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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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19 – 23 May 2013

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

EX.CL/785(XXIII)ii

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES
AND CONFERENCES**

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND CONFERENCES

I. Introduction

1. The meeting of the PRC Sub-Committee on Programmes and Conference was held on 16th April 2013 and was chaired by the Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee H.E. Dr. Isaac Munlo, Malawi's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa.

2. In attendance were the following countries:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Algeria | 18. Kenya |
| 2. Angola | 19. Malawi |
| 3. Benin | 20. Mali |
| 4. Botswana | 21. Mauritania |
| 5. Burkina Faso | 22. Mozambique |
| 6. Burundi | 23. Nigeria |
| 7. Chad | 24. Rwanda |
| 8. Comoros | 25. SADR |
| 9. Congo | 26. Senegal |
| 10. Cote d'Ivoire | 27. Sudan |
| 11. Democratic Republic of Congo | 28. South Africa |
| 12. Egypt | 29. Tanzania |
| 13. Equatorial Guinea | 30. Togo |
| 14. Ethiopia | 31. Tunisia |
| 15. Gambia | 32. Uganda |
| 16. Gabon | 33. Zambia |
| 17. Ghana | 34. Zimbabwe |

II. Adoption of Agenda

3. The Sub-Committee adopted the following agenda items proposed by the Commission:

- a) Opening Remarks;
- b) Consideration of Report on Action Taken to the draft AUC Strategic Plan 2014-17, following adoption by the Extra-Ordinary Executive Council Meeting;
- c) Consideration of Progress Report on the Development of African Union Agenda 2063: A Shared Strategic Framework for inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development;

- d) Any other business.

III. Opening Remarks

4. In his opening remarks, the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee thanked members for attending and emphasised the importance of the session in view of the time constraints in the build-up towards the meetings of the AU Policy Organs. He requested for the usual cooperation from members of the Sub-Committee.

IV. Consideration of Progress Report on the Development of African Union Agenda 2063: A Shared Strategic Framework for inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development

5. In his presentation the Director for Strategic Policy Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Resource Mobilisation recalled Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.733(XXII) taken on 24-25 January acknowledging the collaboration between the Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank in formulating the new long-term strategic framework for the continent.

6. He also recalled that in the same decision, the Executive Council encouraged the three institutions to finalise the work on an issues paper, use that paper for consultations with key stakeholders, and to present a Framework Document for consideration by the AU Policy Organs in May 2013.

7. The Director informed the meeting that, as directed, the three institutions continued work of the draft issues paper and enriched it into a framework paper titled 'African Union Agenda 2063' whose objective is to chart a development trajectory for Africa for the next 50 years. He explained that the paper highlights Africa's performance over the last 50 years, reviews where Africa is today and proposes the way forward for Africa for the next 50 years, including milestones to be achieved along the way.

8. The Director also informed the meeting that the Commission was of the view that it would be premature to submit the framework paper for consideration by AU Policy Organs during May as it has not yet been subjected to interrogation and inputs by African stakeholders.

9. In this context, the Commission was therefore planning to commence an intensive consultative process with key African stakeholders for their inputs to ensure ownership. The key stakeholders to be consulted are Member States, RECs, other AU Organs, the NEPAD Agency, academia/research institutions/think-tanks, the private sector, civil society as well as International Partners. Special effort will also be made to consult women and the youth who constitute over 60 per cent of Africa's population. Former Heads of State shall also be consulted to benefit from their wisdom and experience.

10. The meeting was informed that some first major steps in the consultative process include the presentation of the Framework Document to a meeting of Gender Experts (8 May 2013), Conference on Women Stakeholders on Pan Africanism, Renaissance and Agenda 2063 (12-13 May 2013), and AU Ministers Responsible for Gender and Women Affairs (14 May 2013). The Director indicated that substantive inputs have been received from these meetings and are being taking into account in further refining the document.

11. He concluded his presentation by drawing the attention of the Sub-Committee to a roadmap that will guide the development of the African Union Agenda 2063, and in particular pointed out that due to the need to conduct a comprehensive citizen consultative process the Framework Document can only be presented in January 2014 instead of May 2013.

