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**2019 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION**

INTRODUCTION

1. During the period under review, the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation (SCWMC) under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Mali who succeeded the Chairmanship of the Republic of Djibouti in May 2019, held seven (7) Meetings, as follows:

- (i). 37th Meeting, held on 10 May 2019, which discussed the preparatory process for the TICAD 7 Senior Officials' Meeting and the Africa-India Mid-term Review Meeting;
- (ii). 38th Meeting, held on 29 – 30 May 2019, which considered the participation and representation issues in partnerships meetings and the Report of the Sub-Committee submitted to PRC for the June/July Summit;
- (iii). 39th Meeting, held on 6 June 2019, which reviewed the SCWMC Report on AU Representation in Partnerships Meetings and the draft working documents for the TICAD 7 preparatory Senior Officials Meeting;
- (iv). 40th Meeting, held on 15 July 2019, which considered the draft TICAD 7 Yokohama Declaration and the Report of the SCWMC on the selection of host countries for partnership Meetings and Events;
- (v). 41st Meeting, held on 5 September 2019, which considered the Draft Report on the implementation of the Africa-India Framework of Cooperation 2015-2020 and reviewed the Draft Africa-Arab Joint Action Plan in preparation for the 5th Africa-Arab Summit;
- (vi). 42nd Meeting, held on 7 November 2019, which considered the draft Action Plan of the 5th AU-EU Summit; the Report of the Mid-Term Review Meeting of the Africa-India Partnership; the establishment of the Africa-India Business Centre; and the Study on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF);
- (vii). 43rd Meeting, held on 2 December 2019, which considered the preparation for the SCWMC Retreat and the proposal by India to host the 4th Africa-India Summit, in India.

2. The Sub-Committee mainly focused on the consideration of the implementation of Executive Council Decisions that ranged from the preparation for the 1st African Union (AU) – European Union (EU) Ministerial Meeting, held on 21 January 2019, in Brussels, Belgium, the 13th and 14th Meetings of the Senior Officials of the Africa - Arab Partnership Coordination Committee held on the 2 May and 11 September 2019, respectively at the League of Arab States Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, and at the Headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the organization of the seventh Summit of

the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), held in Yokohama, Japan, on 26– 31 August 2019.

3. In accordance with Resolution 7 of the 4th Africa-Arab Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in 2016, which requested the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States (LAS) to finalize a Joint Plan of Action and present it to an extraordinary Session of the Joint Council of Ministers of the Africa-Arab Partnership, the Sub-Committee engaged actively in the review and finalization of the Draft Joint Africa-Arab Action Plan.

4. The Sub-Committee undertook a Retreat in Mombasa, Kenya, from 13 to 15 December 2019 and considered amongst other things the state of play on each partnership and the challenges faced in the coordination and management of Partnerships engaged in by the African Union and room for improvement; the Working Methods and the role of the Commission in enabling the Sub-Committee to better deliver on its mandate; the Partnership Calendar of Meetings for 2020 and the criteria for hosting Partnerships Meetings, Events and Summits.

5. This Report, which is divided into two parts summarizes the issues discussed and conclusions reached at the above-mentioned meetings. The first part addresses general issues related to Partnerships, while the second part summarizes the deliberations regarding each Strategic Partnership.

Part I. General issues on Partnerships

1.1 Host Countries of Partnerships Summits and Events

6. During its 40th Meeting held on 15 July 2019, the Sub-committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation considered the Report of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee regarding the selection of host countries for the 4th Africa – India Summit, to be held in 2020, the 2nd AU-EU Ministerial Meeting, to be held in 2020, the 8th Edition of the Africa – Arab Partnership Trade Fair, to be held in 2020 and the TICAD 8 Summit, to be held in 2022.

