ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

AGENDA 2063

Report of the Commission on the African Union Agenda 2063

The Africa We Want in 2063

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063

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Introduction

1.   It is to be recalled that in June 2014, at their meeting held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, the Executive Council, through its Decision EX.CL/821(XXV) took note of the Report of the Commission on the development of the African Union Agenda 2063, as well as the two Draft documents, one being the comprehensive **Technical Document** and the other the **Popular Version of Agenda 2063**, both entitled **"African Union Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want".**

2.   At the same meeting, the Executive Council requested:

i)   Member States to conduct national consultations on both Agenda the 2063 technical document and the popular version and to provide inputs to the Commission by 31 October 2014;

ii)   The Commission to continue working with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in finalizing the Agenda 2063 Documents; the First 10-year plan; and the implementation, monitoring and evaluation framework, for submission to the January 2015 meetings of the AU Policy Organs;

iii)   The Commission to continue to explore and prepare concrete actions in the implementation of priority programmes and projects identified in Agenda 2063; and

iv)   The Commission in collaboration with the NEPAD Agency, UNECA and AfDB to carry out the necessary consultations with Island States with a view to developing a mechanism to ensure that their peculiarities, priorities and concerns are integrated into Agenda 2063 and related programmes;

3.   In line with the above, this report outlines the progress made since the last meeting of the Executive Council held in June 2014, and presents the **Draft Agenda 2063 Technical Document and Popular** Version, as well as **The First Ten-Year Implementation Plan** for consideration and approval by the AU Policy Organs.

Progress to Date

4.   Accordingly, the Commission embarked on the following key activities aimed at implementing the above stated Malabo Council Decision on Agenda 2063:

(i)   Finalization of the Agenda 2063 Technical Document and Popular Version;
(ii)   Preparation of the First 10-year Implementation Plan, and M&E Framework;

    (iii)   Detailed project formulation of Agenda 2063 Flagship Programmes and Initiatives; and

    (iv)   Selected consultations with key stakeholders not covered in the earlier rounds.

a. Finalization of the Agenda 2063 Technical Document and Popular Version

   ✓   All comments received in Malabo and thereafter from Member States and other various stakeholders have been fully incorporated into both the Technical Document and Popular Version of Agenda 2063. In addition to the initial inputs received from eight Member States prior to the Malabo Summit (Algeria, Ghana, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, Zambia), inputs have been received from Ethiopia, Kenya and the Seychelles, bringing the number of Member States who have made written contributions to eleven.

   ✓   Some valuable contributions were also received from a High Level Conference of National Planning Bodies in Africa organized by the UNECA and the Institute for Development and Planning in Kigali, Rwanda on 1-2 September 2014; Consultation with African Faith Based Groups organized by the Commission on 5-7 November 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya; and Consultation with Island States held in Victoria, Seychelles on 2-4 December 2014.

   ✓   The Commission also took every available opportunity to make presentations on Agenda 2063 at regular technical and Ministerial Meetings organized by the various Departments. Again, some valuable inputs were received.

Collectively all the inputs mentioned above have significantly contributed to the finalization **of the Agenda 2063 Technical Document and Popular Version.**

b. Preparation of the First 10-year Implementation Plan, and Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

   ✓   Identification of thematic focus and priorities for the first 10 years of Agenda 2063 was done in consultation with relevant AUC Departments;

   ✓   Consultations with the AU Commission's departments/divisions were also conducted in the setting of national, regional and continental level targets (quantitative and process targets/milestones) including mechanisms to support implementation;

   ✓   The First Ten-Year Implementation Plan should be considered as a living document that needs to be subjected to regular reviews and re-orientations. As part of this process, a validation exercise for the goals, targets, strategies and indicators will be initiated, whereby African Experts

from six sectors of Manufacturing/Industry, Trade and Investment; Human Capital Development (Health and Science, Technology, Innovation, Higher Education and ICT driven education); Governance, Democracy, Peace and Security; Social and Cultural Development including Youth and Women; Agriculture, Blue Economy and Environment; and Integration/Infrastructure (Transport, Energy and Communication) will be invited to provide their inputs and expert advice.

c. **Agenda 2063 Flagships/ Fast Track Programmes and Initiatives**

✓ Work on project development and formulation is being led by the competent Departments of the Commission and draws upon external expertise as and when needed;

✓ Two page project profiles for each of the 8 flagship projects have been prepared and annexed to the First Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063; and

✓ Significant progress has been made in conducting background studies, preparation of programme concepts and road maps for the implementation of each of the fast track projects.

Comprehensive progress reports on each of the Agenda 2063 Flagship Projects will be presented separately by the competent Commission Departments that are leading the project development processes.

Overview of the Agenda 2063 Technical Document

5. Agenda 2063, Africa's endogenous plan and shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development is based on three dimensions as follows:

a) The Vision for 2063: Has its basis on the African Union Vision and the seven aspirations emanating from the voices of the stakeholders consulted, it paints a vivid picture of where Africans would like to see their continent 50 years from now, when Africa would be celebrating the centenary of the founding of the OAU. The vision incorporates milestones, which represent transitions in the journey towards the "Africa we Want" by 2063.

b) The Transformation Framework: presents the foundations on which Agenda 2063 is built, as well as the detailed milestones towards 2063 in the form of goals, priority areas, targets and indicative strategies. The framework is in the form of comprehensive results matrices at national, regional and continental levels. This will facilitate measurement of progress and strengthen accountability for delivery of results at all levels. The transformation framework represents the "what must be done" to attain the vision for 2063.

c) <u>Making it Happen:</u> outlines the "how to get there" of Agenda 2063, and treats aspects related to implementation, monitoring and evaluation principles and responsibilities; financing; partnerships; capacities for implementation; and communication and outreach.

The three dimensions described above are presented in six chapters in the Agenda 2063 Technical Document, whose contents are summarized below:

Chapter 1: provides the genesis of Agenda 2063 anchoring it on the eight ideals of Solemn Declaration of the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the OAU. It situates Agenda 2063 in the historical context of Pan Africanism, as well as the various transitions marking the responses of African countries to the exigencies of the times. The chapter characterizes Agenda 2063 as an endogenous, shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development that builds upon Africa's recent positive performance in the economic, social and political fields to put the continent on a new positive trajectory of growth, peace and prosperity. The Agenda draws upon the continent's rich history, natural resources, people, culture, as well as its institutions at all levels, and capitalizes on the opportunities of changing global trends and dynamics.

