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**REPORT OF THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON MULTILATERAL
COOPERATION WITH RESPECT TO AFRICA'S
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
JANUARY TO JUNE 2012**

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WITH RESPECT TO AFRICA'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
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1. During the period under review, the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation, working in close collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), was seized with a number of activities with respect to Africa's Strategic Partnerships.

A. Implementation of the Plan of Action of the Second Africa-India Forum Summit

2. It is recalled that during its Twentieth Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 23 to 27 January 2012, the Executive Council requested the Commission and the PRC, through its Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation, to conclude the Action Plan of the Framework for Enhanced Cooperation of the Second Africa-India Forum Summit with the Indian side, and follow up on the implementation of the agreed projects and programmes within the prescribed time period. It also requested the Regional Deans and Member States to complete the process of allocating the institutions to the respective regions and countries within the regions, following India's offer to establish six (6) new institutions at the continental level.

3. In this respect, there have been meetings between the Sub-Committee and the Commission in one hand, and an Indian delegation to finalize the Action Plan of the Framework for Enhanced Cooperation of the Second Africa-India Forum Summit. In parallel, the implementation of the agreed projects and programmes is ongoing. The Overall Deans and Regional Deans have also met on a number of occasions but there is still no concrete agreement on the proposals made for the distribution.

Recommendations

- (i) Request the two sides to submit for adoption the Action Plan of the Framework for Enhanced Cooperation of the Second Africa-India Forum Summit with the Indian side, in order that the agreed projects and programmes could be implemented within the prescribed time period;
- (ii) Request the Overall Dean and Regional Deans to urgently submit the locations of the continental institutions to enable the Executive Council take a decision on them during the July 2012 session.
- (iii) Request the AUC to provide, where necessary, all information on already agreed-upon African proposals for the Action Plan of the Framework for Enhanced Cooperation, as and when requested by the Government of India.

B. The Third Africa-South America (ASA) Summit

4. It is recalled that the Executive Council, at its January 2011 session, endorsed the Decision of the Third Africa-South America (ASA) Ministerial Meeting, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 22 to 25 November 2011, that the 3rd Africa-South

America (ASA) Summit should take place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 15 to 16 May 2012.

5. Accordingly, the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation and the Commission completed preparations for the Summit. Thus, the documents on the outstanding issues such as the structure and organogram for the setting up of the ASA Secretariat; the priority projects for immediate implementation; the financing mechanism of ASA projects and programmes and composition of the Strategic Presidential Committee were prepared by the African side for discussion with the South American side with a view to submitting them to the Summit for consideration. A draft Declaration was also prepared.

6. Similarly, arrangements were made for the holding of a Trade Forum and a Cultural exhibition in compliance with the decisions of the November 2011 Ministerial meeting authorizing the two events. It is noted however, that because of inadequate time, full scale Trade Forum and Cultural exhibition could not be organized. The Trade Forum was reduced to a Workshop/Seminar and the Cultural exhibition was to be on the basis of voluntary participation. In this regard, two countries from South America and three from Africa had indicated their preparedness to participate in the exhibition.

7. Regrettably, at the last moment, the South American side, through its Coordinator – Brazil and the UNASUR Pro-tempore Presidency – Paraguay – requested for a postponement of the Summit to the second semester of the year. Equatorial Guinea as host and which had gone far in the preparation for the Summit, accepted the request, as well as the rest of the African side.

8. In the light of the above, the Sub-Committee and the Commission are of the view that a new date should be proposed for the middle of October or November this year and the South American side informed accordingly. This will give enough time for adequate preparations by both sides and the conclusion of discussions with South America on all outstanding issues. In this regard, the Executive Council may wish to direct that the Coordination Mechanism, along with the Chair of the Sub-Committee should meet, possibly in Malabo on those issues as soon as possible to prepare for the Summit later in the year. Full scale Trade Forum and Cultural Exhibition could therefore be envisaged.

Recommendations

9. Taking the above into account, the following recommendations are made:
- (i) Request the African and South American sides to consider and agree on the 30 African-identified priority projects and pave the way for their implementation. The various Groups should examine practical ways of implementing the projects.
 - (ii) Urge the ASA Executive Secretary to convene the Ad-hoc Working Group on Financing ASA activities as soon as possible, in view of the importance of mobilizing resources to fund ASA projects and programmes in order to take the partnership forward; and CALL UPON

the African side to identify its membership and play a meaningful and constructive role in the process;

- (iii) Take note of the decision to postpone the 3rd ASA Summit to the second semester of the year 2012 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, and call on both sides to consult and agree on a new date and make adequate preparations to ensure a successful Summit;
- (iv) Request the Coordination Mechanism to meet as soon as possible, possibly in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, to consider outstanding issues relating to the staffing, membership, funding and financial implications in the setting up of the ASA Permanent Secretariat and make appropriate recommendations to the next Summit;
- (v) Preparations for full scale Trade Forum and Cultural Exhibition should begin early to ensure their success.

