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OUTCOME REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2063

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**Meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee
on the Implementation of Agenda 2063
12 - 13 October, 2017
Windhoek, Namibia**

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A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 was held in Windhoek, Namibia from 12th to 13th October 2017 under the Chairpersonship of Hon. Mrs Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia in the presence of Hon. Mrs. Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Community of Rwanda.

B. ATTENDANCE

2. The Meeting was attended by six (6) Member States, Two (2) RECs and one (1) International Organization as follows:

- **The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**
- **The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**
- **The State of Libya**
- **The Republic of Namibia**
- **The Republic of Rwanda**
- **The Republic of South Africa**
- **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**
- **Southern African Development Community (SADC)**
- **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)**

C. AGENDA

3. The following Agenda items were adopted for the Meeting:

- i) Opening statement by Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia and Chair of the Committee;
- ii) Presentation of the Progress Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063;
- iii) Discussion of the Progress Report;
- iv) Closing remarks.

D. OPENING REMARKS

4. The Meeting was chaired by H.E Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of

Namibia. In her opening statement, she welcomed all delegates to the Meeting and said that Namibia was honoured to host the Meeting and asked delegates to take time off and visit places in Namibia. Namibia had fulfilled the task of drafting the TORs for the Committee which were adopted by the AU Executive Council in July 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda. She reminded the delegates that the Meeting will therefore be guided by the TORs particularly to evaluate progress made at the National, Regional and Continental level in the Implementation of the First Ten-Year Plan of Agenda 2063.

5. The Minister informed the Meeting that the AUC will be making a presentation of the Report on the Progress made in the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Flagship Projects and that after discussions, the Report will be presented to the Executive Council in January 2018. The Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy which is soon to be tabled for the consideration of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) of Ministers of Finance, Economy and Integration was a good step forward in ensuring funding of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 which has only six (6) years remaining. The challenges still remain in the Implementation of Agenda 2063 which require the attention of all stakeholders. She called upon all stakeholders to meet their commitments and deadlines. The successful Implementation of Agenda 2063 will require all Member States, AU Organs and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to work together. She emphasized the Importance of the RECs in the successful Implementation of Agenda 2063; and this being the very reason for the Chief Executive Officers of RECs to be members of this Committee.

6. The Deputy Prime Minister underscored that in Namibia, Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are always brought to the attention of relevant sectors and ministries in a bid to popularize them. Agenda 2063 First Ten-Year Implementation Plan recognised the link between SDGs and Agenda 2063 and that the SDGs were heavily informed by the Common African Position. In Namibia, the Goals and Priorities of Agenda 2063 have been incorporated in the Namibian 5th National Development Plan (NDP5).

7. Her Excellency underlined the fact that the Ministerial Follow-Up Committee on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 was established in January 2014 and that it will be coming to an end in January 2018 and the incoming Committee should therefore take Agenda 2063 to another level, making real impact on all Africans. She stated that the time has come to double efforts in the Implementation of Agenda 2063 to benefit all Africans especially the Women and the Youth.

E. PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2063

8. The Director of Strategic Policy, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Resource Mobilization (SPPMERM) at the African Union Commission, made a presentation on the progress of Agenda 2063 which highlighted;

- Domestication of the Agenda,

- Progress on the Flagship Projects,
- Measurement and Accountability Framework,
- Alignment with RECs Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks
- Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy,
- Popularization of Agenda 2063,
- Challenges and the way forward.

9. He stated that so far thirty-eight (38) Member States had been visited for the Domestication and two (2) others had also incorporated Agenda 2063 in their National Plans. The Development of the two (2) very important documents i.e. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy is one big milestone in the Implementation of the Agenda. Besides, the progress registered on some Flagship Projects such Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA), Silencing the Guns by 2020, Free Movement of People, Integrated High Speed Train Network, African Economic Platform and the Great Museum of Africa are worth mentioning. The Director noted that visibility of Agenda 2063, financial constraint, slow pace of progress in some Flagship Projects and delays on responses by some Member States to the call of Domestication are among the notable challenges in the Implementation of Agenda 2063.

