

AFRICAN UNION

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OUTCOMES OF THE BAHIR DAR MINISTERIAL RETREAT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON AGENDA 2063

24-26 JANUARY 2014

*As adopted by the 24th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council,
27-28 January 2014, Addis Ababa (Rev.1)*

A. INTRODUCTION

- A1. The Bahir Dar Ministerial Retreat of the Executive Council, hosted by and under the Chairpersonship of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, deliberated on the evolving Agenda 2063 Framework and contributed to the collective reflections of Africans on their past, present and the future they want. The retreat took place during the last phase of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the OAU/AU, with its theme “Pan Africanism and African Renaissance.’
- A2. The continent-wide agenda is being elaborated at a moment of great opportunities for Africa, with positive movements on the political, social and economic fronts. At the same time, Africa continues to face the challenge of overcoming the legacy of colonialism, exploitation, underdevelopment and marginalization.
- A3. Agenda 2063 seeks to elaborate the agenda for the next fifty years, to galvanize and unite in action all Africans and the Diaspora around the common vision of a peaceful, integrated and prosperous Africa, driven by its citizens and taking its rightful place in the world. As an overarching framework, it provides internal coherence and coordination to continental, regional and national frameworks and plans adopted by the OAU and AU, Members states and RECs.
- A4. The Retreat noted the two pronged-approach towards the development of Agenda 2063, widespread consultations with all formations of African society and the Diaspora backed by rigorous technical analysis, including baseline studies and benchmarking, review of all national development plans,

scenarios and trend analysis through the joint AUC, ADB, ECA and NEPAD team, as outlined in the Progress report on Agenda 2063.

B. VISION

- B1. The Bahir Dar retreat agreed on the continental consensus on the African vision, and notes the emerging central tenets and aspirations contained in the Agenda 2063 Framework document, the AU Commission Chairperson's '*Agenda 2063: an e-mail from the future*' and other presentations and inputs made during consultations and at the Retreat;
- B2. The Retreat further agreed that the dream of an Africa that is integrated, peaceful and prosperous is achievable, provided that we construct this future, based on actions taken now. We must furthermore unite in action as Member states, Regional Economic Communities, the African Union and all its organs, all continental formations and stakeholders, the African citizenry and peoples of African descent, for the realization of the goals, milestones and targets we set in Agenda 2063.
- B3. That Agenda 2063 is an endogenous plan of transformation, that seeks to harness the continent's comparative advantages such as its people, history and cultures; its natural resources; its position and repositioning in the world to effect equitable and people-centred growth and development and eradicate poverty; develop Africa's human capital; build social assets, infrastructure and public goods; empower women and youth; promote lasting peace and security; and strengthen and develop effective, strong developmental states and participatory and accountable institutions and governance. However, there is a need for more precise definition of the type of transformation that Africa desires that will place us on this trajectory and lead to the development architecture to attain our goals.
- B4. The acceleration and consolidation of African integration and unity; the participation, solidarity and determination of its leadership and peoples and the structural transformation of African economies and societies are preconditions for success.
- B5. The Retreat stressed the importance of Africa funding for its institutions and programmes, as a critical enabler for the implementation of Agenda 2063.
- B6. Agenda 2063 is a continuation of the Pan African drive over centuries for self-determination, progress and freedom, and central to the realization of the African renaissance and century.

C. AFRICA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD

- C1. The Retreat noted that Africa's transformation takes place in the context of an unfolding global situation and trends, including the ongoing realignments of the global economic, geopolitical, security and social landscapes; changes and advances in technology, production, trade, knowledge and labour markets; the opportunities presented by global demographic trends and the growing global middle classes in emerging and developing countries and regions;
- C2. That by 2063 Africa's population is projected to reach 30% of the world's population, Asia 50%, however our share of the world's GDP is projected to be only 10%. Our transformation agenda must change this GDP trajectory, with industrialization as the key driver, linked with agriculture and food security.
- C3. That we are also conscious of the uncertainty in the global environment, and the potential of shocks and developments that may impact on Africa's trajectory, and that we need to build resilience to mitigate and take advantage of such changes.
- C4. That African engagement with the rest of the world continues to be defined by the ebbs and falls of demand for its natural resources and primary products; the migration of its peoples (forced or otherwise), but also by its contributions to global culture, geo-politics and to progressive human ideals of progress, tolerance, freedom and justice, as captured by the Pan African movement.
- C5. That Africa needs to take charge of its global narrative and brand, to ensure that it reflects continental realities, aspirations and priorities and Africa's position in the world.
- C6. The Retreat reaffirms African unity and solidarity in the face of continued external interference including by multi-national corporations, attempts to divide the continent and undue pressures and illegal sanctions on some countries.
- C7. To position Africa in the world, by strengthening our common perspectives on partnerships that reflects the unity of the continent and its priorities and perspectives on matters of global importance, ensuring co-chairing of all Summits and forums on Africa. Such common perspectives would increase bargaining power, bring about balance in the kind of partnerships that Africa enters into and promoting Africa's common interests and agenda.