C. Preparations for the 3rd Korea - Africa Forum (KAF)

10. The Korea - Africa Senior Officials Meeting in Addis Ababa, which was severally postponed during the first quarter of the year, eventually took place on 7 June 2012. During the meeting the two sides reviewed activities of the partnership since the 2nd Forum in Korea in 2009 and discussed preparations for the 3rd Forum scheduled to take place in Korea on 17 October 2012. It was observed that while Korea's cooperation with individual African countries at the bilateral level during the period had been remarkable, not much had been achieved at the continental level. This was largely due to the fact that the Action Plan 2009-2012 based on the Declaration and Framework for Cooperation adopted in Seoul in 2009 was not co-owned by the two sides to facilitate implementation. The two sides agreed that since the 2009-2012 Plan of Action was overtaken by time, there was need to prepare a new Plan of Action 2012-2015 to be based on the expected outcome of the 3rd Korea-Africa Forum and its Declaration that will reiterate some past commitments, but also reflect new commitments like cooperation in the field of Peace and Security, Science and Technology and Industrial Development.

11. In this connection, the Korean side agreed to study the draft Action Plan provided by the African side in consultation with relevant authorities in Korea and revert to the Commission. The idea is to finalize the Action Plan for adoption at the 3rd Korea-Africa Forum.

12. The Korean side briefed the meeting on the preparations so far made for the 3rd Forum. The side intimated that activities had been programmed from 15 to 19 October 2012 in what is termed as an "African Week" and indicated that invitations to the meeting will be sent to the Commission and the participating Member States before the end of June 2012.

13. It is to be recalled that the Banjul formula is made up of ~~includes~~ the following: The current Chairperson of the African Union, the outgoing Chairperson of the African Union; the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union; the five initiating States of NEPAD, the Chairperson of the Heads of States and Government

Orientation Committee of NEPAD (HSGOC), the Chairpersons and Chiefs Executives of the eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as the Chairperson of the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation.

Recommendations

- (i) Welcome the successful hosting and outcome of the Senior Officials meeting held in Addis Ababa, on 7 June 2012;
- (ii) Request the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation and the AU Commission to step up their preparations, specifically related to the Seoul Declaration and the Action Plan, in order to ensure a successful 3rd Korea-Africa Forum in Seoul on 17 October 2012;
- (iii) Request participating countries to please note the dates for the Forum and related activities from 15 to 19 October 2012, in Seoul, Republic of Korea and urge them to attend.

D. Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

14. The African Union Commission (AUC) was accepted as a Co-organizer of the TICAD process in August 2010. In February 2012, the African Union Commission (AUC) was invited by the Government of Japan (GOJ), for the first time, to participate in the TICAD Co-organizers' Steering Committee Meeting alongside the other Co-organisers, namely, the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UNOSAA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank (WB). The African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Japan also attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to plan and discuss the 4th TICAD Ministerial Follow-up Meeting to be held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 5th and 6th May 2012 as well as the preparations towards the convening of the TICAD V Conference in Yokohama, Japan, from 1st to 3rd June 2013.

15. It was with this backdrop that the African Union Commission participated in the 4th TICAD Ministerial Follow-Up Meeting held at the Palmeraie Golf Palace in Marrakech, Morocco, from 5 to 6 May 2012. The Work Programme of the Marrakech meeting, with identified presenters are as follows:

- Status of Implementation of the Yokohama Action Plan: Japan;
- Current Africa's Economic Growth and Underlying Challenges; World Bank;
- Achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa : 2015 and Beyond; UNDP;
- Addressing Domestic as well as Cross-Border Challenges: Consolidation of Peace and Good Governance; African Union Commission;
- Climate Change; Japan.

16. The AUC delegation, led by the Deputy Chairperson, worked in close collaboration with the Government of Japan (GOJ) and the other Co-organizers and

contributed meaningfully to the outcome of the meeting, which brought together about 49 African countries, with 37 of them represented at the Ministerial level, the UN system Organizations, Civil Society Organisations as well as the Media.

17. The following priority areas of the AU aimed at helping Africa achieve its development goals in the next TICAD V process were highlighted at the meeting:

- Implementation of African Peace and Security Architecture in order to deepen peace as a crucial ingredient for social economic development,;
- Implementation of the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa which seeks to put in place the essential networks to underpin African integration;
- Concretization of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program with a few for providing food security and nutrition for Africa's growing population;
- The Campaign for accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) as an AUC and UNFPA initiative to intensify the implementation of the Maputo Pan of Action for reduction of maternal mortality in the Africa Region;
- Realization of the Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa which seeks to equip the continent with an operational industrial capability;
- African Governance Architecture, the implementation of which will underpin Africa's on-going democratization process and exploitation of natural resources;
- Establishment of Pan African University, aiming at integrated research and education in Africa;
- The establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area; and
- Global agenda such as the reform of the UN and addressing challenges of climate change.