Chapter 2: presents the Vision for 2063 and details what achieving each of the seven aspiration would mean for Africa and her citizenry. For example, the attainment of aspiration 1 (*A Prosperous Africa based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development*) would mean that:

- African people will have a high standard of living and quality of life and well-being;

- Africa will have well educated citizens underpinned by a skills revolution deliberately focusing on science, technology and innovation for a knowledge society;

- An Africa where no child misses school due to poverty or any form of discrimination;

- Citizens are healthy, well-nourished and have long life spans;

- Cities, peri-urban and rural communities are equipped with modern communication, sanitation, education and health facilities and are vibrant, dynamic market economies, people have access to affordable and decent housing including, housing finance together with all the basic necessities of life, and social capital is valued and preserved;

- Economies are structurally transformed to create shared growth through entrepreneurship and decent jobs for all;

- Agriculture is modernized for scaled-up production, improved productivity and value addition through commodity transformation and services, contributes to farmer and national prosperity and food and nutrition security; and

- The continent embeds principally adaptation processes to maintain healthy ecosystems, preserve the African natural environment – as the largest remaining reserve of pristine waters, old growth forests and land in the world.

Chapter 3: taking each aspiration as the point of departure, the chapter presents a comprehensive analysis of progress made and identifies some of the key issues and challenges that must be addressed under each of the seven aspirations if the vision outlined in chapter 2 is to be attained. While recognizing the tremendous progress the continent has made in all areas, this chapter also summarizes the priorities for action.

Chapter 4: presents the transformation framework, including the foundations, the key goals and priority areas of Agenda 2063. A detailed presentation of the Targets and Indicative strategies associated with the goals and priority are presented in Annex 2 and 3 of the Technical Document.

AGENDA 2063 ASPIRATIONS, GOALS AND PRIORITY AREAS AT NATIONAL LEVEL

ASPIRATION	GOALS	PRIORITY AREAS
A Prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development	A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for all Citizens	• Incomes and Jobs • Poverty and Hunger • Social Security and protection, including Persons with Disabilities • Modern, Affordable and Livable Habitats and Quality Basic Services
	Well Educated Citizens and Skills Revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation	• Education and STI driven Skills Revolution
	Healthy and Well Nourished Citizens	• Health and Nutrition
	Transformed Economies	• Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth • STI driven Manufacturing, Industrialization and Value Addition • Economic Diversification and Resilience
	Modern Agriculture for increased Production and Productivity	• Agricultural Production and Productivity
	Blue/Ocean Economy for accelerated economic growth	• Marine resources industry • Port Operations and Marine Transport • Marine Energy and mining
	Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient Economies and Communities	• Sustainable Consumption Patters • Biodiversity conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management • Water Security • Climate Resilience and Natural Disasters • Renewable Energy
An Integrated Continent, Politically United, based on the Ideals of Pan Africanism and the Vision of Africa's Renaissance	A United Africa (Federal or Confederate)	• Frameworks and Institutions for a United Africa
	Continental Financial and Monetary Institutions established and Functional	• Financial and Monetary Institutions
	World Class Infrastructure Crisscrosses Africa	• Communications and Infrastructure Connectivity;

ASPIRATION	GOALS	PRIORITY AREAS
		• Liberalization of air transport and full implementation of Yamoussoukro Decision • Intra-African Trade
An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human rights, Justice and Rule of Law	Democratic Values, practices, universal principles of Human rights, Justice and Rule of Law Entrenched	• Democracy and Good Governance • Human rights, Justice and Rule of Law
	Capable Institutions and Transformative Leadership in Place	• Institutions and Leadership • Participatory Development and Local Governance
A Peaceful and Secure Africa	Peace, security and Stability is Preserved	• Maintenance and Restoration of Peace & Security
	A Stable and Peaceful Africa	• Institutional Structure for AU Instruments on Peace and Security • Defense, Security and Peace
	A Fully Functional and Operational APSA	• Fully Operational and Functional APSA all Pillars
Africa with a Strong Cultural Identity, Common Heritage, Values and Ethics	African Cultural Renaissance is pre-eminent	• Values & Ideals of Pan Africanism • Cultural Values and African Renaissance • Cultural heritage, Creative arts and Businesses
An Africa whose Development is people-driven, especially relying on the Potential offered by its Women and Youth, and well cared for Children	Full gender Equality in all Spheres of Life	• Women and Girls Empowerment • Sexual Violence and discrimination
	Engaged and empowered Youth and Children	• Youth Empowerment and Children's Rights
An Africa as a Strong, United and Influential Global Player and Partner	Africa as a major Partner in Global Affairs and Peaceful Co-existence	• Africa's Place in Global Affairs • Partnerships
	Africa Takes Full responsibility for Financing her Development	• African Capital Markets • Fiscal Systems & Public Sector Revenue

The transformation framework recognizes the diversity of the continent and it stresses that each country and/or region, while being inspired by the same set of goals and targets will develop policies and strategies adapted to its circumstances. Agenda 2063, therefore, leaves ample policy space for countries and/or regions to evolve a policy mix that best suits their particular circumstances and peculiarities to arrive at the continental goals and targets.

Chapter 5: identifies the critical factors for success, as well as the risks and mitigation factors for attaining the Vision for 2063.

- **Critical success factors** include: mobilization of African resources to finance and accelerate its transformation and integration; transformational Leadership at all levels and in all fields; capable developmental states with the appropriate institutions, policies, human resources, systems and processes; change in attitudes and mind sets to strengthen Pan African values of self-reliance, solidarity, hard work and collective prosperity and building on African successes, experiences and best practices; taking charge of Africa's narrative and brand, to ensure that it reflects continental realities, aspirations and priorities and Africa's position in the world; integrating Agenda 2063 into all national and regional development plans; strengthening and transforming national, regional and continental institutions and the manner in which we do business, so as to effectively lead and drive the agenda for transformation and integration; learn from the diverse, unique and shared experiences of various countries and regions as a basis of forging an African approach to transformation **Risk factors** include: conflict, instability and insecurity; social and economic inequalities; organized crime, drugs trade and illicit financial flows; mismanagement of diversities; the religious extremism; failure to harness the demographic dividend; escalation of Africa's disease burden; climate risks and natural disasters; and external shocks.

