As part of this process they should hold necessary preparatory meetings, finalize the Host Agreement and take all necessary steps to ensure the successful outcome of the Summit and its implementation process thereafter.
- b) Requested that the African Union and all its relevant organs must ensure that the Diaspora programme is adequately resourced in the process leading up to the Summit and beyond. The Ministers emphasized that the programme at the foundation level is resource intensive but if well-resourced and implemented would produce substantial multiplier effects that would support the processes of African integration. It assigned special responsibilities to Ministers of the AU Executive Council to ensure that priorities of the Diaspora Programme were adequately reflected in the budgets that they will approve. Similarly, it requested other preparatory organs to ensure that the peculiar demands of the Diaspora programme are taken into account in the process of budgetary resource allocation.
- c) Stressed the need for strict fidelity to the priorities of the Diaspora programme as contained in the Road mapping. These include, amongst others, the institutionalization of regular consultative processes with the Diaspora, the creation and consolidation of regional networks in the various Diaspora regions, and the project on the African Diaspora Volunteer Corps.
- d) Agreed on the need to build synergies and complementarities between regional and national Diaspora programmes at the continental level so that they can serve as mutually reinforcing mechanisms for advancing the Diaspora programme. They recognized the important role that the follow-up Workshop of Diaspora Ministries will play after the Summit and requested that the workshop should develop and propose a work plan to facilitate this objective.

In a related context, the Ministers singled out the need to establish clear and political criteria for Diaspora representation in the AU's structures and processes as one that merits urgent and scrupulous attention. However, they noted that it must involve recognition of status and responsibilities, rights and duties, entitlements and obligations. Accordingly, while the desire of the Diaspora population for a special status such as provision of dual citizenship in states of origin and preferential status within the continent as members of the African family are reasonable demands, the AU must consider them in the context of a measured and meticulous approach. The Ministers decided that the AU should

embrace a global approach in developing appropriate criteria rather than a segmental approach adopted individually by different organs or institutions to facilitate coherence and a balanced model that would guide behaviour. The Ministerial Conference further requested that the Commission of the African Union should assure responsibility for this by implementing aspect of the Roadmap that requested it to convene Experts meetings and develop an appropriate framework document for consideration and adoption by Council and Assembly for this purpose. In doing this, the Commission should also draw on views of Member States and Diaspora communities. The agenda of the Regional networks should also feed into this process.

- e) Further agreed that as a way of giving practical meaning to the diaspora programme, some bankable projects should be prioritized and preliminary studies conducted on them, where feasible, to assess their viability, potential cost and impact as a guide to action. Projects identified for consideration in this regard included the African Diaspora Investment fund, Skills database of African Professionals and the Adoption and Promotion of the Development Market Place (DMADA) as a framework for facilitating innovation and entrepreneurship. While recognizing the potential of bankable projects, Ministers underlined the need to proceed with enthusiasm and caution because of resource constraints. They also noted the need for inclusiveness in the process of selecting bankable projects and proposed that it should be one of the main items of consideration by the Workshop on Diaspora Ministries scheduled for July 2012 after the Summit. In particular, Minister emphasized that the process for selection of bankable projects require strict prioritization to avoid oversubscribing and underachieving.
- f) Finally Ministers underlined that Member States and the Organs and Unit of the AU must strengthen their commitment to provide strong and effect support for the Diaspora programme and its objectives before and after the Global Diaspora Summit. They noted that the Diaspora programme does not begin and end with the Diaspora Summit. The implementation process begins before the Summit and would continue long after it has ended. Thus the processes of policy implementation must proceed quickly and effectively after the Diaspora Summit of May 2012. This implies that in the years after the Diaspora Summit, the Council and Assembly as executive organs of the Union should remain seized with the monitoring and implementation processes in order to galvanize support for the programme and enable it to achieve its objectives on a short, medium and long term basis.

On the Outcome Document

11. The Ministerial Conference considered each of the amendments proposed in sequence and formally adopted the revised version as agreed. The adopted Draft Declaration and Programme of Action are attached.