7. Following discussions, the Sub-Committee endorsed the Recommendations made by the Bureau of the Sub-Committee, except in the case of the 8th Edition of the Africa-Arab Partnership Trade Fair as Uganda, which was recommended to host the Event withdrew its offer in favor of Togolese Republic. In addition, it is to be indicated that the Republic of Benin made a reservation on the selection of the host country for the TICAD 8 Summit on the basis that the Republic of Benin was the first country to present its candidature to host the TICAD 8 Summit and that its offer was expressed in a letter addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission.

Recommendations

8. Following consideration of various offers to host various Meetings/Events related to Partnership, the PRC Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- (i). **Commend** all Member States who offered to host Partnership Meetings and Events;
- (ii). **Recommend** the offer made by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to host the 4th Africa-India Summit to be held in 2020, for endorsement by the Assembly;
- (iii). **Approve** the selection of the Republic of Rwanda as Host Country for the 2nd AU-EU Ministerial Meeting, to be held in 2020;
- (iv). **Also approve** the selection of the Togolese Republic as Host Country for the 8th Edition of the Africa – Arab Partnership Trade Fair, to be held in 2020;
- (v). **Recommend** the offer made by the Republic of Tunisia to host the TICAD 8 Summit to be held in 2022, for endorsement by the Assembly¹;
- (vi). **Also Recommend** to the Assembly to encourage Partners or designated host countries to ensure that statutory preparatory meetings (Senior Officials and Ministerial) are held at the same venue and immediately precede respective Partnership Summits as per Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.899² (XXVIII) Rev.2, paragraph 19 of January 2016.
- (vii). **Request** the PRC to work closely with the Commission to finalize the criteria for hosting Partnership Meetings and Events for submission to the Executive Council, in July 2020;

1.2 Retreat of the Sub-Committee

9. During the Retreat of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation held on 13 – 15 December 2019, in Mombasa, Kenya, the Sub-Committee reviewed the state of play of each Partnership and the challenges faced in the coordination and management of Africa's Partnerships and room for improvement; the Working Methods and the role of the Commission in enabling the Sub-Committee to better deliver on its mandate; the Partnership Calendar of Meetings for 2020 and the criteria for hosting Partnerships Meetings, Events and Summits. Member States also discussed the importance of developing a Partnership Strategy and Policy Framework that should provide clear guidance to the African Union engagements with Partners.

¹ The Republic of Benin expressed reservation on this Recommendation

²Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII), paragraph 19: "ENCOURAGES Partners or designated host countries to ensure that other Partnership Summits' meetings (Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings) are held at the same venue and immediately precede respective Partnership Summits"

Recommendations:

10. The PRC Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- (i). **Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission and AUDA-NEPAD to work together in mapping out all AU Partnerships and engagements in line with AU Agenda 2063 and its flagship projects;
- (ii). **Request** the PRC, the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in the partner countries, together with the Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Partner involved, to define practical arrangements for planning, monitoring, evaluation and coordination, for effective implementation of Partnership projects;
- (iii). **Request** the PRC to take full account in their interaction with partners, of the principles of reciprocity and mutually balanced benefits in a spirit of win-win partnership, taking into account the views of the Group of African Ambassadors accredited to Partner countries;
- (iv). **Instruct** the PRC to ensure that each Partnership Summit adopts a Declaration and an Action Plan and that preparatory processes for any Statutory Partnership meeting begins three (3) months in advance of the meeting date;
- (v). **Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission to develop a Partnership Strategy and Policy Framework document to be considered by the Executive Council, in February 2021;
- (vi). **Reaffirm** its Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.899³ (XXVIII) Rev.2 of January 2016 (paragraph 20) and emphasize the need to organize two (2) Partnership Summits per year;
- (vii). **Direct** the Commission to regularly report to the PRC Subcommittee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation on all Commission-led Cooperation with external Partners as related to Memorandum of Understandings, Agreements,

³Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII) Rev.2 of January 2016 (paragraph 20): "APPROVES a five (5) year cycle and to organize two (2) partnership meetings per year as from 2017 for all Strategic Partnerships and REQUESTS the Commission to adopt its gradual implementation taking into consideration the need to reschedule previously adopted Partnership meetings accordingly, including at the Summit level, and in consultation with the respective Partners and host countries"

Dialogues, etc., before and after its engagements in order to promote transparency and to ensure that interests of Member States are covered.