V. Comments and Observations

12. During the discussions that ensued, Members of the Sub-Committee commended the Commission for the presentation and made the following observations:

- a) The Commission should provide assurances that the work will be concluded within the time span contained in the road-map (by June 2014), and expressed reservations in view of the amount of work to be done;
- b) Stressed the importance of the exercise to be driven and owned by Africans from all segments of society, including the diaspora. In this context it was stressed that a communication strategy should be developed to ensure sustained stakeholder engagement throughout the process. In addition, consultations with International Partners should come at the end when the agenda has already been defined.
- c) Stressed the need for regular and deeper consultations with Member States for quality control and guidance. It was agreed that other AU Organs including the PRC and its relevant Sub-Committees needed to be more engaged in the process. In this regard, the Commission should provide quarterly progress reports for consideration by the PRC through its Sub-Committee on Programmes and Conferences.
- d) The Commission was reminded that, in addition to building on existing frameworks, it should consider consultations with Member States National Planning Authorities for coherence.
- e) Called for more efforts by all concerned to ensure that the exercise is a success.

- f) Stressed that the Agenda 2063 should be action oriented and put emphasis on harmonisation, convergence and cross-border programmes.
- g) The Commission should take advantage of planned Ministerial Meetings to present Agenda 2063 and solicit inputs. The Commission should also be alert and take advantage of the events around the 50th Celebrations to gather inputs into the development of Agenda 2063.

VI. Response from the Commission

13. In response, the Commission explained as follows:

- a) That the process will be participatory involving all segments of the African society. In addition a communication strategy was in the process of being developed to ensure citizen engagement throughout the process.
- b) Every effort will be made to complete the exercise within the time frame contained in the roadmap, without compromising on quality.
- c) A Draft Framework Document had already been developed by technical experts and was in the process of internal review at the AUC, ECA and AfDB following which it will be enriched and used as a basis for consultations with stakeholders.
- d) The process of formulating the Draft Framework Document entailed the conduct of a situational analysis including a review of existing frameworks such as the Lagos Plan of Action, Abuja Treaty, NEPAD Programme and thematic frameworks such as CAADP, PIDA and Social Policy Framework.
- e) The Framework would form a basis for an African home grown development agenda, including and African common position into the post 2015 Development Agenda.
- f) The Commission was ready to produce quarterly progress reports and to engage the PRC through the Sub-Committee on Programmes and Conferences on a regular basis.

VII. Recommendations

14. The Sub-Committee agreed to recommend to the PRC as follows:

- a) That the PRC approves the roadmap on the development of Agenda 2063 (Annex 1) and recommends to the Executive Council that the Framework Document is presented for consideration by AU Policy Organs in January 2014 and the final Agenda 2063 is considered and adopted in June 2014.
- b) That the Commission presents progress reports to the PRC through its Sub-Committee on Programmes and Conferences a quarterly basis to facilitate monitoring and guidance during the process.

VIII. Consideration of Report on Actions Taken on the draft AUC Strategic Plan 2014-17, following adoption by the Extra-Ordinary Executive Council Meeting

15. The Commission circulated a Progress Report containing specific actions taken to address issues raised by Member States during the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Executive Council.

16. The progress report also addressed other work undertaken in relation to the reformulation of indicators and the integration and women and youth issues into the Strategic Plan.

17. In absence of the Draft Strategic Plan in Portuguese and Arabic, and due to time constraints, the meeting resolved to focus on the recommendations to be made to the PRC.

IX. Observations from the Sub-Committee

18. The Sub-Committee made the following observations:

- a) The Commission must endeavour to provide the Strategic Plan in all four official languages.
- b) There was general acknowledgement that the document had already been considered and endorsed by the Executive Council, subject to some further work on issues raised by Member States during the Extra-Ordinary Session of the Executive Council. In this regard, it was also acknowledged that there was a supporting summary that highlighted corrections by the Commission.
- c) On the basis of the foregoing, there was general agreement that, the document could be presented to the PRC for their recommendation for endorsement by the Executive Council.

- d) Member States requested the Commission to distribute the final draft Strategic Plan document electronically to them for further review and confirmation of changes made to the Plan.
- e) It was agreed that Member States should, in the meantime read the summary document and the Strategic Plan, and that if there are any omissions on the issues raised by Ministers during the Extra-Ordinary Session, these could be brought to the attention of the Director of Strategic Planning.
- f) Member States who may have new issues or proposal could raise these in the meeting of the PRC.

X. Recommendation

19. The Sub-Committee agreed to recommend to the PRC as follows:

- a) The PRC should take note of the work done by the Commission in further refining the Strategic Plan as directed by the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Executive Council (Annex 2).
- b) The PRC should recommend the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan of the Commission for endorsement by the Executive Council, and adoption by the Assembly.