Chapter 6: makes proposals on implementation; monitoring and evaluation; financing; partnerships; capacities for implementation; and communication and outreach:

- Implementation arrangements and M&E: based on the need for identification of all key stakeholders in the results chain from continental, regional and national levels. A stakeholder relationship diagram spells out the various roles and responsibilities in implementation and monitoring and evaluation;

- Detailed strategies of financing are presented and related to the attaining of each of the aspirations, including broad strategies and processes such as the High Level Panel on Alternative Sources of Funding (President Obassanjo) and the High Level Panel on Illicit Flows (President Mbeki).

- Partnerships: re-orient Africa's partnerships in line with the continent's ambitious agenda for economic, political, social transformation;

- Capacities for implementation: looking at individual, organizational and those related to the policy and enabling environment in line with Africa's transformation agenda; and finally;

- Communication and outreach: strategies and activities to galvanize and mobilize the continent's population on a sustained basis to achieve Agenda 2063.

Overview of the Agenda 2063 Popular Version

6.   The Agenda 2063 Popular Version derives entirely from the Technical Document presented above and its purpose is to render Agenda 2063 in simple terms, in such a way that it can be understood by Africans of all walks of life. The ultimate goal is to increase its appeal to all Africans, thus contributing to its popularization, ensuring ownership and the full mobilization of the African citizenry in support of its implementation.

7.   The Popular Version is structured into the following sections:

- ***Part A***: Presents the Voices of African people expressed through their aspirations for the future. An overview of the Seven Aspirations gathered through consultations with a broad cross-section of stakeholders is presented:

    ✓   A Prosperous Africa based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development;

    ✓   An Integrated Continent, Politically United and based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and vision of Africa's Renaissance;

    ✓   An Africa of Good Governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law;

    ✓   A Peaceful and Secure Africa;

    ✓   An Africa of strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics;

    ✓   An Africa where development is people driven, unleashing the potential of its women and youth;

    ✓   Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global partner and player.

- ***Part B***: Presents the response of the Assembly of the Union to the Voices of African people for a better future as expressed through the seven aspirations. Among other things, the Assembly endorses the peoples aspirations and affirms that Agenda 2063 is:

    ✓   Africa's endogenous plan for transformation that harnesses the continent's comparative advantages such as its history, culture and natural resources;

- ✓ The continent's vision and roadmap for sequencing sectoral and normative, national, regional and continental plans and render them coherent;

- ✓ A call to action for all Africans and people of African descent;

- ✓ A commitment from national, regional and continental governments, leadership, institutions and citizens to act, coordinate and cooperate to realize the vision

- *Part C*: Identifies key Agenda 2063 Flagship programs to kick start implementation of Agenda 2063:

  - ✓ Eradicate poverty in a generation by 2025;

  - ✓ Embark on Skills revolution and science, technology and innovation;

  - ✓ Transform, grow and industrialize our economies through beneficiation of natural resources

  - ✓ Consolidate the modernization of African Agriculture and Agro-business through scaled up value addition and productivity by 2025;

  - ✓ Connect Africa through world-class Infrastructure, with a concerted push to finance and implement the major infrastructure projects in: Transport:, Energy and ICT;

  - ✓ Fast track the establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area by 2017, a programme to double intra-Africa trade by 2022;

  - ✓ Support Young people as drivers of Africa's renaissance;

  - ✓ Silence the guns by 2020, to make peace a reality for all our people and by ending all wars, civil conflicts, human rights violations, humanitarian disasters and violent conflicts, and to prevent genocide;

  - ✓ Achieve Gender Parity by 2020 in public and private institutions, and the removal of all forms of gender discrimination in the social, cultural, economic and political spheres;
  - ✓ Introduce An African Passport, issued by Member states, capitalizing on the global migration towards e-passports, and starting with abolishing visa requirements for   all African citizens in all African countries by 2018;

  - ✓ Consolidate a democratic and people–centred Africa, through the universal application of normative framework of the African

Governance Architecture, and conducting free, fair and credible elections;

✓ Enhance Africa's united voice in global negotiations, through pooled sovereignty, integration and the development of common African positions;

✓ Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, through building continental capital markets and financial institutions, and reversing the illicit flows of capital from the continent.

- *Part D*: Identifies Critical Factors for Success

✓ Mobilization of African resources to finance and accelerate its transformation and integration;

✓ Transformational Leadership at all levels and in all fields;

✓ Capable developmental states with the appropriate institutions, policies human resources, systems and processes;

✓ Change in attitudes and mind sets to strengthen Pan African values of self-reliance, solidarity, hard work and collective prosperity and building on African successes, experiences and best practices;

✓ Taking charge of Africa's narrative and brand, to ensure that it reflects continental realities, aspirations and priorities and Africa's position in the world;

✓ Integrating Agenda 2063 into all national and regional development plans;

✓ Strengthening and transforming national, regional and continental institutions and the manner in which we do business, so as to effectively lead and drive the agenda for transformation and integration;

✓ Learn from the diverse, unique and shared experiences of various countries and regions as a basis of forging an African approach to transformation

Currently, the Popular Version is all four African Union official languages (Arabic, English, French, and Portuguese). There are plans to translate the popular version into some of the major African languages.

Overview of the Agenda 2063 First Ten-Year Implementation Plan

8. The Agenda 2063 First Ten-Year Implementation Plan seeks to:

a) Outline the priority areas, set specific targets, provide indicative strategies for the national, regional and continental levels for the first ten years for each of the seven aspirations for domestication;

b) Outline the institutional arrangements/broad policy guidelines as to how all stakeholders from national to continental will implement, monitor and evaluate the plan implementation; and

c) Indicate the potential sources of funding, capacity requirements and strategies for communicating with the African Citizenry to ensure ownership and outcomes of the Agenda 2063.

9.   As a sub-set of the 50 year Agenda, the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan derives its legitimacy from the Agenda 2063 Technical Document, whose foundations are: The AU Constitutive Act, The AU Vision, The Eight Priority Areas of the Solemn Declaration, The 7 Aspirations for 2063, Regional /Continental Frameworks and National Plans/ Visions. In addition, it reflects the African Common Position on Post MDGs and also has in-built flexibility to accommodate emerging Post 2015 MDG on Sustainable Development.

10.   Selection of the focus areas for the first ten years were influenced by: (i) the necessity for inclusion of all Fast Track Projects/ Initiatives approved by the AU Policy Organs in Malabo in June 2014; (ii) the need to cover AU adopted Continental Frameworks such as PIDA, CAADP etc which fall within the first 10 years and beyond (iii) AU Decisions – e.g Silence all Guns by 2020; and (iv) priority areas of national and regional plans that fall within the next 10 years.