CONCLUSION

12. In the closing session, the Minister for International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, presented the summary of outcomes on programme requirements and specific outcome documents. She again emphasized that the Diaspora programme was resource intensive and thus there was an urgent need for the AU to close the disconnect between programme commitments approved by the Assembly of the Union in its Roadmap and resource allocation for the implementation processes. She stressed the special responsibility of Ministers to ascertain that this was done. She further stressed the need for Member States of the Union to ratify the Protocol on Amendment to the Constitutive Act which underlined the importance of Diaspora participation in the framework of the African Union and underlined the need to reprofile African image within the context of the Diaspora programme to give fillip to Afro-optimism rather than Afro-pessimism. She promised to faithfully present the outcome of the meeting to Council and Assembly at its next Ordinary Session in January 2012 and thanked the Commission for its collaboration in this process.

13. The Chair of the Meeting, the State Minister of Equatorial Guinea, on behalf of the Foreign Minister of Equatorial Guinea and Chair of the Executive, then thanked all participants and delegates for the fruitful deliberation and enriching debate that had led to this successful conclusion. He thanked both the Commission and Republic of South Africa for their work and urged them to continue their process of strong, active and successful collaboration in this regard. The meeting ended on this note.

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ANNEX

DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

DRAFT DECLARATION

Draft Declaration of the First African Diaspora Summit

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union and the Caribbean

RECOGNIZING the important presence of Heads of State and Government from the Caribbean Community, South and Latin America and representatives of the African Diaspora;

EXPRESSING, our appreciation to His Excellency, President Jacob Zuma, the Government and People of the Republic of South Africa and the African Union for the warm reception and for hosting and conducting this Summit;

TAKING COGNIZANCE of the dialogue carried out between Africa representatives of various regions of the world in which the African Diaspora are located;

RECALLING, the Constitutive Act of the African Union that is guided by a common vision of a united and strong Africa based on a partnership between governments and all segments of society in order to strengthen cohesion and solidarity among its peoples.

ALSO RECALLING the Protocol on Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted by the First Extra-Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2003, and in particular Article 3(q) which invites the African Diaspora to participate as an important component in the building of the African Union;

FURTHER RECALLING, relevant African Union Decisions including Decision EX.CL/Dec. 5 (III) on the Development of the Diaspora Initiative adopted by the Third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Maputo, Mozambique, in July 2003, Decision EX.CL/Dec. 221 (VII) on the Africa-Diaspora Process adopted by the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in January 2006 and Decision EX.CL/Dec. 406 (XII) on the First African Union Diaspora Ministerial Conference adopted by the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2008 on the modalities for Diaspora participation in the organs and activities of the Union and Decision Ass/AU/Dec.205(XI) adopted by the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in July 2008 on the Africa Diaspora Summit, Decision, Ass/AU/Dec 354 (XVI) of the Sixteen Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2011 on the Roadmap for the Diaspora Summit, including the convening of a Technical Experts meeting in Pretoria, South Africa in February 2011 and Decision Ass/AU/Dec 367 (XVII) of the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of Assembly of the Union on the convening of a second

Ministerial Conference on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2011 to consider and use the outcomes of the Technical Experts Meeting in further preparation for the Global Diaspora Summit scheduled to be held in South Africa in May 25, 2012

RECALLING the commemoration in 2007 of the bicentennial of the trafficking in Africans, an obligation to remember the legacy of history, particularly the era of colonialism and slavery and the enforced separation of African people as a result of that experience, as well as the Declaration of the United Nations of 2011 as the year of the of people of African descent.

TAKING INTO account the need to put African history in its proper perspective and harness this towards rebuilding the global African family.

RECOGNIZING, the need to build sustainable partnerships between the African Diaspora and the African Continent through sustainable dialogue and effective collaboration with governments and peoples of different regions of the World in which the Diaspora population are located;

COGNIZANT, of the fact that culture and identity inform all facets of development and

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to celebrate and preserve the shared heritage between Africa and peoples of African descent in the Diaspora;

BEARING IN MIND that the African Diaspora represents a historical and evolving experience which calls for an approach that is sensitive to the specificities of the different regions;

AFFIRMING, the need to promote South-South Cooperation as a framework for enhancing mutual development as well as Pan-African Solidarity;

LAUDING, the efforts undertaken thus far to support Africa and African Diaspora process including organizational efforts, measures and strategies pursued by the African Union;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT, the First and Second Conferences of Intellectuals of Africa and the Diaspora (CIAD I&II) held in Dakar, Senegal and Brasilia, Brazil in 2004 and 2006 respectively, the outcomes of the First AU-South Africa-Caribbean Conference held in Kingston, Jamaica in 2005 and the various Regional Consultative Conferences held in different regions of the world in 2007 to consolidate the results;