F. DISCUSSION OF THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2063

I. General Discussion

10. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation for East African Community H.E. Hon. Louise Mushikiwabo of Rwanda thanked the Government of Namibia for organising and pushing for this Meeting. She reminded the Meeting that the Committee needs to be revived. At its inauguration, the Committee started with a lot of vigour which seems to have died and emphasised the need to work together and the Importance of the Committee which serves as a pair of eyes in the Implementation of Agenda 2063. She stated that Rwanda will do its part by encouraging other Member States to Implement Agenda 2063. The Minister appreciated the Progress Report and asked the Commission to share it with all Member States to get them to think on what they can do in the Implementation of Agenda 2063.

11. The Minister further stated that there was a need to focus on Flagship Projects that may be less demanding in terms of budget and personnel, like the Free Movement of People and African Single African Air Transport and that could be achievable in a short time possible. The Minister called upon the Commission to provide concrete Progress Report on the Flagship Projects with proper timelines.

12. The Algerian delegation informed the Committee that Algeria was among the first countries to incorporate the Goals and Aspirations of Agenda 2063 in its National Plan. It welcomed the progress achieved so far in the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and emphasized the need for countries to work together if they are to meet the

deadlines set in Agenda 2063. In this regard, the delegation underlined the need for Africa to put a coherent and inclusive financing strategy to ensure a successful Implementation of the Continental Development Agenda. It also pointed out terrorism and extremism challenges that need to be tackled in order for Agenda 2063 to be successful.

13. The Representative from UNECA talked about the ongoing efforts to ensure that both the AU and the UN system have a streamlined Framework to Domesticated Agenda 2063 and SDGs and also a common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. He also Informed the Meeting that UNECA has developed a tool kit to align Agenda 2063 and the SDGs and that this tool kit has been tested in countries like Ethiopia and Gambia.

14. The Vice Chairperson of ECOWAS on his part briefed the Meeting that ECOWAS incorporated the Goals and Priorities of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs in its 2016-2020 Plan. He said that ECOWAS will liaise with Member States that have not received Domestication missions from the AUC so that they can do so as soon as possible. ECOWAS participated in the drafting of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Agenda 2063 First Ten-Year Implementation Plan. Free Movement of People is now a reality in ECOWAS and ready to work with African Union to tap on the good practices.

15. The Representative from SADC also emphasised the importance of RECs and stated that the Report should reflect in a more comprehensive manner the Part Played by RECs in the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Flagship Projects.

16. The Representative from Ethiopia informed the meeting that Ethiopia has also incorporated the Agenda 2063 aspirations and goals in its national Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP2). He stated that the report should also include countries that have incorporated Agenda 2063 in their national Plans for the report to have credibility when presented to the Counsel and the Assembly for adoption.

17. The Representative from the Republic of South Africa also said that South Africa has incorporated Agenda 2063 Aspirations and Goals in its Strategic Plan and that SADC and the AU have been involved in a number of initiatives including the development of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Agenda 2063.

18. The delegation of Namibia drawn the attention of the Meeting on the mandate of the Committee by reading out its strategic roles namely: strategic orientation, ensuring efficiency, financing and accountability in the delivery of Agenda 2063, the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan and successive Plans.

19. The Chairperson of the Committee reminded the Meeting that based on the core Mandate of the Committee, there is a need to critically examine key issues, look at the progress on Flagship Projects and examine their progress and the challenges being faced and then come up with the appropriate recommendations.

II. Discussion on Flagship Projects

20. The Ministerial Committee deliberated on the progress made on each Flagship Project including challenges and recommendations:

(i) Grand Inga Dam;

- The Meeting requested the AUC to provide an update as to why in July 2016 the World Bank announced the suspension of its support to the Project and also wondered whether the Project can still take off should the World Bank withdraw. It would be wise to look for alternative financing arrangements.
- The highlighted challenges were discussed and suggested that political instability in the DRC may not be the number one challenge and that work can still be carried out with the current political situation. All other challenges must be clearly stated and a remedial action be proposed.
- It was also recommended that the Grand Inga Dam should be an African Project and should not be left to DRC and a few countries alone because making it an African Project will attract more funding and secure its Implementation.