11.   The First Ten Year Implementation Plan covers all the seven aspirations. Table 1 below presents a truncated format for illustrative purposes. The results logic/chain is presented such that under each aspiration are the associated goals, priority areas and targets for national, regional / continental levels where applicable.

Table 1: Truncated Format for Plan Framework Presentation

Aspiration 1: A Prosperous Africa Based On Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development		
Goal 5: Modern Agriculture for increased production and productivity		
Priority Area (1)	2023 Target	Key Process Actions/ Milestones Towards 2023 on AU Frameworks
Agricultural production and productivity	National • Double agricultural productivity • Reduce post-harvest losses by 50%	National • National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPS) are aligned to Malabo Targets by 2017 <u>Regional</u>

			• Consultations with member states on aligning of NAIPS to Malabo Targets is done in 2016/17
Indicative Strategies • Implement revised CAADP Results Framework for 2025			

12. The **logical framework** underlying the plan framework is: (i) the level of attainment of the targets under a priority area will determine the level of attainment of that priority area (ii) the level of attainment of the priority areas under a goal, will determine the level of attainment of the goal (iii) the level of attainment of goals under an aspiration will determine the level of attainment of that aspiration and lastly (iv) the level of attainment of the aspirations will determine the level of attainment of the AU Vision *An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizen's and representing a dynamic force in the global arena*, by the year 2063.

13. The **critical success factors** identified for successful implementation include: leadership and political commitment; capable developmental state; participation, inclusion and empowerment of citizens and results orientation. For risks they include: conflicts, instability and insecurity; failure to harness the demographic dividend; climate risk and natural disasters and external shocks. Mitigation strategies in the form of (i) inclusion of remedial interventions in the Agenda 2063 results framework (ii) incorporating / assigning responsibilities in the stakeholder responsibility assignment / accountability in the implementation framework and (iii) capacity development have been prepared and annexed to the plan (annex 5)

14. The **Key Principles of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework** are aimed at guiding all stakeholders in decisions and actions in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation. These principles include: subsidiarity within the context of role assignment between national, RECs and continental levels; accountability and transparency; participation, inclusiveness and integration and sensitivity to diversity.

15. **Stakeholder relationships and responsibilities** have been mapped in such a way that key players at national (governments, non-state actors etc.), regional (RECs and professional bodies and associations), continental (AU Policy Organs, AUC, NEPAD, Pan African Parliament, AfDB, UNECA etc.) have been assigned **actions to take, roles to play** and reporting relationships in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plan. Detailed policy guidelines to this effect have been prepared and annexed to the plan document (annex 1). Generalized implementation timelines for the plan execution at continental, regional and national levels by various stakeholders have been prepared and annexed to the plan (Annex 2)

16. With regard to **Capacity Development**, the capacity needs at the national, regional and continental levels have been spelt out in broad terms for the areas of implementation, monitoring and evaluation. A Capacity Needs Assessment for Member

States, RECs / AU Organs will commence shortly and when completed, it will serve as input into implementation manual at all levels.

17. As part of the implementation framework, **a Communication Strategy** has been developed for implementation at national, regional and continental levels. The objective is to galvanize participation and ownership by the African Citizenry

18. Funding availability is a necessary condition for the successful implementation of Agenda 2063. In view of this **A Resource Mobilization Strategy for Agenda 2063** which builds on NEPAD/UNECA Study on Domestic Resource Mobilization for financing development has been prepared. It has identified key areas that require financing for every aspiration/goal/priority area. In the same vein, it has identified potential sources of funding for each of them. The study is also providing options and processes aimed at ensuring that these potential sources are actualized at the national, regional and continental levels. The Study also makes recommendations on facilitation measures for building financial/capital markets in member states which have to be implemented as part of the domestication and execution of the First Ten Year Plan.

Recommendations

19. Considering the participatory and people driven nature of the Agenda 2063 development process, as well as the discussions by Member States during meetings of the AU Policy Organs and the Bahir Dar Ministerial Retreat, the following documents are recommended for adoption by the AU Policy Organs:

   a) The Agenda 2063 Framework Document; and
   b) The Agenda 2063 Popular Version.

20. In view of the importance of Agenda 2063 to socio-economic transformation of the continent, continental and regional bodies as well as Member States should be requested to continue internalizing Agenda 2063 and integrating it into their respective Development Initiatives and Plans.

21. In view of the need to ensure effective implementation and also that all key players are aware of their respective roles and responsibilities, the Agenda 2063 First Ten Year Implementation Plan should be considered as work in progress and the Commission requested to initiate in-depth consultations with key players, including Regional Economic Communities, Sectoral Experts and Planning Experts from Member States with a view to enriching and finalizing it for submission during the June 2015 meetings of the AU Policy Organs.

22. Other recommendations emanating from the consultation meeting with African Island States on Agenda 2063 are as follows:

   a) The Commission should continuously and systematically work more with African Island States to ensure that their issues and concerns are

adequately mainstreamed into all continental frameworks for political, social, cultural and economic development;

b)   Establish a follow up mechanism, such as Agenda 2063 Island States Forum at both technical and ministerial level, to be held annually, to allow continuous consultations for Island States on Agenda 2063;

c)   Facilitate the access to financing of Island States, including under the Agenda 2063 Resource Mobilization Strategy, as well as appropriate mechanisms for facilitating the access of all Island States to Climate funds by 2020;

d)   Build capacities of Island States for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063, and ensuring mutual learning and exchanges with other continental AU Member States;

e)   Ensure that the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Agenda Flagship.

AFRICAN UNION

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ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session
30 - 31 January 2015
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REPORT OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE BAHIR DAR MINISTERIAL FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAHIR DAR MINISTERIAL RETREAT AND AGENDA 2063

**REPORT OF THE 2ⁿᵈ MEETING OF THE BAHIR DAR MINISTERIAL
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAHIR DAR MINISTERIAL RETREAT
AND AGENDA 2063**

13 – 14 December 2014

**Sandton Convention Centre
Johannesburg, South Africa**

REPORT OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE BAHIR DAR MINISTERIAL FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAHIR DAR MINISTERIAL RETREAT AND AGENDA 2063
13 – 14 December 2014

I.   INTRODUCTION

1.   The Bahir Dar Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Agenda 2063 held its 2nd meeting in the Republic of South Africa on 13 and 14 December 2014. The meeting was chaired by H.E. The Right Honourable Simbarashe Mumbengegwi, Chair of SADC. The Committee[1] was established at the Retreat of the Executive Council, held in Bahir Dar on 25-26 January 2014, with a view to following up on the Retreat outcomes and to providing guidance on the development and implementation of Agenda 2063.