18. The AUC and the Co-organizers were unanimous in their views that as the celebration of the Second decade anniversary of the TICAD process coincides with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the OAU/AU in 2013, the TICAD process should be adjusted to support the African continent to implement its own infrastructure and development agenda, emphasizing Africa's ownership of the process in addressing Africa's priorities, but at the same time transforming it to make Japan become more visible in Africa for its own benefit.

19. The meeting also discussed the preparatory processes towards TICAD V scheduled to be held in Yokohama, Japan, in June 2013. It was agreed that several major preparatory meetings will be held, leading up to that event, among which will be the Co-Organizers' Steering Committee Meeting to be held in September 2012 during the UN General Assembly in New York; the IMF-World Bank Annual Meeting to be held in Oct 2012 in Japan, the Senior Officials Meeting to be held in Burkina

Faso in October/November 2012 and the TICAD V Ministerial preparatory meeting to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in March 2013.

20. The Co-organizers agreed with Japan that TICAD V would address the challenges and risks that may undermine the emerging positive trends in Africa, meaning that it would aim to promote inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth, while enhancing resilience in Africa and outlined the building blocks for TICAD V.

21. The AUC's participation in the Co-organizers meeting and the 4th Ministerial follow-up Conference has brought Africa's visibility and ownership to the TICAD process. As a beneficiary of the process, the opportunity given to the AUC as a Co-organizer for the first time, brought the African continental dimension to a hitherto bilateral process, which though has had some positive impact, did not always take Africa's priorities into consideration.

22. It is therefore envisaged that as we prepare towards TICAD V, the AU will use its new role to influence the outcome documents of TICAD V in ways that would address Africa's priority concerns but also bring added benefits to Japan. For almost two decades, Japan has shown solidarity with Africa and supported Africa to achieve its development goals. The time has come, as we celebrate 20 years of the TICAD process, which incidentally coincides with 50 years of the founding of the OAU/AU, for Africa and Japan to be more engaged in hard core development issues, emphasizing trade and investment, infrastructure, science and technology as well as intergovernmental and inter peoples relationship for the benefit of the two sides.

23. The African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Tokyo, which hitherto had been following the TICAD process, is willing to work with their counterparts in Addis Ababa and the AUC to prepare adequately for TICAD V and thereby achieve the expected objectives.

Recommendations

- (i) Welcome the successful outcome of the 4th TICAD Ministerial Follow-up meeting held in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco, from 5-6 May 2012 and express appreciation to Japan for fulfilling its commitments under the Yokohama Action Plan despite its own internal challenges;
- (ii) Also welcome Japan's announcement to hold TICAD V in the city of Yokohama, Japan from 1 to 3 June 2013, which will commemorate the 20 anniversary of the TICAD process, as well as its positive contribution to Africa's economic development since 1993;
- (iii) Acknowledge the sterling role played by the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Tokyo in the TICAD process over the years and their willingness to work with their counterparts in Addis Ababa in advancing the interest of the African Union in the TICAD process;
- (iv) Urge the PRC, the ADC, Member States and the Commission to work in concert and collaborate closely with Japan and the other co-organizers in the preparations towards TICAD V to ensure its successful outcome.

E. Africa - China Cooperation Forum (FOCAC)

24. This forum has served as a good example of South-South cooperation and has contributed to strengthening the channels of consultation and communication, as well as the establishment a mechanism of cooperation, which is mutually beneficial for Africa and China.

25. In accordance with Decision EX.CL/Dec.532 (XVI) and as agreed at the 4th Ministerial Conference of FOCAC in 2009 in Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypt), the AUC was admitted as a full member at the meeting of Senior Officials of FOCAC held in Hangzhou, China, from 26 to 27 October 2011.

26. Globally, we can consider this partnership as a successful one due to the joint efforts made by both parties in the implementation of the various activities. Remarkable results have been obtained in all areas, including politics, economy, trade, development and culture.

27. Despite this largely positive record, some Member States have expressed the need for strengthening the China-Africa cooperation and to see FOCAC pay greater attention in the coming decade to key issues relating, inter alia, to the following:

- fight against terrorism;
- legal and consular issues;
- organized crime;
- creation of employment opportunities;
- illegal immigration;
- climate Change;
- protection of the Congo Basin;
- the special situation of small island countries;
- maritime transport;
- strengthening of Multilateral Cooperation in the implementation of the NEPAD agenda;
- Strengthening coordination with international organizations, particularly the UN Security Council, the WTO and the G20.