1.3 Briefing on the project for the establishment of an Africa – India Business Centre in India

11. During the 42nd Meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation held on 7 November 2019, Representatives from the Africa – India Economic Foundation (AIEF) briefed Members of SCWMC on the establishment of an Africa – India Business Centre in Mumbai, India. The promoters of the Africa-India Business Center, explained that the Center is a Private Sector Initiative, which aims at supporting efforts for Africa's industrialization, building on Indian Private Sector development model.

12. Members of the Sub-Committee, welcomed the initiative and made comments, observations and sought clarification regarding the above-mentioned Project and recommended that the Partnership Management and Coordination Division (PMCD) should engage other technical departments of the Commission for their involvement in the process and to ensure that efforts of the Private Sector contribute to the continental agenda.

Recommendations

13. The PRC Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- (i). **Encourage** the African and Indian Private Sector to work together to achieve the objectives of the Africa-India Partnership and **Welcome** the initiative for the establishment of an Africa – India Business Centre in Mumbai, India.

1.4 Briefing on the Study undertaken by the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) on the Belt and Road Initiative

14. Representatives from the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) briefed Members of SCWMC during its Meeting held on 7 November 2019, on the Study undertaken by ACBF on the Belt and Road Initiative.

15. Members of the SCWMC made comments, observations and sought clarification and recommended that the study be circulated to all Member States and considered again in order to give Member States enough time to review the document.

Part II. Partnerships Specific Issues

2.1 AU – EU Partnership

16. The First African Union-European Union (AU-EU) Ministerial Meeting was held on 21-22 January 2019, in Brussels, Belgium under the Co-chairmanship of Dr. Richard Sezibera, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda and Chair of the AU Executive Council and Ms. Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The official programme of the event was divided into two main parts namely, the Joint Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), which took place on 21 January 2019, and the Ministerial Meeting, which was held on 22 January 2019.

17. Prior to the Joint SOM, the African side Senior Officials, composed of Members of the AU Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) based in Addis Ababa, Senior Officials from Capitals and Members of the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels (GAAB) held a Consultative Meeting on 20 January 2019, in Brussels, to exchange views, harmonize their positions, consolidate their contributions to the outcome of the Ministerial Meeting and ensure that Africa speaks with one voice.

18. The Ministers adopted the Joint Communiqué of the First AU-EU Ministerial Meeting.

19. The Joint Communiqué builds on the 5th AU-EU Summit, held in Abidjan on 29–30 November 2017, and reinforces the commitments of both sides to implement the resolutions taken in Abidjan in the following areas: Economic Cooperation; Resilience, Peace and Security; Migration and Mobility; Cooperation on the International Scene; and AU-EU relations Post 2020.

20. The Ministers agreed to hold the next AU-EU Ministerial Meeting in Africa. In this regard, the Sub-Committee considered the offers made by Member States to host the 2nd AU-EU Ministerial and recommended that Rwanda be the host country for the Meeting, to be held in 2020.

21. In line with the 2017 Abidjan Declaration of the 5th AU-EU Summit, the Sub-Committee focused on the review of the Draft Abidjan Action Plan, which it endorsed during its Meeting held on 7 November 2019, subject to the removal of any reference to the issue of death penalty in the Action Plan.

Recommendations:

22. The PRC Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- (i). **Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission, Rwanda and the EU, to agree on the dates for the 2nd AU-EU Ministerial Meeting to be held in 2020 and to commence preparation as soon as possible;

- (ii). **Also Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission to work closely with the European Union for timely preparations for the 6th AU-EU Summit, to be held in 2020 in Europe.