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Annex I

**PROPOSED ROADMAP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF AGENDA 2063**

Proposed Road Map for the development of AU Agenda 2063

Phase	Activity	Milestone/ Deliverable	Timeframe
1	Undertake situational analysis to identify issues, challenges and opportunities (both internal and external). On the basis of this, develop a draft issues/framework document clearly identifying key drivers for socio-economic transformation and milestones towards the achievement of Agenda 2063.	Situational Analysis/Issues Paper/Zero Draft Framework Document	Jan-March13
2.	Solicit comments/Inputs from AUC/AfDB/ECA and other Stakeholders	Revised Draft Issues Paper/Framework Document	April/May 13
3.	Prepare progress report on AU Agenda 2063 development process for consideration by AU Policy Organs	Progress Report on the Development of AU Agenda 2063	May 13
4.	Stakeholders consultations on Draft Issues Paper/Framework Document (including the PRC and its Sub-Committee on Programmes and Conferences)	Comments/Inputs	Jun – Aug 13
5.	Outline key goal, priorities, outcomes, milestones and indicators	Draft Framework Document containing, overall goal, priorities, outcomes, and milestones and indicators	Sept 2013
6.	Translation of Draft Framework Document	Draft Framework Document in all 4 AU Official Languages	Mid Oct 2013
7.	Transmit Draft Framework Document to Members States	Document received by all Member States	16 Oct 2013
8.	Presentation of Draft Framework Document to Sub-Committee and the PRC	Recommendations to the Executive Council	First Half Nov 13
9.	Transmit Revised Draft Framework Document to Members States	Document received by all Member States	2 nd Half Nov 13
10.	Presentation of Framework Document to the Executive Council and Assembly	Approval of Framework Document	Jan 14
11.	Develop Framework further by	Draft Strategic Plan	Feb – March

Phase	Activity	Milestone/ Deliverable	Timeframe
	undertaking scenario analysis, prospective analysis, identifying strategies, programmes and indicators in detail		14
12.	Stakeholders consultations on Draft Strategic Plan	Comments/Inputs	April –May 14
13.	Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	Draft M&E Framework	Feb – March 14
14.	Development of an Implementation Plan	Draft Implementation Plan	Feb-March 14
15.	Convene continental validation workshop(s) on Draft Strategic Plan, M&E Framework and Implementation Plan	Comments/Inputs	April 14
16.	Presentation of Draft Strategic Plan, M&E Framework and Implementation Plan to Sub-Committee and the PRC	Recommendations to the Executive Council	May 14
17.	Presentation of Strategic Plan, M&E Framework and Implementation Plan to Executive Council and the Assembly	Approval	Jun 14
18.	Popularisation of AU wide Strategic Plan	AU wide plan popularised	Jul – Sept 14

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Annex II

AU COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2017

***REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN FOLLOWING THE EXTRA-ORDINARY
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2013***

**AU COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2017
REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN FOLLOWING THE EXTRA-ORDINARY
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2013**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At its 14th Extra-Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 8 April 2013, the Executive Council through its Decision Ext/EX.CL/Dec1(XIV) approved in principle, the Draft Strategic Plan 2014-2017 of the AU Commission and recommended it for adoption by the 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled to be held on 26-27 May 2013, subject to the Commission and the PRC doing further work on strengthening the indicators and mainstreaming of gender and youth in the Plan.
- 1.2 The Executive Council also directed the Commission, taking into account all the inputs provided by the Extra-Ordinary Session, to submit the final version of the Strategic Plan for its consideration during the 23rd Ordinary Session to be held from 22-23 May 2013.

2.0 Progress Report

- 2.1 In line with the above recommendation, the Commission constituted a working group with representation from all departments to further interrogate and refine indicators as directed. The group adopted the Results Chain logic as defined by goals, outcomes, outputs and activities in order to establish a causal chain and come up with appropriate performance indicators.
- 2.2 At the end of its assignment, the working group came up with the following:
 - Reformulated of the results statements (outcomes/outputs) where necessary without necessarily changing its original meaning
 - Reformulated performance indicators in some instances to remove ambiguities, ensuring that they are SMART
 - Reduced the number of the performance indicators, retaining only Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) where possible.
- 2.3 The modified Results Framework (with performance indicators) is contained in the AUC Strategic Plan revised document as Annex 6.

- 2.4** With regards to comments/inputs raised by the Extra-Ordinary Session of the Executive Council the Commission has prepared the attached table that identifies the interventions raised by Member States, and the action taken by the Commission for that intervention. It has included page numbers about where to find the changes in the document based on the English version of the Strategic Plan.