2.   The 2nd meeting of the Bahir Dar Ministerial Follow-up Committee was preceded by a Coordination meeting of the AU Commission, the Regional Economic Communities, the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, held on 12 December 2014 at the Sandton Convention Centre, focusing on developments with regard to the African Integration agenda and Agenda 2063.

II.   ATTENDANCE

3.   The following Member States participated in the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Mauritania, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the President of the African Development Bank and the CEO of NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency also attended in their capacity as members of the Committee.

4.   Representatives of the Chairs, as well as the Executives of the following Regional Economic Communities. Also participated as full members of the Committee: COMESA, EAC, IGAD, SADC and ECOWAS.

III.   PROCEEDINGS

Agenda Item 1
AGENDA 2063

5.   The process of the development of the continent wide, fifty-year strategic framework, Agenda 2063 is nearing conclusion, and the Committee noted consultations with the High Level Conference of National Planning Bodies in Africa, with African faith-

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[1] The 1st Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Agenda 2063 consisted of the Foreign Ministers of Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Ghana, and Rwanda, joined by the Chairpersons of the RECs, the outgoing and incoming Chairperson of the Executive Council, the AU Commission Chairperson, the President of the ADfB, the CEO of the NEPAD Agency and the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Economic Communities. The composition of the Committee shall be reviewed every two years, to allow for rotation, continuity and regional balance.

based Groups and Island States, as well as outcomes of Technical and Ministerial meetings organized by the AUC subsequent to the Malabo 2014 Summit. All inputs from these meetings, as well as other written and web-based inputs were integrated into the Agenda 2063 Technical Document and Popular Version; along with further written inputs from Member States, bringing the total Member states submissions to 13 (Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, Zambia).

6.   Work is in progress on the preparation of the First 10-Year Implementation plan, on the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and on more detailed project formulation of Agenda 2063 Flagship Programmes and initiatives. A meeting of sectoral and technical experts will be convened at the beginning of 2015 to validate the First 10 year Implementation Plan, with inputs from the RECs and experts for the 6 clusters.

7.   Based on the outcomes of the deliberations of the AUC/ECA/ADB/RECS coordination meeting, the Ministerial Committee recommended as follows:

i.)   Agenda 2063 (Framework and Popular Version) should be submitted for approval by the AU Policy Organs during their January 2015 meetings, to ensure that implementation is kick-started. It was noted that the aspirations that form the foundation of Agenda 2063 have already been approved;

ii.)   Experts from different sectors of RECs must hold a meeting which will comprehensively review the Agenda 2063 Framework and 10 Year Plan with a view to submitting a progress report on the finalisation of the 10 Year Implementation Plan to the next coordination meeting of AUC/ECA/AfDB/RECs. This review meeting is to be preceded by a technical meeting before March 2015;

iii.)   Report to the Policy Organs at the January on progress with respect to the First 10-Year Implementation Plan, along with a roadmap for its completion;

iv.)   All continental, regional and national entities are requested to integrate Agenda 2063 into their plans; it was taken note that a number of RECs and Member States have already started this process;

v.)   AUC/ECA/RECs to convene a meeting with Media Houses on the popularization of Agenda 2063.

Agenda Item 2
ISSUES ARISING FROM IMPROVING THE WORK OF THE UNION

a) January 2015 Summit Preparations

8.   The AU Commission presented a brief update on the progress made in reforming the conduct of AU Summits of Heads of State and Government, as mandated by the

Malabo Summit. The changes pertain mainly to reducing the time allocated to the opening ceremony by minimising the number of speakers, and limiting the number and periodicity of guest speakers' interventions among others.

9. The Commission proposed that the speakers at the Opening Ceremony be limited to the Secretary General of the UN in person, out-going and in-coming AU Chairs and the AU Commission Chairperson. As for other speakers that usually take the floor at the Assembly, an open session was proposed for the 2nd day to enable the President of Palestine and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, if they come in person, to address the Assembly. The speeches shall be short to allow for more time for discussion on substantive issues. The Commission requested the Meeting's support on this proposal to make Summits more focused, productive and efficient.

b) Comparative Study on Improving the Working Methods of the AU

10. The Committee noted progress made on the status of the Comparative Study on Improving the Working Methods of the AU. A comparative analysis of the working methods of the European Union was concluded, and will be followed by a study of ASEAN, EAC and CARICOM working methods. The Comparative Study on the Working Methods of the AU is a critical step towards the transformation of the AU's structure and organs to reflect the vision of Agenda 2063. In this regard, the structural and organizational reforms of the AU Commission and other organs should echo the goals and integration projects of Agenda 2063.

11. There is a need for systematic reflection and discussion of the current practices and conduct of proceedings of the AU Summits. The sessions should allow the Heads of States and Governments to thoroughly discuss issues that are urgent and pertinent to the continent, and therefore consideration should be given to the possibility of limiting the number of guest speakers. The recommendations and changes on the conduct of Summits should be reflected upon further during the June Summit, followed by a concrete implementation in the future.

12. Based on the discussions of the Committee, the following actions were recommended:

  i.) The study on improving the working methods of the AU should look at the restructuring of AU organs and institutions to reflect Agenda 2063 and the implementation of plans and projects and be presented as a matrix of select best practices from the studied organizations. The final report should be presented to the June 2015 Summit;

  ii.) Furthermore, the AU Commission should conduct similar reviews of AU in relation to the implementation of Agenda 2063 every five years, in line with the 2007 High Level Panel Report;

  iii.) The process of reviewing working methods should be speed-up and finalized to ensure synergies and cohesion within the Union;

iv.) The proposal of the Commission for the stand alone Retreat of Executive Council to be convened between the January 2015 and June 2015 to consider this and other important issues was endorsed by the meeting.

c) Review of Partnerships

13. The AU Commission informed the Committee that the Review of Partnerships is still work in progress, and is being refined as the AU's vision and priorities are refined. An emerging view is to consolidate each partnership through joint programmes on an identified continental priority critical to integration, rather than a long matrix of issues with no impact or resources for implementation. The complete partnership review with recommendations will be presented at the June 2015 Summit for discussion. The Review of Partnerships should also look at the mechanisms of refining, implementing and enforcing already existing AU decisions, for instance, the Banjul Formula.

14. The Committee agreed on the principle of African ownership of Agenda 2063 and that African countries have the primary responsibility for its implementation. The Committee further underlined the importance of strong international partnership based on the principle of mutual respect and benefit and in line with African priorities.