2.2 Africa–Arab Partnership

23. The 13th and 14th Meetings of the Senior Officials of the Africa – Arab Partnership Coordination Committee were held on 2 May 2019, at the League of Arab States (LAS) Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt and on 11 September 2019, at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meetings discussed various issues concerning the Africa-Arab Partnership, the implementation of the 4th Africa-Arab Summit Resolutions and preparations for the 5th Africa-Arab Summit in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

24. Under the Co-chairmanship of the Arab Republic of Egypt representing the African Union and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, representing the League of Arab States, the above-mentioned meetings deliberated on but not limited to the following issues:

- Progress report and update on the implementation of the Decisions adopted by the Malabo 2016 Summit;
- Ongoing Africa-Arab projects; the Joint Action Plan and Resolution 10, on the Criteria and Principles for Participation in the meetings of the Partnership; the Africa-Arab efforts regarding Palestine and preparations for the 5th Africa-Arab Summit in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

25. Both sides agreed on all points of discussion and the following recommendations were adopted:

- a) That the Draft Joint Africa-Arab Action Plan is a living document, which can accommodate additional inputs from both sides and that the Action Plan will be finalized and adopted during the Preparatory Joint Ministerial meeting for the 5th Africa-Arab Summit to be held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- b) Both sides will identify alternative sources of funding to support two consultants who will undertake a comprehensive study on the financing of the Joint Action Plan and present their report to the Summit.
- c) That the preparatory committee of the 5th Africa – Arab Summit scheduled to be held in 2019, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, (composed of the AUC, LAS, and the host country of the Summit), meet at the earliest opportunity, to commence preparations for the Summit including drafting of the Concept Note.
- d) The tripartite meeting between H.E. the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, H.E. the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and H.E.

the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to discuss organization of the upcoming Africa-Arab Summit is welcomed.

26. Both sides agreed to convene the 15th Senior Officials Meeting of the Coordination Committee in Cairo, Egypt in February 2020. The exact date will be agreed upon.

27. The 7th Ministerial Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Africa-Arab Partnership was held on the margins of UNGA, at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York on 23 September 2019. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E Mr. Khemaies Jhinaoui, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia and Ambassador Ehab Fawzy, Assistant Foreign Minister of Egypt for Multilateral Affairs and International Security (the current Chairs of the African Union and the Arab Summit, respectively).

28. The meeting discussed amongst other things preparations for the 5th Africa-Arab Summit in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; the joint Africa-Arab Action Plan and its financing modality; the Egyptian proposal to establish an Africa-Arab mechanism for counter terrorism and agreed as follows:

- a) That the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would host the Preparatory Committee meeting (composed of the host country of the Summit, the African Union Commission, and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States) in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during the first half of October 2019;
- b) A Joint Ministerial Meeting should be convened on 23 November 2019 to examine and adopt the Joint Action Plan and other working documents of the Summit.

29. It is to be indicated that, despite the various engagements between the African Union Commission and the League of Arab States and all the efforts made, the preparatory process for the 5th Africa –Arab Summit did not take place in October 2019, as expected. In this regard, the African Union Commission was informed through Note Verbale Ref.: 301/9/3/3969, dated 13 November 2019, by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that the 5th Africa-Arab Summit, which was scheduled to be held in November 2019, has been postponed to the first quarter of 2020.

30. To launch the preparatory process, the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 5th Africa-Arab Summit was held on 18 – 19 December 2019, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Recommendations:

31. The Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- (i). **Take Note** of the postponement of the 5th Africa-Arab Summit and the proposal by the League of Arab States to hold it in 2020;

- (ii). **Consider** the holding of the 5th Africa-Arab Summit in 2020 as proposed by the League of Arab States, and to be preceded by the preparatory Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings, respectively, in line with Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII) Rev.2, paragraph 20 of January 2016;
- (iii). **Also Take Note** of the launch of the preparatory process and **Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission to engage with the League of Arab States, including the Host Country, to agree on a suitable date for the 5th Africa-Arab Summit;
- (iv). **Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to develop the working documents of the 5th Africa-Arab Summit and to finalize the Draft Joint Africa-Arab Partnership Action Plan and its Financing mechanism for consideration by the 5th Africa-Arab Summit.

