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ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION

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**REPORT OF HER EXCELLENCY MRS. ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AND CHAIRPERSON
OF THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE POST-2015
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

**REPORT OF HER EXCELLENCY MRS. ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF, PRESIDENT
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I. Background

1. The 22nd Ordinary session of the Assembly of the Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on January 30-31, 2014 adopted the Common African Position on the Post 2015 Development Agenda which is based on the aspirations expressed by a wide spectrum of the African stakeholders and requested the High Level Committee (HLC) to meet before the end of February 2014 in Ndjamen, Chad, to streamline the Document, including elevating Peace and Security from an enabler to being a pillar and formulating a strategy for advocacy, negotiation and forging alliances.

2. The Assembly also mandated HLC supported by AUC as its secretariat in collaboration with Member States and their representatives in relevant fora (i) to commence engaging in the negotiations process with the rest of the world (ii) to build regional and inter-continental alliances on the priority areas of the Common African Position and (iii) to ensure that the priority areas identified in the Common African Position are integrated into the global post-2015 inclusive sustainable development agenda during the intergovernmental deliberations, that to be include the work of the Open Working Group on SDGs; the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the final Global Post 2015 Development Agenda.

3. The Assembly further stressed that the Common African Position Document should (a) be in line with Africa Agenda 2063 for the first fifteen years and should (b) include specific goals to be attained within this framework making use of the technical work already initiated by the Commission.

II. Progress made in the implementation of the Summit decision

4. The Sherpas of HLC met on 25-27 February 2014, in Ndjamen, Chad elevated Peace and Security as a pillar and streamlined and finalized the Common African Position and reviewed the draft negotiation and advocacy strategy prepared by the technical working group and designed a roadmap between February and June 2014.

5. The HLC met in Ndjamen, Chad on 28th February 2014, (i) reviewed the pillar on Peace and Security, (ii) launched the CAP, and (iii) decided to meet at the margins of the 23rd AU Summit to review progress made since the January 2014 Summit.

6. The Chair of HLC presented the Common African Position during the Seventh Joint African Union Conference of Ministers of Finance and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference of Ministers of Finance and Economic Development that was held on 29th March, 2014 in Abuja, Nigeria.

- 7.** A retreat was organized on April 25th-26th, 2014 in New York, USA, for the African Group of Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives to the UN in New York with the objective of (i) strengthening ownership of the CAP among the African Group in New York, (ii) developing strategies for negotiations and (iii) mapping of strategic alliances among partners in the negotiation's process. Similar events are also planned to take place in other strategic capitals such as Geneva, Brussels and Washington DC.
- 8.** The Chairperson of the AUC presented the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in the margins of the Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in Algiers, Algeria on May 29.
- 9.** The Commission also attended and presented the CAP during the TICAD V first high level conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon on May 4-5; tackling inequalities in Africa in Accra, Ghana on April 28-30; High Level meeting of the global partnership for effective development cooperation in Mexico city, Mexico on April 14-15; and the UN Global partnership meeting on advancing partnership and responsible business leadership in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on June 9-13.
- 10.** The Chair of HLC launched the CAP on the Post-2015 Development Agenda at national level in Monrovia, Liberia on May 26, 2014 to inform Liberian stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society organizations, the media and academia on the priorities of the CAP. The overall objective of the CAP according to the Chair is to move Africans away from externally-driven initiatives towards domestically-inspired action and called upon all Liberians and decision makers to take a serious look at the content of the CAP and see how national policies and strategies can be aligned to it to use the CAP as a roadmap to development.
- 11.** The CAP was launched by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on June 3, 2014 in the presence of all African and non-African diplomatic community, international organizations, UN agencies CSOs and others residing in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 12.** The CAP was presented by the Sherpa of the Chair of the HLC to the Economic Conference of the Americas held in Montreal, Canada on June 9-12, 2014.
- 13.** The technical working group has prepared draft paper on goals, indicators and targets for the CAP. The Sherpas met on June 2-3, 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to review the draft and agreed to finalize it on their meeting of 23rd June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.
- 14.** The HLC with the support of the secretariat has also prepared an advocacy and negotiation's strategy that can be used to promote African aspirations through CAP. One of the advocacy tools would be key messages that are extracted from the CAP for the use of all Heads of State and Government in all occasions to transmit what Africa wants in the next development agenda.

Key messages from the Common African Position (CAP)

Preambles: The Common African Position (CAP) is a resolve to deliver on our various declarations and commitments on the continent's socio-economic integration, agricultural transformation, employment generation, human and social advancement, and sustainability agenda. Its overarching goal is to eradicate poverty in all its forms and to rapidly reduce inequality by 2030. CAP aims at re-orienting the development paradigm away from externally-driven initiatives toward domestically-inspired and funded initiatives.

The CAP is based on six pillars which includes (i) structural economic transformation and inclusive growth; (ii) science, technology and innovation; (iii) people-centred development; (iv) environmental sustainability, natural resources and disaster management; (v) peace and security; and (vi) finance and partnerships. These elements are needed to drive Africa's development vision of "building an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena". We are committed to Africa's dignity and identity by propelling productive capacities, and creating conditions for economic transformation, human development and strong, inclusive, resilient and sustainable development.