15. The Meeting recommended the following:

i.) The Committee called upon all African partners, including the United Nations System, to reorient their cooperation in a manner that is commensurate with the transformative and ambitious goals of Agenda 2063;

ii.) It further emphasized the need for rigorous follow up and monitoring mechanism to review the progress in the implementation of commitments made by Africa's partners in the process leading to the achievement of this Agenda;

iii.) The Review of Partnerships should be included on the agenda of the proposed Retreat of the Executive Council after January to follow-up on issues for discussion at the June Summit.

Agenda Item 3
HARD INTEGRATION ISSUES

16. The Committee received briefings on the following hard integration issues, particularly the flagship infrastructure projects, which are critical to Agenda 2063:

a) Integrated High Speed Train Network;
b) Great Inga Dam Project;
c) Single African Aviation Market;
d) Outer Space; and
e) The Pan Africa E-Network.

17. Regional integration requires dependable infrastructure as a catalyst for free movement of people, goods and services, as well as for trade and investment. Countries must rededicate themselves to building infrastructure to connect Africa, and mobilize the resources through loans and assistance, including making use of existing offers in an efficient way, with particular involvement of the private sector.

a) Integrated High Speed Train Network

18. The Committee took note of the progress made on this exploratory phase of the project since the Malabo Summit in June 2014. These include institutional issues, such as the establishment of the HSTN Core Technical, as well as the work in progress on the MoU between the AU and China as a strategic partner and the Task Team comprising AUC, PIDA/NEPAD, UNECA, AfDB and RECS. On the substantive issues a roadmap has been adopted; an African position paper drafted to guide relations with strategic partners; a technical visit to Transnet Engineering complex in South Africa – locomotive manufacturing factory; the preparation of a report on the legal framework, technology choices, local content, routes mapping, financial issues, ToRs of the high-level study, etc.).

19. The Committee agreed that the High Speed Train Network was a real dream project, which if fully implemented would significantly contribute to the transformation of the continent and in this regard the Committee fully supports the efforts of the Commission, and calls on all countries to do as well. In addition to connectivity, the spin-offs are tremendous in terms of transportation, tourism, manufacturing, trade, jobs, skills development, and research and development.

20. Partnerships to achieve Africa's infrastructure needs are important and in that context, the Committee endorsed the on-going discussions between the AUC and China to develop an MoU on the HSTN and other infrastructure projects in the area of road, rail, aviation and industrialization (RRAI).

21. In view of the numerous country and regional level infrastructure projects, the Committee recommended that:

i.) It was important for Ministers of Transport to meet to align on-going country and regional initiatives on infrastructure initiatives;

ii.) The Committee stressed the need for quality leadership, coordination and resources which must all come together for effective delivery of infrastructure projects;

iii.) The Committee noted that the role of AUC was to facilitate the process and that it was the responsibility of Member States to make use of the opportunity presented. In order to fast track implementation of Summit decisions, it was recommended that AUC facilitate structured dialogues at country level.

b) The Great Inga Dam Project and Harmonization of Energy Regulatory Frameworks

22. The Committee commended the Commission for the initiatives on energy and infrastructure and encouraged it to redouble efforts. The energy sector is critical to development efforts and the phenomenon of load shedding being widely experienced in many countries is disruptive to economic growth. The Committee therefore commended the Chairperson for vision and leadership in pushing the energy and infrastructure projects.

23. The Grand Inga Dam Project is a long-standing continental project, to boost energy generation within a continental harmonized regulation framework for the Energy Sector. The INGA 3 feasibility study phase has been completed and there is agreement between the three principal parties on its financing needs and the contributions from each: Private sector USD 4.6 billion; DRC USD 3.43 billion; and South Africa USD 2 billion. A key factor was resolving the governance issue and placing the project within a regional framework. Several financial institutions are interested and await solution to these issues.

24. There are currently six regulatory frameworks (SADC, ECOWAS, EAC, etc) and some countries do not belong to any of these. On top of that, several countries are in the process of putting in place national regulatory frameworks. There is thus an urgent need to harmonize and streamline regulatory frameworks.

25. The Committee supports proposed initiatives towards regulatory framework harmonization through:

   i.) An assessment report on existing regulatory frameworks at all levels, including gaps, weaknesses and opportunities in the energy sector, and relevant continental and global best practices;

   ii.) Initiate consultations with RECS, Regional power Pools, ADB, ECA and Associations of Regional Regulatory Frameworks to develop guidelines for a harmonized continental and regional energy regulatory framework.

26. And furthermore recommends that:

   i.) In view of the great number of infrastructure projects at country and regional level, efforts should be deployed to align country level and regional initiatives on infrastructure, and in this regard, a meeting of Ministers of Transport should be convened as soon as possible in order to align on-going infrastructure initiatives;

   ii.) To ensure rapid progress on implementation of infrastructure projects, quality leadership, coordination and resources must all come together for effective delivery of infrastructure projects through PIDA's institutional architecture;

iii.) The AUC should facilitate the process, and Member States must take responsibility to make use of the opportunities presented;

iv.) The AUC should facilitate structured dialogues at country level in order to fast track implementation of Summit decisions.

c) The Single African Aviation Market

27. Aviation is a strategic sector, critical to speeding up regional integration and contributing to the structural transformation of the continent. An AAFRA study of 12 countries shows that liberalization of air transport would generate 150,000 jobs in aviation, tourism and contribute USD 1.2 billion to the GDP of these countries. The benefits besides these include reduced costs of travel, increased connection between African cities and commercial centres, and will lead to increased investments and trade opportunities among African countries.

28. At the time of the adoption of the Yamoussoukro decision, African Airlines had 60% of the African market share. As a result of non-implementation, this has declined to 20% in 2014; and there is every possibility of further losses unless action is taken, resulting in the disappearance of several African airlines. Currently, 24 African countries have "open skies" agreements with foreign airlines while there are no such agreements among African countries. Furthermore, foreign airlines are often granted better facilities and rates at airports.

29. The Committee recommends that:

i.) The Executive Council should reaffirm its support for the establishment of a single African Air Transport market, in line with the Yamoussoukro Declaration and Decision; and to submit the matter for discussion at the January 2015 Summit.

ii.) Members of the Committee undertook to champion this matter in their countries and regions.

iii.) The African Union Commission should prepare a clear proposal for consideration by the Summit on the way forward for African aviation.

d) Outer Space

30. Outer space is of critical importance to the development of the continent in all fields: agriculture, disaster management, remote sensing, climate forecast, banking and finance, as well as defence and security. Africa's access to space technology products is no longer a matter of luxury and there is a need to speed up access to these technologies and products. New developments in satellite technologies make these very accessible to African countries. The Brazzaville meeting on aerial space technologies

underlines the need for appropriate policies and strategies in order to develop regional market for space products.