2.3 Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

32. The activities focused on the preparation of the TICAD 7 Summit, which was held in Yokohama, Japan, on 28-30 August 2019, and the follow-up of the implementation of the TICAD V Action Plan (2013-2017) and TICAD VI Implementation Plan (2016-2019).

33. The Summit was preceded by two Co-organizers' Preparatory Retreats, held in New York, on 12-13 March 2019, and in Tokyo, on 19-20 July 2019, respectively. The Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) was held at the African Union Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 10-11 June 2019. The immediate Preparatory Meetings of the Summit, namely the SOM and Ministerial, were held in Yokohama, on 26 August 2019 and on 27 August 2019, respectively. In addition, the African side Coordination Meeting at Senior Officials level between members of the African Union Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) based in Addis Ababa, the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) based in Tokyo and the TICAD Co-organizers was held on 25 August 2019, prior to the Summit engagements.

34. The Summit was held under the theme: "Advancing Africa's Development through People, Technology and Innovation" and adopted the Yokohama Declaration and Yokohama Action Plan 2019.

35. The Summit witnessed the participation of all AU Member States, the Co-organizers (Japan, African Union Commission, the United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Africa, United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank); partner countries as well as international organizations inclusive of the Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector representatives from both the African and the Japanese Private Sectors. The latter had the opportunity to engage with the Heads of State and Government from both sides during a dedicated session titled: "*Public-Private business Dialogue*". In addition to the main agendas of the Summit and its Preparatory Meetings,

AU co-organized nine (9) Side Events, related to both AU Agenda 2063 and TICAD 7 priority areas.

36. The TICAD 7 Summit provided the opportunity to the African Union and Japan to re-design the future of a win-win relation with a view to accelerating Africa's development as encapsulated in Agenda 2063 and to reaffirm the importance of human resources, agriculture, infrastructure and industrialization for Africa's transformation under the framework of the AU Agenda 2063, while re-emphasizing the critical role of the Private Sector. It further underscored the need to strengthen Private Sector engagement at the regional and continental levels, including through effective programmes and projects with the establishment of an appropriate follow-up mechanism, which should guarantee tangible results for the benefit of the people of Africa and Japan.

37. Furthermore, the TICAD 7 Summit demonstrated the readiness of Africa and Japan to promote a Partnership anchored on the principles of equality, mutual respect and win-win cooperation.

Recommendations

38. The PRC Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- (i). **Welcome** the successful hosting and the outcomes of the TICAD 7 Summit;
- (ii). **Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Tokyo and the Commission to follow up on the implementation of the TICAD 7 Action Plan as it relates to the three (3) agreed upon priority areas, which are in line with AU Agenda 2063 and to report on progress-made in February 2021.

2.4 Africa-Turkey Partnership

39. The 3rd Africa-Turkey Summit was planned to be held in 2019, however Turkey informed the African Union Commission through Note Verbale Ref.: 2019/56014670-Addis Ababa BE/23412994, dated 15 May 2019, that it wishes to propose that the said Summit takes place in 2020, in Istanbul, Turkey.

40. In this regard, Turkey proposed through Note Verbale Ref. No. 2019/56014670/24342247, dated 30 December 2019, that the 3rd Africa – Turkey Summit be held on 20 April 2020.

Recommendations

41. The PRC Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- (i). **Take Note** of the postponement of the 3rd Africa-Turkey Summit and the proposal by Turkey to hold the Summit on 20 April 2020, in Istanbul, Turkey.
- (ii). **Consider** the holding of the 3rd Africa-Turkey Summit on 20 April 2020 as proposed by Turkey, and to be preceded by the preparatory Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings on Friday 17 April 2020, and Saturday 18 April 2020, respectively, in line with Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII) Rev.2, paragraph 20 of January 2016.
- (iii). **Also Take Note** of the launch of the preparatory process and **Requests** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission to engage with the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Ankara, Turkey, to develop the draft outcome documents for submission to the 3rd Africa-Turkey Summit.