(ii) **African Integrated High Speed Railway Network (AIHSRN)**; the Meeting requested more information on whether China's interest in the Project was only that of winning the contract to build the railway or they were also financing it. The Meeting requested the Commission to provide the preliminary route structure and map of the Project. It was also noted that, member states should plan to complete part of the project that falls within their territory so that the project can depend more on own resources than external support.

(iii) **Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM)**; The Meeting urged Member States to open up their Air Space and called up on to sign the Protocol. It was suggested that Member States should be provided with additional information indicating the benefits as this was not only for Member States with National Airlines but to all.

(iv) **Pan-African e-network (PAeN)**; the Commission was advised to involve the Youth more and link up with already existing initiatives like Smart Africa. The PAeN must be owned and operated by Africa and must connect to the world not just to one country.

(v) **African Economic Platform (AEP)**; The Meeting suggested that the Commission needs to look at the Institutional Framework establishing the

AEP, involve UNECA more and disassociate the African Union Foundation (AUF) from the AEP. It was also suggested that hosting of the Platform should be on a rotational basis.

- (vi) **Continental Financial and Monetary Institutions**; The Meeting wondered why some Member States have not signed and ratified the Protocols establishing these institutions and advised to find a way to bring them on board. The Commission was requested to prioritise Financial Institutions which can be established in the short, medium and long term.
- (vii) **African Outer Space Flagship Project**; the Commission was asked to look at the UN Outer Space Program and Tap Resources. It was noted that some African Union Member States have got expertise in this area and should be able to share their experiences and the Commission was advised to organise a Network Forum to share experience. It was also suggested that training in this area be conducted.
- (viii) **Pan-African Virtual and e-University**; there is a need to explore the possibilities of building upon the infrastructure that already exists on the Continent. This should help the Project move to an advanced stage.
- (ix) **The Great Museum of Africa**; The Head of the Algerian delegation informed the Meeting that the institutional arrangement for the establishment of in Algeria has been made and that the Ministry of Culture has been tasked to take it up. Furthermore, a parcel land was allocated for the Project. The Algerian authorities are working closely with the AUC to carry out this important Project. The Meeting requested the AUC to come up with a detailed Implementation Plan of the Project including but not limited to the design, funding and the operationalization of the Project. Member States were also asked to provide funding for this Project.
- (x) **Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)**; the Meeting urged Member States to provide more resources to this Flagship Project to ensure its sustainability especially as it approaches Implementation and also in order to reduce dependence on donor partners. The Committee was encouraged by the progress of this Project and requested all stakeholders to support and contribute to the success of this important Project for the Integration of Africa.
- (xi) **African Commodity Strategy**; the Committee noted the progress made and observed the need for the strategy to focus more on issues of value addition and requested all stakeholders both at the AUC and in the Member States to be vigorously engaged in the process of its development and finalization.

(xii) Silencing of the Guns by 2020; Committee noted the encouraging progress registered so far and requested the Commission to submit a comprehensive Report to the next Session of the Executive Council with regards to the actions being taken on this Flagship Project.

(xiii) Free Movement of People; the Meeting was informed that some progress has been made. The Government of Namibia took a decision that all Official and Diplomatic Passport holders will not require a visa to enter Namibia and that modalities are being carried out to implement this decision. The Minister of Rwanda also informed the Meeting that there was an upcoming STC Meeting between 16 and 21 October 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda to further discuss the Free Movement of People and that positive outcome is expected from this Meeting. It was suggested that there was no need for appointment of Special Envoy to promote and champion this initiative, as had been recommended in the Report.