31. The continent must build human capital in space technologies as part of the continental skills revolution, and mobilize universities. In this regard it was noted that South Africa has been designated to host the Pan African Institute on space sciences.

32. The Committee noted with concerns the moves underway to pass a resolution on limiting the launch of additional satellites due to over-crowding in outer space. This should be resisted by African countries since they were not responsible for the current situation and the resolution if passed would severely affect African countries ability to benefit from outer space activities. In this regard African countries should speak with one voice.

33. The Committee further urged that efforts be made to help address current difficulties of RASCOM.

e) Pan African E-Network

34. This project was launched at the initiative of the Government of India, the initial 5 year phase was completed in July 2014 and it has been extended for a further 2 years till 2016, at which time it is expected to be fully owned by African countries. The project has had some impact; the network is now in place with 48 Member States signing agreements to use the network. About 16,700 students have enrolled online to study in various Indian universities.

35. A sustainability study was done which put forward two options: (i) Member States to own and subsidize operations and maintenance of the network; (ii) hire a private entity to operate the network – this may be costly and unprofitable in the early years. An Action Plan has been developed with the goal of submitting it for approval at the January 2015 Summit. The project has not attracted partner funding and there is a funding gap of USD 230,000 for 2015.

36. The Committee therefore recommendations to the Executive Council:

i.) Request for Organs to approve the budget of USD 230,000 required.

ii.) AUC should take charge of some key projects as partners are unlikely or unwilling to fund some strategic projects, especially the preparatory activities. In this regard there needs to be a mindset change.

Agenda Item 4
EBOLA

37. The Committee received a briefing from the Commission on the continental and AU response to the Ebola Virus Disease in parts of West Africa. Following the Emergency Executive Council meeting on 8 September 2014, the Commissioner Social

Affairs and the AUC Chairperson visited the three countries and the need for upscaled deployments of health workers under ASEOWA was emphasized. The AUC Chairperson wrote to all Heads of State and Government, requesting them to make available medical personnel towards the ASEOWA mission. A number of countries responded positively, and the deployment of health workers from Member states has started, with Nigeria, Ethiopia, DRC and Kenya due for December and January. The Commission also convened a business Roundtable and African businesses rallied behind the AU efforts to raise resources for this upscaled deployments.

38. The Chairperson of the Commission raised concern with regard to the implementation of the decision Emergency Executive Council of September 2014, and the fact that African airlines, with the exception of Air Ivoire and Royal Air Maroc, have not yet resumed flights to the affected countries. She also deplored the travel bans and stigmatization of citizens of the affected countries, and the impact this has on the functioning of some AU institutions.

39. The Committee encouraged the Commission to send regular reminders to Member States to follow-up on their pledges and commitments to the fight against Ebola.

Agenda Item 5
SILENCING THE GUNS

40. The Commission reported that a draft Action plan towards implementing the decision of the 2013 Anniversary Declaration for the continent to silence the guns by 2020 is being developed, based on an analysis of conflict trends, particularly poverty, social and political exclusion and extremism. Attention is also paid to the illicit movement of arms, illicit transfer of finances to and from the continent, and one of the major triggers for violent conflicts, the illegal extraction of natural resources.

41. The meeting recommended that:

    i.)   The African Union Commission presents the plan of action document upon completion to the PRC and then to the Executive Council for discussion and reflection.

Agenda Item 6
ELECTIONS IN AFRICA DURING 2015

42. The AU Commission presented the frameworks of democracy and election mandate, which are derived from several instruments and aim at promoting democracy, rule of law and human rights on the continent. She briefed the meeting on the programme on democracy and elections, which focuses on: election observation that includes long term and short term observation missions, pre-elections assessment missions, and institutional capacity building.

43. During 2015, there will be nineteen (19) elections across the continent, 11 of which are considered sensitive. The year will therefore be an important test of Africa's democratic processes. The Commission therefore requires the assistance of Member States, firstly in the funding of the assessment and observer missions and secondly, with providing observers.

44. In discussing the report, the Committee noted the need for vigilance during the year to ensure that the situation is monitored closely, to react accordingly and timely, including deployment of the Panel of the Wise where needed. It highlighted the need to interrogate the assumption that elections automatically address the underlying governance, and social, economic and political cleavages, that give rise to conflicts.

45. The Committee made the following recommendations:

   i.)   Based on experiences of elections observation to date, there is a need for review of the electoral observation mechanism, including the development of a permanent electoral observation architecture within the AU Commission, coordination across different institutions, that provides for verification of allegations made during elections, with proper documentation and sustainable communication with PRC and the PAP;

   ii.)   Algeria having been the only African financial contributor to the electoral observations process, it is critical for the continent to develop financial independence to implement this programme.

Agenda Item 7
2015 YEAR OF WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT TOWARDS AGENDA 2063

46. The Commission presented the Concept paper on the 2015 Theme, highlighting the following issues:

   a)   There is large degree of consensus and evidence of the social benefits of gender equality and the empowerment of women, on families, communities and increasing evidence of economic benefits, in addition to women's rights as human rights. Societies with greater gender equality, also tend to be more socially and economically inclusive and tolerant. African struggles for women's rights are rooted in history of continental social formations, including the existence of strong matriarchal societies, and the role the women's movement played in the struggles against slavery, colonialism and apartheid. African women remain an important component of the global women's movement, including their role in the Beijing Women's conference of 1995. The continent has a comprehensive set of policies and instruments on gender equality, not least the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality, the African Decade of Women, and the Women's Protocol.

b) The theme year in 2015 is, therefore, significant building on the achievements of the past and addressing challenges Africa still faces to change women's lives across the continent. The following are the objectives for the year:

i. Sensitising men and women on the need for decisive movement forward on gender equality and women's empowerment, as a key driver and necessary conditions for the implementation of Agenda 2063;

ii. Ensure tangible change in critical areas that impact on the status of African women, including agriculture, economic empowerment, participation and security and peace at country, regional and continental levels and learning from best practices.

c) The Concept note also proposes sub-themes and coordination structures for the Theme activities at all levels.