2.5 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

42. Following the successful holding of the 2018 FOCAC Summit held in Beijing, China, on 3- 4September 2018, a FOCAC Ministerial Coordinators Meeting was held in Beijing on 24-25 June 2019, with the participation of African Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, African Diplomatic Corps (ADC), in Beijing and the AU Commission to review the progress made in the implementation of the Beijing 2018 Summit Action Plan and consider the way forward for the strengthening of the Partnership between Africa and China.

Recommendations:

- 43.** The PRC Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:
- (i). **Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission and the African Diplomatic Corps in Beijing, China, to follow-up with China on the implementation of the FOCAC Beijing Action Plan 2019 – 2021 concerning continental and Regional projects and to report on the progress made.

2.5 Africa – India Partnership

44. As stipulated in the 2015 Africa –India Framework for Cooperation, in which both sides “Agreed to establish a regular formal monitoring mechanism to review the implementation of the agreed areas of cooperation and identified projects by the competent bodies of the Partnership” and with the 4th Africa–India Forum Summit in view, a Mid-term Review Meeting of the Africa-India Partnership was held on 11-12 September 2019, in New Delhi, India. The African Union delegation, which met with India was led by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation (SCWMC), a Representative of the Chair of the PRC, a Representative of the Rapporteur

of the SCWMC and the technical staff of the AU Commission. The African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in New Delhi also participated in the said Meeting.

45. Amongst other things, the Meeting evaluated the progress made in the implementation of projects agreed upon during the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit, which was held in 2015.

46. The Meeting recognized the need for the Partnership to focus on multilateral aspects of the Cooperation based on the African Union Agenda 2063 and furthermore, called for the early commencement of preparation for the 4th Africa-India Forum Summit, which is scheduled to take place in 2020.

47. The Sub-Committee was briefed by the Commission, during its Meeting held on 2 December 2019, on the proposal by India to host the next Africa-India Summit. After consideration of the issue, the Sub-Committee recommended that:

- (i). The Commission should send a Note Verbale to India stating that in line with the principle of rotation, the next Summit will be held in Africa;
- (ii). The Commission should transmit a Note Verbale to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania informing that it will be hosting the upcoming Africa-India Summit subject to endorsement by the AU Policy Organs.

48. The Commission subsequently followed up on the above-mentioned recommendations and sent Notes Verbales Ref.: BCP/PMCD/38/679.19 and Ref.: BCP/PMCD/38/680.19, dated 6 December 2019 to India and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania respectively.

Recommendations:

49. The PRC Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- (i). Request the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission, India and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to propose suitable dates for the 4th Africa – India Summit, in 2020, and to commence preparation for the Summit as soon as possible.

