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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE

Thirteenth Ordinary Session

22 – 23 January 2007

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

EX.CL/304 (X)

**REPORT ON THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
AFRICA AND THE EMERGING COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH
(CHINA, INDIA AND SOUTH AMERICA – BRAZIL)**

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**AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF TRADE
3rd EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
29 – 31 OCTOBER, 2006
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**Ext/Exp/Trade/6 (III)
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH**

**MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON AFRICA'S STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP WITH EMERGING POWERS:**

CHINA, INDIA AND BRAZIL

September 11-13, 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

1. A meeting of the Task Force on Africa's Strategic Partnership with the emerging powers, China, India and Brazil, composed of eminent African experts from both the private and public sectors, research institutes and development partner institutions was held at the African Union (AU) Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 11 to 13 September, 2006. The main objective of the meeting was to provide guidance for the development of a framework document for the establishment and operationalisation of Africa's strategic partnerships with the three countries. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Elisabeth Tankeu, AU Commissioner for Trade and Industry, and moderated by Dr. Alioune Sall, Executive Director of the African Futures Institute. Eminent personalities, resource persons, representatives of AU member states and partner institutions participated in the three-day meeting. The meeting was officially opened by Mrs. Tankeu who delivered a welcoming speech on behalf of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konaré. The resident Ambassadors of China, India and Brazil accredited to Ethiopia and the AU subsequently addressed the Task Force. All sessions of the meeting were held in plenaries, which featured presentations by resource persons and floor discussions.

THE MAIN ISSUES

2. The meeting featured presentations and discussions under the Africa-China, Africa-India and Africa-Brazil partnerships and these raised the following main issues, among others:

- The desirability for a systematic assessment, effective and efficient use of Africa's natural resources with a view to vigorously pursuing the continent's industrialization process
- The launch of new and/or strengthening of on-going initiatives in the context of the emerging partnership framework to:
 - Enhance economic cooperation, trade and improved market access for Africa's products
 - Boost agricultural productivity so as to promote food self-sufficiency
 - Strengthen Africa's services sector and grow the role of the private sector
 - Develop Africa's human resources
 - Promote capacity building, technology acquisition, as well as knowledge generation, sharing and application
 - Actively develop Africa's energy resources
 - Step up research and development activities
 - Accelerate the development of infrastructure, which facilitates intra-African trade and economic development
 - Strengthen socio-cultural exchanges
- The need for a coordinating and pivotal role for the African Union and its NEPAD programme, in the implementation of the emergent Strategic Partnership.

THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

3. At the end of the three days' deliberations, the Task Force put forward the following recommendations:

- 1) Africa's relationship with the emerging powers should be that of true and equal partnerships of mutual trust and benefit, not that of donor and recipient.
- 2) The approach to the partnership should be one of co-development that is human-centred and in which both parties agree to commit their resources and assets for common interests.
- 3) Africa's strategic partnership with the emerging powers should be consistent with the clearly articulated vision and development strategy of the AU as embodied in the Strategic Plan of the Commission and the NEPAD programme. The partnerships must provide answers to, inter alia, the following questions:
 - What does Africa want?
 - What is Africa offering and receiving, and on what conditions?
 - What are Africa's priorities in the partnership?
- 4) Africa must face the emerging powers as a **united** continent and strengthen its integration agenda.
- 5) The private sector should be a key actor in the strategic partnership. The development of its capacity for joint ventures with enterprises of the strategic partners should be accorded priority.
- 6) The priorities of Africa in the context of partnership should include:
 - Acceleration of industrialization
 - Infrastructure development
 - Agricultural development
 - Technology and knowledge development and acquisition
 - Human capital development
 - Enhancement of market access
 - Development of modern services sector
- 7) The immediate objective of the partnership is effective industrialization of the continent, the development of service industries, and the diversification of African economies. The partnership should harness the experiences and comparative advantages of the partners in achieving this objective.
- 8) Strategic partner countries must be sensitised with regard to the Strategic Plan of the Commission and relevant NEPAD documents.
- 9) A media strategy and programme highlighting the positive image of Africa should be developed and marketed globally and especially in partner countries.

- 10) Africa must make efforts to understand the cultures and values of the strategic partner countries and vice versa. A programme of cultural exchange must be an integral element of the strategic partnership framework.
- 11) A principle of subsidiarity and complementarity should underpin the building and implementation of the strategic partnerships. The African Union must play a coordinating and pivotal role in providing a strong multilateral framework that will guide the RECs and Member States in their engagement with emerging power countries. In this regard, an Independent Task Force could assist the AU.
- 12) The AU should mobilize adequate resources to support the design of the multilateral framework, and monitor and evaluate its implementation. Within the context of this responsibility, the AU should create mechanisms for determining and mapping Africa's natural resources as well as scanning the global environment in order to take account of other new emerging economic powers in the management of the African strategy.
- 13) The strategy of promoting regional growth poles that could serve as engines of growth for Africa should be actively explored with a view to employing it in the development of the partnership with emerging power countries.
- 14) Africa should speed up the process of establishing the financial institutions provided for under Article 19 of the Constitutive Act in order to promote industrialisation.
- 15) In the development of mechanisms of strategic alliance, there is need to take stock of and evaluate those on the ground.
- 16) Steps should be taken towards the creation of an African mineral/commodity exchange, preferably at the continental level but if necessary also at the regional levels.
- 17) A determined effort should be made within the framework of the partnerships to ensure that mineral or agricultural commodities are not exported in their raw state from Africa. Instead, with the active participation of the African private sector, measures should be put in place to ensure that local value addition is generated in order to promote Africa's participation at higher levels of the value chain. To this end, industrial mergers should be encouraged to strengthen Africa's participation in the global economy. The principle of partnership should, as a priority, encourage extensive use of Africa's natural resources in the continent's industrialisation.
- 18) Steps should be taken to support a Forum of African Industrialists on an Agenda to be defined by the Industrialists themselves, with a view to securing and encouraging their role in all aspects of the development of partnerships.

- 19) The AU should ensure a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Accessible, Realistic and Time-bound) approach in the implementation of the African Strategy towards the emerging powers.
- 20) There is a need to incorporate an effective monitoring, evaluation and follow-up mechanism in the partnership framework. The AU should assess every two years the partnership with the emerging powers. It should also coordinate the assessment every five years of all partnerships in which Africa is engaged with the rest of the world to ensure that they are consistent with the interests and needs of the peoples of Africa.
- 21) Attention will need to be paid to the development of appropriate macro economic and regulatory frameworks for the maximization of Africa's benefits from partnerships. This should be complemented with effective consultations and involvement of all stakeholders in order to ensure good and participatory governance.
- 22) Efforts should be made to deepen reflections on the partnership framework and implementation plan by involving African knowledge networks and relevant development partners including the UN system.
- 23) To achieve full implementation of the above recommendations, Africa must continue the promotion of peace, security, stability and good governance on the continent.

Conclusion

4. At the closing ceremony, the AU Commissioner in charge of Trade and Industry warmly congratulated and thanked all the participants for their valuable contribution to the meeting. She also expressed appreciation to South Africa for sponsoring the meeting.

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