NOTING, with appreciation the work of the Ministerial meeting which took place in Midrand, South Africa from 16-18 November 2007 and the Technical Experts meeting held in Pretoria in February 2011 and the second Ministerial Conference held in New York, USA on 24 September 2011;

CONVINCED, of the need to build on these efforts and outcomes as the basis for establishing a solid foundation for the rejuvenation of the global African family as an instrument of wider renaissance;

REALIZING, the imperative of a sustained and coordinated approach and ownership of the African Diaspora related programmes and projects so as to promote their effective implementation and impact;

COMMIT to cooperate in the political, economic and social areas outlined in this Programme of Action (Annex I), and implementation and follow-up modalities (Annex II).

Done at Johannesburg, South Africa 25 May 2012

PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE FIRST AFRICA- DIASPORA SUMMIT

I. POLITICAL COOPERATION

In the area of political cooperation, we commit to the following:

A. Intergovernmental Cooperation

- a) Enhance South-South Cooperation through closer collaboration between the African Union (AU), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), MERCOSUR (The Southern Common Market), the Community of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Arab League;
- b) Leverage the collective efforts of the AU, (The Arab League) CARICOM, MERCOSUR and UNASUR and states in multilateral organizations to promote and advance issues of critical importance to Africa and its Diaspora;
- c) Encourage AU Member States to establish more formal relations with the Caribbean regions and vice versa; and where practicable, the opening of more Missions in the respective regions;
- d) Continue to support the role of the AU as the focal point and the coordination hub of all Diaspora initiatives in the Continent. To this end, Diaspora issues should be a standing item on the programmes and agenda of AU Summits, and the AU's Directorate tasked with Diaspora matters should be strengthened and capacitated in financial and human resource terms;
- e) Take necessary measures to promote and create effective synergies between national and continental Diaspora programmes;
- f) Create platforms for closer interaction, solidarity and effective collaboration between and amongst governments and civil society of Africa and its Diaspora including continuation of Regional Consultative Conferences and creation and consolidation of Regional Networks as partners and interlocutors for the implementation of the outcome of the Global Diaspora Summit;
- g) Encourage and intensify the participation of the African Diaspora in conflict prevention, management and resolution as well as post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation, and disaster mitigation in Africa and the Diaspora regions;

- h) Strengthen the participation of the Diaspora population in the affairs of the African Union so as to enhance its contributions towards the development and integration agenda of the continent;
- i) Encourage and support the development of an African Union Diaspora Volunteer programme as a framework for associating the Diaspora directly with the development of the continent
- j) Encourage African Union Member States to urgently ratify the Protocol on Amendment to the Constitutive Act as a framework for enabling the incorporation of the Diaspora as the 'sixth region of Africa' and as an important component in the building of the AU;
- k) Support the acceleration of the AU's work with Diaspora organizations to develop an inclusive mechanism and a legal framework through which appropriate formal regional structures can be developed for effective engagement and partnership between Africa and its Diaspora;
- l) Continue to integrate the African Diaspora agenda in its engagement with international partners
- m) Encourage AU and CARICOM to create a conducive environment for the African Diaspora to invest, work, and travel on the African continent and the Caribbean;
- n) Support efforts by the AU to accelerate the process of issuing the African Union passport, in order to facilitate the development of a transnational and transcontinental identity;
- o) Explore the possibility of establishing a Pan-African Secretariat in Dakar, Senegal for the Conference of Intellectuals of Africa and the Diaspora (CIAD) as recommended by CIAD I.

B. Mobilization of Support

- p) Encourage the civil society in the Diaspora and in Africa to support, advocate and mobilize resources for the development of Africa and its Diaspora;
- q) Express mutual support and solidarity between Africans on the Continent and in the Diaspora in circumstances of violation of human and peoples' rights;
- r) Campaign for the ratification and full implementation of all relevant instruments that enhance the protection of women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups, in particular the United Nations Convention on the

Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Convention against all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and the UNESCO Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;

- s) Encourage the ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention on Crimes across Nations as a means of stemming trans-border criminality;
- t) Encourage Africans in the Diaspora to campaign against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Africa especially in countries where they are domiciled and in those that are arms producers

II. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

In the area of economic cooperation, we commit to the following:

A. Government Action to Foster Increased Economic Partnership

- a) Develop effective regional integration mechanisms that would enhance closer interaction between AU, CARICOM and other relevant multilateral institutions of the South, as well as the Diaspora;
- b) Develop effective regional integration mechanisms that would enhance closer interaction between AU, CARICOM and other relevant multilateral institutions of the South, as well as the Diaspora;
- c) Take concrete measures that would promote and sustain linkages between AU, CARICOM and the Diaspora in the following priority areas: trade and investment, science and technology, travel and tourism, communication and transportation infrastructure, information and communication technology and cultural industries;
- d) Create an environment conducive for the growth and development of Small, Medium and Micro-Enterprises and promote entrepreneurship in Africa and the Diaspora.