TABLE ON THE DATES OF UPCOMING PARTNERSHIPS SUMMITS

No.	Names of the Partnerships	Initially Scheduled Dates	Postponement if any
1.	6th African Union – European Union Summit	<p style="text-align: center;">2020</p> <p>As per the 5th AU-EU Summit Declaration adopted in 2017 in Abidjan, para, 1, which reaffirms: “<i>that the Joint Strategy adopted ten years ago at the Lisbon Summit remains the Framework for our Partnership</i>”, while the Joint Strategy states in paragraph 91, states that: “<i>In the future, starting from the Lisbon Summit, Meetings of the Heads of State and Government will be organized every three years, alternately in Africa and the EU</i>”.</p>	NO
2.	4th Africa – India Summit	<p style="text-align: center;">2020</p> <p>As per the 3rd Africa-India Summit Declaration adopted in New Delhi in 2015, paragraph 33, which reads as follows: “<i>The next India-Africa Forum Summit will be held in the year 2020</i>”</p>	NO
3.	5th Africa – Arab Summit	<p style="text-align: center;">2019</p> <p>As per Resolution 6 of the 4th Africa-Arab Summit held in 2016, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, which: “<i>Also Welcomed the decision of the League of Arab States accepting the offer made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the Fifth Africa-Arab Summit in Riyadh; Saudi Arabia in 2019</i>”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2020</p> <p>Through Note Verbale Ref.: 301/9/3/3969, dated 13 November 2019, by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Commission informing that the 5th Africa-Arab Summit, which was scheduled to be held in November 2019, has been postponed to the first quarter of 2020</p>
4.	3rd Africa – Turkey Summit	<p style="text-align: center;">2019</p> <p>As per the 2014 Africa-Turkey Declaration, paragraph 21, which states that: “<i>Agree to hold the 3rd Africa-Turkey Partnership Summit in 2019 in Turkey</i>”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2020</p> <p>Turkey informed the African Union Commission through Note Verbale Ref.: 2019/56014670-Addis Ababa BE/23412994, dated 15 May 2019, that it wishes to propose that the 3rd Africa-Turkey Summit takes place in 2020, in Istanbul, Turkey</p>

DRAFT DECISION ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

The PRC Sub-Committee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

A. On the Host Countries of Partnerships Summits and Events

1. **Commend** all Member States who offered to host Partnership Meetings and Events;
2. **Recommend** the offer made by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to host the 4th Africa-India Summit to be held in 2020, for endorsement by the Assembly;
3. **Approve** the selection of the Republic of Rwanda as Host Country for the 2nd AU-EU Ministerial Meeting, to be held in 2020;
4. **Also approve** the selection of the Togolese Republic as Host Country for the 8th Edition of the Africa – Arab Partnership Trade Fair, to be held in 2020;
5. **Recommend** the offer made by the Republic of Tunisia to host the TICAD 8 Summit to be held in 2022, for endorsement by the Assembly;
6. **Also Recommend** to the Assembly to encourage Partners or designated host countries to ensure that statutory preparatory meetings (Senior Officials and Ministerial) are held at the same venue and immediately precede respective Partnership Summits as per Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.899⁴ (XXVIII), paragraph 19, Rev.2 of January 2016.
7. **Request** the PRC to work closely with the Commission to finalize the criteria for **hosting** Partnership Meetings and Events for submission to the Executive Council, in July 2020.

B. On General issues

8. **Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission and AUDA-NEPAD to work together in mapping out all AU Partnerships and engagements in line with AU Agenda 2063 and its flagship projects;

⁴Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII), paragraph 19: “**ENCOURAGES** Partners or designated host countries to ensure that other Partnership Summits’ meetings (Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings) are held at the same venue and immediately precede respective Partnership Summits”

9. **Request** the PRC, the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in the partner countries, together with the Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Partner involved, to define practical arrangements for planning, monitoring, evaluation and coordination, for effective implementation of Partnership projects;
10. **Request** the PRC to take full account in their interaction with partners, of the principles of reciprocity and mutually balanced benefits in a spirit of win-win **partnership**, taking into account the views of the Group of African Ambassadors accredited to Partner countries;
11. **Instruct** the PRC to ensure that each Partnership Summit adopts a Declaration and an Action Plan and that preparatory processes for any Statutory Partnership meeting begins three (3) months in advance of the meeting date;
12. **Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission to develop a Partnership Strategy and Policy Framework document to be considered by the Executive Council, in February 2021;
13. **Reaffirm** its Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.899⁵ (XXVIII) Rev.2 of January 2016 (paragraph 20) and emphasize the need to organize two (2) Partnership Summits per year;
14. **Direct** the Commission to regularly report to the PRC Subcommittee of the Whole on Multilateral Cooperation on all Commission-led Cooperation with external Partners as related to Memorandum of Understandings, Agreements, Dialogues, etc., before and after its engagements in order to promote transparency and to ensure that interests of Member States are covered.