G. RECOMMENDATIONS

21. After the deliberation, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- i) The Progress Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 should be revised to include more content on the Key Objectives and status of the Flagship Projects, challenges and areas where quick wins can be achieved. The reporting should be precise with specific time lines for Meeting the deadlines.
- ii) The revised Report should be shared with Member States to get them to internalize the Commitments they made.
- iii) The Ministerial Committee on the Follow-Up of the Implementation of the Agenda 2063 should be revived so that it has the same vigour that it had during its Inauguration.
- iv) Member States are called upon to take steps in the Domestication of Agenda 2063 in to their National Development Plans.
- v) Given that some of the Flagship Projects do not require a lot of funding like the Single African Air Transport Market, there is need to prioritize the Flagship Projects, by indicating those that can be achieved in the short term, medium term and the longer term.
- vi) The recommendations as reported in the Progress Report should be aligned to the Challenges faced in the Implementation of Agenda 2063 First Ten Year Implementation Plan.

- vii) There is need to bring on board the Private Sector as they are very critical in funding as well as in the Implementation of some of the Flagship Projects.
- viii) The AUC should tap into some of the available resources on the continent for the Flagship Projects since some countries and regions are advanced in some of the areas like the Railway Network, Outer Space Technology.
- ix) The AUC to work with the RECs in the preparation of this Progress Report to have RECs inputs in the Implementation of Agenda 2063.
- x) The Preparation of the Progress Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 should be in line with the TORs given to this Committee.
- xi) The Chief Executives of RECs, UNECA, NEPAD and AfDB should always attend the Meeting of the Follow-up Committee since the Implementation of Agenda 2063 lies heavily on their Institutions.
- xii) All the AUC Departments in charge of Agenda 2063 Flagship Projects must attend the Meetings of the Ministerial Follow-Up Committee on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 to provide adequate explanation on the progress made.
- xiii) Strengthen the Agenda 2063 Implementation Unit in SPPMERM (8 Desk Officers in RECs and 3 Consultants under a Framework contract to facilitate the Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation) should be given priority.
- xiv) The Commission is requested to explore the possibility of signing an MOU with UNDP and other partners for strengthening cooperation in the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 which include Domestication of the two (2) Agendas, in the Member States and having a single Report for both.
- xv) To conduct an overall and deep evaluation of the Strategic Partnerships of the AU, bearing in mind that they must be based on the principles of equality and mutual respect.
- xvi) The Committee calls upon the Member States and the Partners to respect scrupulously the Decisions of the African Heads of State related to the legitimate right of all Member State to participate in all Meetings and Activities that falls within the AU Partnership. Member States shall also support African Candidates to International Positions.
- xvii) Institutionalize the Working Group of the Ambassadors of the Ministerial Follow-Up Committee on the Implementation of Agenda 2063.

- xviii) The Ministerial Follow-up Committee Meetings should be held twice (2) a year and the Meetings should be part of the AUC Calendar of Meetings and should be funded by the AUC Budget.

H. CLOSING REMARKS

22. In her closing remarks, the Chairperson of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee Hon. Mrs Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah thanked all the participants and the Director of SPPMERM for the Report. She asked the Commission to send the revised Report to all Members of the Committee before it is presented to the Executive Council in January 2018. She reminded the Meeting that this was their last Meeting as the Committee term was coming to an end unless the AUC decide to arrange another Meeting before the 2018 January Summit. She called upon the Incoming Committee to take it up from where this Committee have left and promised to continue working with the new Committee to ensure that Agenda 2063 is fully implemented.

23. H.E. Hon. Mrs Louise Mushikiwabo the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and East African Community of Rwanda in her closing remarks thanked the Namibian Government for the hospitality accorded. She also thanked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of Namibia, Hon. Mrs Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah for her efforts to keep the Committee functioning and particularly for organizing this Meeting. She thanked all the participants for taking time off their busy schedule to attend this Important Meeting. She also thanked the Director of SPPMERM for preparing the Report and supporting the Meeting. H.E. advised that in order to maximise attendance in future, the Meeting should be organised when there are no parallel Meetings taking place. She promised to continue supporting the Committee even when the new one comes in.

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