B. Mobilization of Capital

- e) Use financial instruments focusing on remittances and investments to facilitate the mobilization of capital that would strengthen links between Africa and the Diaspora;

- f) Explore the possibility of creating a Development Fund and/or African Diaspora Investment Fund to address development challenges confronting Africans in the continent and the Diaspora.

C. Partnership in Business

- g) Enhance partnership between the African and Diaspora private sectors through efforts such as regular meetings of Chambers of Commerce and listing in African Stock Exchanges and vice-versa;
- h) Build on Africa's and the Diaspora's comparative advantages in culture to translate it into economic gains through collaborative programmes that would facilitate the strategic development and marketing of their cultural goods and services.

D. Science and Technology

- i) Promote coordination and development of institutions in the African Diaspora and Africa, dedicated to innovation and invention for social and economic development of Africa and the Diaspora;
- j) Examine the merit of using the decisions of the Tunis phase of the World Summit on Information Society, particularly the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Declaration, as well as the Digital Solidarity Fund as a means of creating e-linkages between Africa and the Diaspora.

E. Knowledge Transfer and Skills Mobilization

- k) Promote the utilization of African and Diaspora expertise on economic development issues at regional and continental levels, and explore the possibility of creating a Diaspora Advisory Board(s);
- l) Encourage the use of the International Organisation for Migration(IOM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)for Migration for Development in Africa programme to work in concert with the AU Commission to mobilize the skills and resources of the Diaspora to enhance the institutional capacities of national and regional institutions;
- m) Promote trade and investment opportunities linked to indigenous knowledge systems, while ensuring that the related intellectual property rights are secured for the benefit of Africa and the Diaspora;
- n) Promote the establishment of a comprehensive and all-inclusive database that will match the expertise of African professionals in Africa and its Diaspora to African developmental needs;

- o) Adopt and promote the 'Development Market Place for the African Diaspora Model' (DMADA) as a framework for innovation and entrepreneurship that would facilitate development.

F. Infrastructural Development

- p) Support the development of Africa related undersea cable and terrestrial fibre optic connectivity initiatives; and
- q) Harmonise regulatory structures related to infrastructure, such as telecommunication and transportation.

G. Information Gathering and Dissemination Capacity

- r) Develop an overarching communications strategy for disseminating information on Africa Union programmes (including NEPAD) and Diaspora initiatives;
- s) Support the development of an updated and reliable census and statistics on employment, unemployment and entrepreneurship in Africa and the Diaspora with special focus on the Youth.

H. Climate Change

- t) Work closely to advance the international agenda on climate change in international fora given its devastating effects on Africa and the Caribbean.

III. SOCIAL COOPERATION

In the area of social cooperation, we commit to the following:

A. Knowledge and Education

- a) Design and develop platforms for African and Diaspora educators and scholars to address the developmental agenda of the Continent and the Diaspora. These would include, among others, the establishment of African-centred institutions and programmes and increased collaboration efforts between academic and research institutions in Africa and the Diaspora regions;
- b) Ensure the harmonisation and implementation of regional and international protocols protecting indigenous knowledge systems and intellectual property rights;
- c) Emphasize the importance of literacy campaigns as a basic condition of achieving human development.

- d) Support the creation of linkages between Diaspora Academic, Research and Development Institutions and those in Africa;
- e) Ensure the participation of Diaspora Experts in the development and implementation of AU-Diaspora initiative.