C. On the project for the establishment of an Africa – India Business Centre in India

15. **Encourage** the African and Indian Private Sector to work together to achieve the objectives of the Africa-India Partnership and **Welcome** the initiative for the establishment of an Africa – India Business Centre in Mumbai, India.

D. AU-EU Partnership

⁵Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII) Rev.2 of January 2016 (paragraph 20): “APPROVES a five (5) year cycle and to organize two (2) partnership meetings per year as from 2017 for all Strategic Partnerships and REQUESTS the Commission to adopt its gradual implementation taking into consideration the need to reschedule previously adopted Partnership meetings accordingly, including at the Summit level, and in consultation with the respective Partners and host countries”

16. **Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission, Rwanda and the EU, to agree on the dates for the 2nd AU-EU Ministerial Meeting to be held in 2020 and to commence preparation as soon as possible;
17. **Also Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission to work closely with the European Union for timely preparations for the 6th AU-EU Summit, to be held in 2020 in Europe.

E. Africa – Arab Partnership

18. **Take Note** of the postponement of the 5th Africa-Arab Summit and the proposal by the League of Arab States to hold it in 2020;
19. **Consider** the holding of the 5th Africa-Arab Summit in 2020 as proposed by The League of Arab States, and to be preceded by the preparatory Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings, respectively, in line with Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII) Rev.2, paragraph 206 of January 2016.
20. **Also Take Note** of the launch of the preparatory process and Requests the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission to engage with the League of Arab States, including the Host Country, to agree on a suitable date for the 5th Africa-Arab Summit;
21. **Further Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to develop the working documents of the 5th Africa-Arab Summit and to finalize the Draft Joint Africa-Arab Partnership Action Plan and its Financing mechanism for consideration by the 5th Africa-Arab Summit.

F. Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

22. **Welcome** the successful hosting and the outcomes of the TICAD 7 Summit;
23. **Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Tokyo and the Commission to follow up on the implementation of the TICAD 7 Action Plan as it relates to the three (3) agreed upon priority areas, which are in line with AU Agenda 2063 and to report on progress-made in February 2021.

G. Africa-Turkey Partnership

⁶Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII) Rev.2 of January 2016 (paragraph 20): “APPROVES a five (5) year cycle and to organize two (2) partnership meetings per year as from 2017 for all Strategic Partnerships and REQUESTS the Commission to adopt its gradual implementation taking into

24. **Take Note** of the postponement of the 3rdAfrica-Turkey Summit and the proposal by Turkey to hold the Summit on 20 April 2020, in Istanbul, Turkey.
25. **Consider** the holding of the 3rd Africa-Turkey Summit on 20 April 2020 as proposed by Turkey, and to be preceded by the preparatory Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings on Friday 17 April 2020, and Saturday 18 April 2020, respectively, in line with Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII) Rev.2, paragraph 20⁷ of January 2016.
26. **Take Note** of the launch of the preparatory process and **Requests** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission to engage with African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Ankara, Turkey, to develop the draft outcome documents for submission to the 3rd Africa-Turkey Summit.

H. Forum on China-Africa Cooperation(FOCAC)

27. **Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission and the African Diplomatic Corps in Beijing, China, to follow-up with China on the implementation of the FOCAC Beijing Action Plan 2019 – 2021 concerning continental and Regional projects and to report on the progress made.

I. Africa – India Partnership

28. **Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission, India and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to propose suitable dates for the 4th Africa – India Summit, in 2020, and to commence preparation for the Summit as soon as possible.

⁷Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII) Rev.2 of January 2016 (paragraph 20): “APPROVES a five (5) year cycle and to organize two (2) partnership meetings per year as from 2017 for all Strategic Partnerships and REQUESTS the Commission to adopt its gradual implementation taking into consideration the need to reschedule previously adopted Partnership meetings accordingly, including at the Summit level, and in consultation with the respective Partners and host countries

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