- i) ***Africa recognizes that sustainable and equitable development can only be guaranteed when people are the means and end of the economic growth process and development.*** Africa is committed to remain focused on pertinent development issues by completing the unfinished MDGs business by advancing the quality aspect of service delivery in the areas of education health and other social considerations; and by responding to the social and economic consequences of Africa's changing demographic structure. Reducing inequity across groups, communities and regions in access to basic social and economic services is critical for Africa. Promotion of pre-primary, primary, vocational, secondary and post-secondary education; upgrading basic and tertiary health systems; eliminating gender-based discrimination in economic, social, reproductive health and political activities; advancing people centred development are therefore vital for the new global agenda . We are also committed to improving the treatment and status of the children, adolescents and youth.
- ii) ***We are resolved to reverse Africa's dependence on primary commodities, create decent jobs and strengthen resilience to external shocks.*** Africa needs accelerated, stable, sustained and inclusive growth underpinned by rapid agricultural productivity, industrialization and value addition, regional integration, a supportive service sector, and strong linkage between the extractive sector and the rest of the economy. This requires infrastructure transformation in energy, transportation, telecommunications and water resources management. Successful industrial policy should also leverage productivity improvement in agriculture as an additional essential component of structural transformation in Africa. Diversification and value addition will result in employment, increased trade and resilience.
- iii) ***We must deepen and sustain the improved socio-economic performance of the Continent by harnessing science, technology and innovation.*** This will be achieved by training people, investing in technological innovation, facilitating technology transfer and research and development (R&D) and bridging the gap

between the skills that the educational system produces and those that the private sector wants.

- iv) ***We are committed to sustainable development agenda for Africa within the context of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.*** This includes efficient use of natural resources (minerals, water, land and forests); investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation, renewable energies, and efficient energy production; improved water and sanitation services; and sustainable energy for all. It also includes strengthening capacity to anticipate and respond to natural disasters and implementing the African Solidarity Initiative.

Coherence and deters illicit financial flows.

- v) **African leaders acknowledge that to achieve the development objectives, peace and security must be promoted by taking measures to prevent the outbreak of armed conflicts; and by addressing the root causes of conflict, including economic and social inequalities.** It is crucial that we ensure basic safety and justice for all, regardless of a person's economic or social status or political affiliation. ***African leaders are also committed to promoting effective, open and participatory governance at national, regional and international levels.*** Commitment to peace and security, good political and economic governance, prudent macro-economic policies; fighting corruption; and improving the mobilization and management of domestic resources are central to Africa's transformation and development agenda.
- vi) **Resource mobilization, effective partnerships and innovative financing methods are critical for the financing of Africa's priorities.** It is imperative in this regard that Africa further frame the pillars and strategic contexts of its engagement with emerging economies. This could include channelling foreign direct investment (FDI) from the global South towards enhancing productive capabilities, such as upgrading infrastructure and magnifying cooperation in agriculture to boost the production of higher value-added agricultural products. This could help deepen the opportunities for mutually-beneficial South-South cooperation, furthering Africa's market diversification aims as well as filling trade and investment gaps. Strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships and South-South cooperation are needed for sustained progress. In this context, we call upon our development partners to honour their commitments to deliver 0.7% of their Gross National Income, to enhance quality and predictability of aid, and to fashion a global governance architecture that reinforces the principles of fair trade, engenders policy.

III. Conclusion

15. The success of the CAP will depend on a strong commitment from Member States, African assets, stakeholders and mutually beneficial partners

16. On behalf of my colleagues of the HLC, I call upon all of you to effectively mobilize support for the CAP. Very importantly, you must inform your Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors in New York, Geneva and other strategic capitals to

support and advocate for the CAP. New York is the frontline in the current global negotiations and we must make use of all our assets and contacts to ensure that the CAP finds its rightful place in the global post 2015 development agenda. Speaking with one voice remains the key to success in influencing the content of the global post 2015 development agenda.

17. I would also like to suggest to each of you to organize national official launch of the CAP for wider dissemination so that our people on the ground get to know what we are talking about. As an example, we held a launch in Monrovia where we brought government, private sector, CSOs and academia for two days of consultation on the CAP and discussed each of the pillars.

18. Finally, my colleagues and I would like to request that each of you champion and support the CAP and speak with one voice during the discussions at the UN General Assembly and advocate the key messages. We must also to the degree possible conduct local, regional and international consultations to strengthen our position.

IV. What is requested from the June 2014 Summit?

The Assembly,

- a) **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Chair of the High Level Committee (HLC) on the Post 2015 Development Agenda including by elevating Peace and Security as a pillar; formulating a strategy for advocacy, negotiation and forging alliances; and the on-going work on developing key messages and draft goals, targets and indicators;
- b) **COMMENDS Heads of State and Government and members of the HLC** for **their** commitment, dedication and leadership in crafting the CAP out of the aspirations of the African people and embarking on advocacy, negotiation and promotional activities;
- c) **MANDATES the HLC to coordinate Member States with the support of its Secretariat**, in collaboration with partners and other relevant African stakeholders as we engage in the negotiation process with the rest of the world with the CAP. The CAP will serve as the basis for Africa's input at the global level into the on-going post-2015 sustainable development intergovernmental deliberations including the work of the Open Working Group on SDGs, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the final phase of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda;
- d) **REQUESTS** all Member States and other African stakeholders to champion and support the CAP and speak with one voice during the discussions at the UN General Assembly and any other relevant fora.

2014-01-26

Report of her Excellency Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of the republic of Liberia and chairperson of the high level committee on the post-2015 development agenda

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