B. Arts and Culture

- f) Promote the coordination and funding of cultural exchange programmes between Africa and the Diaspora;
- g) Further encourage and disseminate information to all Member States on African-Diaspora projects which are being implemented such as the Museum of Black Civilisations, an African Remembrance Square, the African Renaissance Monument and the Joseph Project,
- h) Support, encourage and promote the celebration of global observance days as symbols of solidarity for the commemoration of the common heritage and vision of Africa and its Diaspora, in order to strengthen Pan-African unity and identity, in particular Africa Day, African Union Day, Black History Month and Emancipation Day;

C. Media and Image Building

- i) Coordinate efforts of the existing media and promote new media to re-brand Africa and to counter stereotypes about Africans and people of African descent; and
- j) Explore possibilities of creating Africa News Network Service to enhance image branding and imaging of Africa;
- k) Continue communication efforts to popularise this initiative, and to promote positive image about Africa and people of African origin, as well as promote investment opportunities in Africa and the Diaspora regions.

D. Immigration

- l) Engage developing countries with a view to creating favourable regulatory mechanisms governing migration; and to address concerns of African immigrants in Diaspora Communities.

E. Human and People's Rights

- m) Work for the full implementation of the Plan of Action of the United Nations World Conference Against Racism;
- n) Engage developing countries to address the political and socio-economic marginalisation of Diaspora communities in their countries of domicile;
- o) Strengthen the implementation of legislation and other measures aimed at eradicating child trafficking, human trafficking, child labour, exploitation of children and women in armed conflicts and other modern forms of slavery;

F. Social and Cultural Issues

- p) Allocate more resources on social spending programmes such as health, education and housing ;
- q) Cooperate, in order to make social security institutions more efficient in protecting Africans and members of the Diaspora;
- r) Ensure expansion of access to the Internet for social, health, business and development and trade;
- s) Coordinate with the African Diaspora regarding the question of the illegally acquired cultural goods that exist outside the African continent, with the aim of speeding their return to their countries of origin in Africa;

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ANNEX II

**ROADMAP AND SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES LEADING TO THE
GLOBAL AFRICAN DIASPORA SUMMIT AND ITS IMMEDIATE
AFTERMATH**

ROADMAP AND SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES LEADING TO THE GLOBAL AFRICAN DIASPORA SUMMIT AND IN MAY 2012 AND ITS AFTERMATH

1. The 17th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union took a significant and dramatic step by deciding to convene the Global African Diaspora Summit on African Day on 25 May 2012 in South African (Assembly/AU/Dec.367(XVII) on the Global African Diaspora Process). The decision marked the climax of a protracted consultation process between the African continent and its Diaspora on the goal, content, objectives and implementation strategy of the Diaspora process. The Decision facilitated the convening of a Ministerial meeting in New York on 24 September 2011 to review the outcomes of a previous Technical Experts meeting as well as the Summit documents of 2007 and consolidate them into a Draft Declaration, Programme of Action and Implementation Strategy for the consideration of the leaders of Africa and its Diaspora in the Summit of May 2012. The consolidated outcome documents would then serve as a basic law guiding the programme and its effective implementation.

2. Within this context, the calendar of events leading to the Summit and anticipated follow-up processes assumes critical importance and presents significant opportunities. They must set the pace and tempo for the conduct of the Summit and facilitate the effective and timely implementation of its outcomes. The Diaspora Ministerial Conference held in New York in September 2011 to prepare the Summit emphasized that the Diaspora program does not begin and end with the holding of the Summit and that the real test is what comes after the commitment to implementation of outcomes. The proposed framework of activities embodies that spirit and focuses as much on the Summit as on follow-up processes. The elements of this framework include the items listed below as follows:

I. ELEMENTS

a) The Preparatory Phase – February 2012

3. The focus of efforts here will be on preparation for the finalization of both Summit arrangements and prior events that will set the pace for it. In the first or second week of February, a preparatory meeting will be held between the Commission and the Government of South Africa to finalize the host agreement and review plans for conduct of the Summit including its venue, media plan, pre-Summit event, etc. Subsequently, a joint briefing will be presented to the PRC to sensitize Member States of the Union and associate their inputs with the preparatory process. The second half of February will be devoted to preparation of other events associated with programme implementation framework approved by the Ministerial meetings and the Executive Council and Assembly particularly the decision on the continuation of regional consultative Conferences, the building of Diaspora networks and feasibility studies on bankable projects as contained in the Summit decision.

b) *Regional Consultative Conferences and Network Building in the period leading to the Summit in March/April 2012*

4. Arrangements are underway for three important regional consultative conferences as advised by Council and Executive Council Decisions including AU/Assembly/Dec.367(XVII) of July 2011. These are as follows:

- i) Regional Consultative Conference for the Middle East and Gulf Region of the Diaspora. The Executive Council of the Union specifically requested for this through EX.CL.Dec.386(XII). Consultation have been initiated with the Government, PRC members of contiguous states and the Governments of the Republic of Sudan and Qatar on the planning and hosting of the meeting which is expected to take place in late March 2012.
- ii) First Global Diaspora Parliamentarian Forum in New York in mid-April 2012 to bring together African and Diaspora Parliamentarians to establish a platform and agenda for their effective contribution to the Diaspora Initiative.
- iii) National Conference of Black Mayors in the USA to consider and establish a grassroot agenda and platform of elected Diaspora leaders in the US to support and work within the framework of the Diaspora Summit agenda. This meeting will be held on a back to back basis with the Forum of Parliamentarians.

c) *Diaspora Pre-Summit 1st or 2nd Week of May 2012*

5. There will be also a two day pre-Summit meeting in early May 2012 comprising about 50 delegates (equally apportioned between representatives of Diaspora Communities across the key sectors of society) and those of continental Africans alike. This will include representatives of the private sector, trade unions and employers associations, civil society organizations, community based groups, etc. to sensitize them to the outcome of the Ministerial meetings and the wider expectations of the Summit so that they can begin to prepare themselves to play an effective role in the post-Summit implementation phase.

d) *The Global African Diaspora Summit – May 25, 2012*

6. All these events will culminate in the Global Diaspora Summit scheduled for 25 May 2012. It is expected that the preceding consultations will offer messages of solidarity and short, brief recommendations to the Summit which will be accommodated in oral or written form depending on the precise agenda of the Summit itself.

e) *Summit Follow-up Meeting of Diaspora Ministries – July 2012 in Abuja, Nigeria*

7. As contained in the approved roadmap, the Summit will be accompanied soon after in July 2012 by a Conference of Diaspora Ministries that will bring together Diaspora Desk officers in all the 54 Member States of the Union and officials at the continental level to synchronize the respective regional and continental strategies and enable a coherent and mutually supportive implementation strategy for Summit outcomes. The meeting will also prioritize a few bankable projects for feasibility studies including the Diaspora Volunteer Corps.

f) *Workshop on the Volunteer Corps and Political and Legal Representation of the Diaspora in AU Structures and Processes – August – December 2012*

8. Two workshops are envisaged in this five month period to prepare two framework documents for consideration of Council and Assembly at its Ordinary Sessions in January 2013. One is on the African Volunteer Corps and the second is on Political and Legal Representation of the African Diaspora in AU Structures and Processes. The latter will also consider the issue of defining the Diaspora as the sixth region of the continent. The AU Commission will then consider the outcomes and use them to prepared framework documents for consideration of policy organs. Given the sensitivity of the issue of political and legal representation of the Diaspora in the AU, the Ministerial meeting held in New York agreed that the AU should adopt a global rather than segmental approach towards the issue of Diaspora representation within the AU and that this should be based on Council and Assembly Decision on the framework document prepared accordingly. Thus organs and units of the AU should refrain from taking individual actions on this issue until they can be guided appropriately by specific decisions of the Executive Organs of the Union.

g) *Other Activities*

9. It is also expected that feasibility studies on the bankable projects can be commissioned and undertaken in this year so that framework documents for action in these areas can be prepared for consideration and adoption of Council and Assembly in the first half of 2013. Similarly, a Sharing/Study tour of India is expected to be undertaken at a period agreed with the Indian Government in the course of 2012 to harness the lesson of the Indian Diaspora experience to support the AU's Diaspora initiative. Consultations have been initiated towards this end. Where possible, regional consultative meetings will be carried out in regions of the world to sensitize Diaspora communities to Summit outcomes of May 2012 and prepare them to play an effective role in support. It is anticipated that periodic briefings will be provided to the PRC on progress made on the implementation process or as part of the preparatory meeting for the sessions of the Executive Council and Assembly of the Union.

II. CONCLUSION

10. The effective and timely implementation of this agenda is required for the success of the Diaspora Summit, its follow-up process and implementation strategy. The Government of South Africa and the AU Commission solicits the support and commitment of all Member States, the PRC and policy organs, AU partners and the Diaspora communities worldwide to ensure the success of this programme.

2012

Report of the 2nd ministerial conference on the diaspora, New York, USA, 24 September 2011

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