47. The meeting discussed and shared experiences on taking forward the gender agenda and concrete strategies and programmes being implemented at RECs and at country levels. The strategies include the role of the judiciary, economic issues such as cross border trade, financial inclusion, the African women's fund, agriculture; the role of quotas to increase women's representation; peace and security; gender-based violence; equal access to services, and rights, especially land and inheritance rights; women's health issues and in elections; investments in girls' education and gender parity in education at all levels. There was general consensus that leadership commitment at all levels to gender equality is critical, and that measures must be taken to sensitise societies, to change attitudes and address harmful cultural and religious practices.

48. The Committee agreed that the inputs from the discussions will be used to amend and enrich the Theme document, and that all Member States and RECs be encouraged to prepare their concrete plans for the Year of Women.

Agenda Item 8
THE CREATION OF AN ANNUAL AFRICA PLATFORM (POLITICAL, BUSINESS, PRIVATE SECTOR, ACADEMIA, CIVIL SOCIETIES)

49. The proposal for such a platform arose from the Bahir Dar Retreat, and the Commission presented a draft Concept note for consideration, with recommendations and follow-up actions. The Committee agreed on the implementation of the platform, however, it recommended that the Platform in its formative stages be fully funded by African resources. In this regard, it was proposed that the AU Foundation become the funding body.

50. Based on the presentation, the Committee noted that reflections on the platform are still work in progress, and agreed to discuss the issue once finalized.

Agenda Item 9
PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

51.   The Commission recalled the decision of the Commission to evaluate the state of the current University Networks, as well as to look at the necessary funds to establish centres to push the network forward. Not much has been done due to insufficient resources to conduct the evaluation. However, a working team of experts has been established comprised of AU Commission Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology, Department of Infrastructure and Energy, in addition to selected distance universities from across the continent. The team will meet for the first time in December 2014.

52.   The Meeting requested the AU Commission to submit the evaluation report to the next Summit as was requested by the Heads of States and Governments in Malabo.

Agenda Item 10
AFRICAN PASSPORT

53.   The Commission presented the work done on moving towards an African Passport as an integral part of the integration process, to facilitate the free movement of people within the continent.

54.   The Committee agreed on the centrality of the African passport to integration, as a passport is perceived as a badge of sovereignty and nationality, as well as a symbol of differentiation amongst Africans. The discussions on this issue must also take in consideration other continental factors such as labour markets and peace and security, and explore how cooperation can enhance these issues. The groundwork for a common passport should be pursued, especially in terms of the readiness of Member States to activate biometric passports, as well as the harmonization of the characteristics of the passport. The Committee noted that ECOWAS has achieved a common passport and free movement of people and goods, and is currently working on eliminating the requirement of work permits. ECOWAS' experience and success can be used as a case study to build on.

55.   Based on the discussions, the Committee recommended the following next steps:

   i.)   The AU Commission should engage on regular basis the relevant stakeholders on the issue of immigration, for example: Immigration Ministers and service chiefs;

   ii.)   Identify Heads of State who can act as champion for the African passport, and to promote looking at Africa as a community and not a continent;

   iii.)   The need to do some serious reflections on the fears that Member States may have, particularly in terms of security and fraud, in this regard also

raise the issue with the meetings of Ministers in Charge of Immigration and Vital Statistics.

Agenda Item 11
PROGRESS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

56. The Progress Report on the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area was presented by the Commission. Based on the decision and road map adopted by Heads of State and Government, negotiations on the Tripartite Free Trade Area are well advanced, with signature of the Agreement scheduled for May 2015 in Egypt. Negotiations on the other regional blocs are not forthcoming.

57. The Commission recalled the decision of the Malabo Summit in June 2014 urging the Commission to launch the CFTA negotiations in 2015, and to this end, the Commission has taken actions to put in place an African Trade Observatory and a Business Council, as important elements of the CFTA architecture. The Commission has also undertaken consultative meetings with some of the RECs to be pursued in other RECs before the launch of the CFTA negotiations and further studies are to be undertaken to ensure proper implementation. She also related the importance of the CFTA to boosting intra-African trade.

58. The Commission requested guidance on the following next steps (a) proposed changes to the structure of the Department based on its new mandate: (b) whether to include the Ministers of Trade in the composition of the High Level African Trade Committee, (c) on a possible joint retreat of the Bahir Dar Follow-up Committee and Ministers of Trade to synchronise the political and technical aspects of the CFTA and (d) whether to move with those countries that are ready. She concluded by highlighting some of the elements for negotiations such as level of liberalization, parallel or sequencing of negotiations on goods and services, free movement of people as well as the urgent need to seek for alternative sources of funding for the establishment of the CFTA.

59. After discussions on the report, the Committee made the following recommendations:

i.) The AUC should proceed with launching the CFTA negotiations in 2015 as scheduled. Joint discussions between Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Trade, possibly a retreat are advisable, but this should not prevent the start of the negotiations processes.

ii.) The experience of some RECs should be emulated to calculate and factor in, the share of intra-Africa trade so as to get a true picture of the volume of intra-African trade.

iii.) On the issue of free movement of people, the business communities across Africa and the African population must be brought on board.

Agenda Item 12
DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMODITIES STRATEGY

60.   It will be recalled the Bahir Dar decision to commission a commodities strategy for Africa and informed the meeting of the activities undertaken by DTI working with the Departments of Agriculture and Rural Economy, Infrastructure and Energy, and Human Resources, Science and Technology. Three sub-committees were established to work on a strategy for Agriculture, Mining and Energy markets respectively, in close consultation with the RECs, ACP Secretariat, UNCTAD, ECA and other institutions. The main aspects to be considered in the strategy include commodity pricing, commodity as a resource curse or opportunity, linkages between commodities and financial markets, and industrialization through commodities, taking into consideration the findings of the UNECA reports on commodities-based industrialization.

61.   The meeting made the following observations:

   a)   Angola once a country where minerals stirred conflicts, now uses mineral revenues to foster rapid development in infrastructure, communications, energy and diversification of the economy;

   b)   African economies remained geared towards export of raw materials, a situation nurtured in order to keep the colonial legacy;

   c)   Africa will undergo structural transformation only when it is able to influence the regulation of commodity pricing and earn more revenues through the processing of its natural resources into finished or semi-finished goods.

62.   The Committee recommended that:

   i.)   The continent embarks on a consolidated political engagement for sub-regional, regional and continental industrialization and integration through production rather than through trade.

The meeting was adjourned.

2015-01-31

AGENDA 2063 Report of the Commission on the African Union Agenda 2063 the Africa We Want in 2063

African Union

DCMP