28. Both parties are currently preparing for the 5th Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC, to be held in Beijing, China from 19 to 20 July 2012, focusing on the theme "Consolidating the achievements and opening new perspectives for the new Sino-African strategic partnership."

29. The draft documents of the conference, namely, the Beijing Declaration and the Action Plan for the period 2013-2015 are currently under review by both parties.

Recommendations

- (i) Need to maintain regular consultations between the African Diplomatic Missions based in Addis Ababa and Beijing, respectively, the Commission and the Chinese sides, in accordance with an earlier Executive Council decision in January 2012, in the process of preparation and drafting of the final documents (Declaration and Plan of Action) of the Fifth Ministerial Conference;

- (ii) Identifying and presenting continental priority projects that China could contribute to their implementation.

F. Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES): Meeting of the Africa-EU Task Force

30. In the context of the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, the fourteenth meeting of the Africa-EU Joint Task Force (JTF) was held from 8-9 March 2012 in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting was attended by the AU rotating Presidency represented by His Excellency the Ambassador of Benin, European and African co-chairs of the Joint Expert Groups (JEGs), the European and the Pan-African Parliaments, Civil Society from both continents, Senior Officials of the two Commissions and the European External Action Service (EEAS), as well as representatives from the Member States, the African Regional Economic Communities, the African Development Bank and the European Investment Bank.

31. The meeting reaffirmed the JAES as the overarching framework of cooperation between the two continents and agreed that the implementation of the JAES Action Plan in the eight thematic partnerships has not yet met expectations. Both sides also agreed that more work needed to be done in order to realize the full potential of the JAES, taking into consideration the next Africa-EU Summit scheduled for 2013. The 14th Joint Task Force meeting provided the opportunity to pursue further efforts so that the Partnership becomes even more dynamic and efficient in achieving commonly defined objectives. In this regard, there needs to be a prioritisation on areas of collaboration as well as a need to take into account current realities – regarding the global and financial economic crisis – when shaping the way forward.

32. In this connection, it is pertinent to point out that the participants exchanged views on the possible review and improvement of the current JAES architecture and the contents of the partnership, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of the Joint Expert Groups' efficiency. The meeting was also updated on the financing avenues being considered by the EU to support the JAES more effectively, particularly the proposal for a Pan-African Programme in the new Development and Cooperation Instrument (DCI) for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). Furthermore, there needs to be a clear identification of the priorities to be funded, including the setting up of the Pan-African Financing Facility / Instrument.

33. Reports of the break-out sessions between the two sides on the state of play of the implementation of the thematic partnerships were later submitted to a plenary session. The co-chairs of the meeting, on the EU side, Mr Nicholas Westcott, Managing Director of the Africa Department of the European External Action Service (EEAS), and Mrs. Francesca Mosca, Director, DG Development and Cooperation in the European Commission, and on the African side, Ambassador John Kayode Shinkaiye, Chief of Staff in the Bureau of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, welcomed the progress made and called upon the JEGs to focus on the prioritization of activities aimed at achieving concrete outcomes.

34. The following bilateral meetings also took place:

- The coordination meeting between the African and European Union Commissions, the EEAS and the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), which agreed to foster the involvement of the

RECs in the JAES and deepen interactions between the regional and continental levels;

- The meeting between the African and European Union Commissions, the EEAS, the African Development Bank and the European Investment Bank which provided the opportunity to strengthen their cooperation in implementing the current JAES Action Plan, and to discuss their future cooperation, notably in the context of the proposed pan-African Programme;
- The discussion between the European External Action Service and the African Union Commission which addressed legal issues, in particular the principle of universal jurisdiction, the International Criminal Court, and the Hissène Habré case.

35. The next Africa-EU Joint Task Force meeting will take place in Addis Ababa in the last quarter of 2012.

Recommendations

- (i) Need to restructure and strengthen the JEGs on the African side in order to effectively use the Task Force to garner benefits for the continent;
- (ii) In this regard, calls upon the two sides to hold a brainstorming Session to reflect on the overall architecture of the partnership, to be held before the next Africa-EU Joint Task Force meeting that will be held in the last quarter of 2012;
- (iii) Need for Member States to fully participate in the JEGs in order to project and realize the broad objectives of the partnership, for the continent;
- (iv) Calls upon the AUC and the Member States to ensure that the key deliverables to be presented at the 4th Africa-EU Summit in Brussels, December 2013, are in accordance with the projects and initiatives that were listed in the Africa-EU Action Plan (2010-2013) and not ad hoc activities that fall outside the parameters of the above-mentioned Action Plan.

G. Conclusion

36. As would be seen from the above, it is clear that the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation worked tirelessly with the African Union (AU) Commission, with a view to strengthening Africa's Strategic Partnerships.

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