3. Recommendations

The Sub-Committee is requested to recommend that the Permanent Representatives Committee:

- 1. Takes note of the work done by the Commission in further refining the Strategic Plan as directed.**
- 2. Recommends for final approval by the Executive Council the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 of the AU Commission.**

Executive Council Observations on the Draft Strategic Plan and the Commission's Actions

Member State	Issue(s) raised	Action taken by Commission by page number and paragraph of Strategic Plan
Sierra Leone	Requested for specific actions on girl child to appear in the Strategic Plan	Action is included on page 102 in Table 12 under Output 1.6 (4)
Seychelles	Reminded the Commission that Seychelles is also among countries that reached 30% women representation in the National Assembly	Correction appears on page 77 paragraph 2 bullet 3. The countries have been listed according to their ranking on women representation in National Assembly
Namibia	Suggested indicators on a) reduction in conflicts; b) industries established; c) level of safety nets and d) number in reduction of Commission meetings	These suggestions have been captured in Annex 6 from page 141 to 168: for instance on indicators under Outputs 3.6, 4.4 and 7.1
Egypt	<p>Raised several issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There is a need to separate issues of Arab Spring from the situation in the Sahel. It was felt that the Arab Spring was political in nature while situation in the Sahel is a security concern (This was clarified separately when the representative of Egypt Embassy visited the Commission) b) The issue on shared water resources, an issue that was also raised by Ethiopia during the PRC meeting c) Resource mobilization to fund the AU budgets d) Need to reactivate the MoUs signed between AUC and Member States regarding capacity building initiatives and technical assistance that can be provided by the Member States on request 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Arab spring and the Sahel situation have now been separated on page 81 paragraph 5 with a proper wording provided by the Peace and Security Department, and also corrected on page 61, paragraph 2 where a sentence was removed that said '<i>Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has exploited the turmoil in North Africa to reinforce its capacity to harm in the Sahel, with adverse consequences as recent events in Mali have shown.</i>' As it did not add much value b) The new wording proposed by the Commission has been accepted by both Egypt and Ethiopia. This is on page 56 paragraph 1 in a sentence

		<p>that end with ‘.....in accordance to win-win principals’</p> <p>c) This was a comment notifying the Commission not to rely much on Member States for funding but should concentrate more on exploring alternative or additional sources of funding, in particular wait for HE Obasanjo’s report. The Commission did not change the wording as it was thought that what is captured on page 132 under 6.2 (a) suffices</p> <p>d) The Commission inserted into the document the requirement to consider reactivating the MoUs with Member States on capacity building initiatives that aims at improving the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission. This is found on pages 20, 24 (d), and 132 (6.2 e)</p>
Mozambique	Emphasized on the need to popularize the Strategic Plan in Member States so that they can begin to integrate parts of it into their national plans	Performance indicators have been proposed to measure whether the Strategic Plan has been popularized enough to trigger Member States begin to integrate parts of it into their plans. It can be found on page 166 under output 6.1.
Cape Verde	Requested the Commission to propose specific actions for small Island States	The Commission through the Strategic Planning department conducted research on the matter. It also consulted various

		departments of the Commission and come up with narrative that appears on pages, 50, 56, 57, 59, 64, 67, 74, 75. It also appears in Annex 6 under Outputs 2.1 on page 150 and Output 3.3 on page 157.
Gabon	A representative from Gabon Embassy visited the Commission and raised their issues. It was on the need not to treat climate change as an arm of environment issues. Instead, climate change should be treated with equal weight just like issues of environment	In the text where it is indicated as “.....environment including climate change” has been changed to read “.....environment and climate change” Example is found on page 87 under section 4.1, in box 9 and number 2
General Observations	<p>Almost all Member States who spoke observed that the narrative provided in, especially, the Situational Analysis section quoted non-African data sources. They requested the Commission to use as much as possible data from Member States</p> <p>What is the Commission thinking about Post 2015 Agenda (MDGs)</p> <p>Consider introducing in the Situational Analysis Chapter challenges at the end of each section</p>	<p>The Commission has reworked on the section concerned and has revised the text and removed almost all foreign quoted narrative. No single department came forward with African data that could be applied instead</p> <p>The SPPMERM has introduced a section on Africa’s Post 2015 Agenda based on the report of a study conducted in 2011, involving 32 countries and 112 representatives that suggested three options. This appears on pages 81 to 83</p> <p>The Situational Analysis now has included challenges per each section in the chapter. i.e. Boxes on pages 51, 58, 63, 69 and 75</p>

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