D. THREATS AND RISKS

- E1. The Retreat analyzed the old and new threats faced by the continent, including scrambles for its resources in the face of changing global demands

and demographics; undue external influence in the affairs of the continent; its disproportionate burden of the impact of climate change; and the huge scale of illicit outflows of African resources and capital.

- E2. The potential internal threats posed by rapid population growth, youth unemployment, conflicts and internal strife and growing inequality and subjective threats such as weak institutions, state fragility, exclusion and poor management of diversity; terrorism and trans-national crime; rent-seeking, corruption and lack of accountability.
- E3. The Retreat acknowledged that these threats and challenges can be mitigated and turned into opportunities through collective strategies and effective public policies and actions.

E. ENABLERS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS

The retreat noted that Africa's drive for transformation will be facilitated by key enablers, among these are:

- E1. *Building and promotion of Peace and Security* as a critical condition for development, growth and human security, through African solutions and responses, promotion of tolerance, reconciliation and forgiveness, domestic resource mobilization for African peace-keeping and peace-building and the inclusive management of diversity and resources. The Retreat noted the financial and human cost of conflicts, in particular the costs of expenditure on arms, mainly from manufacturers outside of the continent. The Retreat agreed that we must learn from past and present success stories of peaceful resolution to disputes, such as the peaceful settlement of Bakassi Peninsula case between Nigeria and Cameroon, which was settled after a twenty-year process through mutually agreed international arbitration.
- E2. *Effective management and the beneficiation of African resources to effect transformation, inclusive growth and industrialization.*
- E3. *Structural transformation* of African economies and societies, through high and sustained rates of economic growth, diversification and industrialization, human capital development, agriculture and food security, infrastructure development, the provision of basic services and public goods, the promotion of intra-African trade and investment, effective and accountable governance and institutions and faster economic and political integration.
- E4. *Investment in human capital development, in order to reap the demographic dividend, with special focus on the empowerment of women and youth and investments in skills, science, technology, research and innovation.*
- E5. *Effective and visionary leadership with political commitment and accountability, coupled with the mobilization and participation of African citizens and strata.*

- E6. *Effective, accountable and participatory institutions and governance* based on transparent laws and rules, effective public policy and services, strengthening the role of the state in development, enhancing the legitimacy of institutions and building public trust. We must develop general principals around the evolution of African developmental states.
- E7. *Domestic mobilization of Finances and Resources* to speed up African development, leverage national, regional and continental resources and to fund African institutions, democratic governance and peace-building.
- E8. *Accelerated Regional integration* at the centre of the continental transformation agenda.
- E9. *A Paradigm shift through the promotion of Pan African values and attitudes* and build confidence in the continent, how we take forward implementation of our plans, a change of gears in how we do business, with progress in regional integration as the major indicator of this paradigm shift.
- E10. Taking charge of *the African narrative* and the development of Brand Africa, confidence in Africa's potential and abilities, and communication to inform the citizenry and the world about African developments.

F. MAKING IMPLEMENTATION HAPPEN

The Retreat noted that Africa must make vigorous efforts to boost implementation focusing, among others, on the following:

- F1. Strengthen continental and regional coordination mechanisms, especially ensuring clarity of roles and responsibilities between the AUC and RECs on the one hand, and AUC and Member states on the other in the implementation of major frameworks such as PIDA, NEPAD.
- F2. Greater emphasis in action on the role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as integration building blocks and in the implementation of Agenda 2063.
- F3. Foster greater unity of the continent and working together, speaking with one voice, mobilization of the citizenry, building strong institutions, financing and resources.
- F4. Establish clear and measurable milestones, benchmarks, targets (5 or 10 year time frames) and domestication of continental frameworks into national processes, backed by a rigorous Metrics for monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the implementation and impact of our plans at national, regional, sectoral and continental levels.
- F5. Promote Peer review mechanisms, mutual learning processes, the building of the African knowledge base and the collection of data and statistics, to underpin planning and monitoring of our plans.

G. KEY STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FOR 2014

Agenda 2063 is a broad strategic framework for collective action to fast-track Africa's socio-economic and political development. The Retreat identified a number of strategic initiatives that are critical in the short-term to give added impetus to this process:

- G1. *Consolidate African initiatives and strategies on accelerated human capital development, science and technology and innovation:* Africa should lead the new industrial revolution by building a skilled workforce, capitalizing on the digital revolution and global knowledge. This will contribute to rapid diversification of sources of growth, sustain current economic performance and lift large sections out of poverty and create a powerful middle class. The African skills revolution must be conceptualized adequately, including the role of the Pan African University, building our universities as centers of excellence, build continental complementarities in education and learning from best practices in Africa and the world at large.
- G2. *Decisive actions to strengthen management of African resources, the push for industrialization and agricultural development:* the development of a commodity strategy that will result in Africa regaining control of the pricing of key commodities of it is the dominant producer, building examples such as the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange. Furthermore, Africa should also push for a commodity adjustment factor to take account of fluctuations in currency.
- In the Year of Agriculture and Food Security, a concerted push on increased agricultural productivity and agro-processing, strengthening resilience in the face of climate change, effective management of water resources, strengthen African initiatives such as the African Green Wall to combat desertification.
- G3. *Accelerated Regional Integration initiatives:* Urgently identify and implement measures that require limited financial resources but have substantial impacts such as eliminating bureaucratic bottle necks that hinder intra African trade (e.g. cross border transit, movement of people and goods, checkpoints and other rent seeking behaviors); harmonizing legal and regulatory frameworks that aid intra-Africa trade. Fast track measures to foster continental integration based on solidarity, the need for lead countries or clusters to act as locomotives and poles of growth and shared benefits for all. We must develop milestones and benchmarks for regional integration and a deliberate strategy to go beyond harmonization standards towards actively building poles of growth.
- G4. *Pooled sovereignty, integration and common African positions:* this is an evolving concept, and we can foster greater unity in action through the concept of pooled sovereignty to address common interest, key areas where

Africa benefits from block negotiations, the indivisibility of Africa in negotiating partnerships, such as: (i) trade; (ii) climate change, the Green economy and collective food security; (iii) fisheries, marine resources and the Blue Economy; and (iv) the global Post-2015 and Sustainable development agendas. Empower the AU Commission to lead and coordinate such negotiations. A good example from developing world is Mercosur.

- G5. *Strengthened efforts to end conflicts*, maintaining peace and a sustained strategy to silence the guns by 2020 and reform of the UN Security Council. African solutions and inclusive management of diversity and resources. Promote African solutions, tolerance, forgiveness and reconciliation, social, economic and political inclusion and the management of diversity and resources. Full operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, including the African Standby Force and consideration of an African Security Pact with entrenched rules.
- G6. *Strength financial independence and sustainability* of key continental bodies such as the AU Commission by adopting strategies for self-financing of both operational and programme activities, including in elections and peace and security issues. Regional models (e.g. ECOWAS) may provide alternative options to consider. Ensure that the upcoming meeting of Finance and Trade Ministers in March 2014 in Abuja (which will consider the two High level reports on Alternative sources of funding and on Illicit capital flows, including capital flights) takes in consideration the perspectives of this retreat. In addition to the proposals already adopted by the May Summit, the basket of measures should include consideration of the proposal from the Retreat for a 0.5% levy on national budgets, towards financing the AU institutions and programmes.
- G7. Renewed push on the *hard integration issues*, including infrastructure and agricultural development and industrialization; and the movement towards regional and continental free trade areas, including timelines.
- G8. Strengthening the *key integration institutions*: including the AUC, PAP (model laws), RECs, financial institutions, Court and Commission for Peoples and Human rights, etc.
- G9. Create an annual Economic Platform for regular engagement between the political leadership, business leaders, intellectuals, civil society and the private sector on the continent. We should furthermore revive and strengthen the key Pan Africanist movements, including the women and youth movements.
- G10. *Communication* with the African citizenry and the Diaspora, building an African peoples movement for transformation and implementation of the African Governance Architecture and the APRM recommendations in order to deepen democracy and improve the quality of governance.
- G11. *Continual redefinition of Africa's place in the world*, by strengthening our common perspectives on partnerships (including upcoming partnership summits and meetings, and multilateral negotiations and forums), that

reflects the unity of the continent and its priorities and perspectives on matters of global importance.

H. FOLLOW-UP ACTION & RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS

- H1. **Executive Council:** a Committee of Ministers to follow-up on implementation of Retreat outcomes; and provide guidance on the development and implementation of Agenda 2063. The Retreat agreed that the Committee of Ministers on Agenda 2063, shall consists of Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Ghana, and Rwanda, joined by the Chairpersons of the RECs, the outgoing and incoming Chairperson of the Executive Council, joined by the existing Committee made of the AUC Chairperson, the CEO of NEPAD Agency, the President of the AfDB and the Executive Secretary of the UNECA. The Committee will operate for a period of two years, and will be reviewed to allow for rotation and regional balance.
- H2. The Retreat agreed on the institutionalization of the Foreign Ministers Retreat before the Summit, around a specific theme or themes, to enable joint strategizing and monitoring of continental priorities. Promote the involvement of Ministers, in addition to HOSG, in continental tasks and panels, with to further effective and broad-based analysis, implementation and review, recalling the role played by the OAU Liberation Committee in driving and mobilizing solidarity around the decolonization project.
- H3. **Member States:** commit to provide feedback and inputs on the Agenda 2063 Framework and the links to national and regional plans; popularization and consultations with citizenry on Agenda 2063, and the possibility of national multi-stakeholder forums for Agenda 2063.
- H4. **AU Commission:** develop action plan to give effect to the retreat outcomes, drive and coordinate implementation; engage retreat outcomes with other AU organs, the RECs and all other relevant stakeholders. Effective preparations in consultation with Member states and Organs for upcoming partnership summits (Europe, US, etc) and multilateral negotiations on issues mentioned above.
- H5. To present the Agenda 2063 framework for adoption at June/July 2014 Summit, and the first ten year plan to the January 2015 Summit.

THE END

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