

**AFRICAN UNION**

**الاتحاد الأفريقي**



**UNION AFRICAINE**

**UNIÃO AFRICANA**

---

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 517 700

Fax: 5130 36

website: [www. www. au. int](http://www.au.int)

---

CP16393

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Twenty-Eighth Ordinary Session**

**23 - 28 January 2016**

**Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

**EX.CL/928(XXVIII)v**

**Original: English**

**REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION  
JULY TO DECEMBER 2015**

## REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION JULY TO DECEMBER 2015<sup>1</sup>

### Introduction

1. During the period under review, the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation under the Chairmanship of the Arab Republic of Egypt, decided to establish an open-ended Working Group to all members of the Subcommittee. The Working Group, which is an expert group, would be an advisory and consultative body for the Subcommittee.

2. In this context, the Sub-Committee and its Working Group, held 19 meetings that enabled them to address most of the issues decided upon by the 25<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union. These meetings recorded a high attendance by its members, regularly exceeding two thirds of the membership.

3. This period in particular witnessed the following major developments:

- a) A preliminary review of the 62 page draft Evaluation Report of the Strategic Partnerships, which was prepared for the African Union Commission with the technical and financial support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and submitted to the Sub-committee in November 2014;
- b) The 3<sup>rd</sup> India-Africa Forum Summit, held in New Delhi, India (26-29 October 2015);
- c) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa (4-5 December 2015).

4. This Report summarizes the issues discussed and conclusions reached at these meetings. It is divided into two parts: the first part addresses general issues related to Strategic Partnerships, while the second part summarizes the deliberations regarding each Strategic Partnership.

---

<sup>1</sup> Egypt (Chair), Djibouti (1<sup>st</sup> Vice), Côte d'Ivoire (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice), Mozambique (3<sup>rd</sup> Vice) Chad (Rapporteur), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, The Gambia, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Seychelles, and Zimbabwe.

## **PART I. General Issues Relating to the Work of the Sub-Committee on Strategic Partnerships**

### ***1.1 Working Method***

5. The Sub-Committee agreed that the African side should prepare its own working documents for the Summits that capture the position of the African Union, and on that basis engage with the Partner, rather than being reactive to the documents submitted by Partners (Declaration, Strategic Areas of Cooperation, Action Plan, etc.).

6. The Working Group held 13 meetings to critically review the document on Evaluation of Strategic Partnerships and to engage in the preparation and review of the working documents for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-India Forum Summit; the Working Group also deliberated on other issues of which the outcomes were reported to the Sub-Committee.

### ***1.2 Evaluation of Strategic Partnerships***

7. Paragraph 11.1 of Executive Council June 2015 Decision EX.CL/Dec.877 (XXVII), requested the PRC “to ensure that discussions and negotiations on substantive issues with respect to partnerships be guided by the outcome of the Evaluation of the Strategic Partnerships and to submit recommendations regarding the said Evaluation to the January 2016 Summit”.

8. The objective of the aforementioned 2014 document on Evaluation of Strategic Partnership was to conduct a review of the nine (9) Strategic Partnerships<sup>2</sup> entered into by Africa through the African Union, to determine their continued relevance, as well as their benefits and value addition to the Africa Union and more specifically, to its Member States, as well as to the region as a whole.

9. However, the Sub-Committee recognized a number of key limitations outlined in this document, primarily the following:

- a) The views of RECs, NPCA and Member States were not considered in this document, as the consultant was not able to visit those important stakeholders due to budgetary and time constraints.
- b) The consultant was not able to meet more members of the Sub-committee to consolidate the very informative and directive feedback received from the Chair of the Sub-Committee and the Chair of the African Union before submitting the 2014 document.

---

<sup>2</sup> Africa-Arab Partnership, Africa-India Partnership, Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Africa-Korea Forum, Africa-South America Cooperation Forum (ASA), Africa-EU Partnership, Africa-Turkey Partnership and Africa-US Partnership.

- c) Most partnership data and information collected fail to differentiate between continental/regional cooperation and bilateral cooperation.

**10.** Hence, taking into account the outcomes of the aforementioned 2014 document on Evaluation of Strategic Partnerships, and its key limitations, the Sub-Committee decided to submit recommendations in an overall evaluation report that is currently work in progress. In this context, the Sub-Committee, through its Working Group and with the support of the Commission, drafted the following two documents that shall form integral parts of the envisaged overall evaluation report which will assist the African Union to better interact with partners:

- a) An African Union Outline Framework for Partnerships (Annex 1): The purpose of this document is to develop a template which will guide the African Union in engaging with its Strategic Partners, and practically provide guidance on the approach and baselines that underpin the identification of areas of cooperation and development of working documents for the Partnerships, which the African Union is engaged in, taking into consideration what Africa wants to achieve in the next three to four years in accordance with the priorities stipulated in the African Union Agenda 2063 First Ten Year Implementation Plan. In this context, it is worth noting the following:
  - i) The resolve to adopt this dynamic approach stemmed from the need to deviate from the status quo that has maintained over time, where the African Union Partners have been allowed the prerogative to develop concepts that guide relationships between both parties that ordinarily should have been joint efforts, spelling out the areas of needs for both sides.
  - ii) The strategy to adopt in engaging with Partners and developing frameworks for cooperation as well as determining areas of cooperation should be premised on the fact that Africa needs something from Partners and Partners need something from Africa. In that respect, time has come for Africa to first identify its needs and gaps that may exist which require the support of Partners, and then further identify the Partners that have such competencies to assist.
  - iii) In undertaking this exercise, and in addition to the aforementioned 2014 draft Report on the Evaluation of Strategic Partnerships, the relevant African Union reference documents were used. The Partnerships Management and Coordination Division (PMCD) was also required to liaise with the various African Union Commission (AUC) technical Departments in order to collect their views as their involvement in the process is critical.

- iv) A more detailed Outline Framework or prototype with the technical content that will highlight the core competencies, comparative and competitive advantages of Partners as well as the needs and gaps of the African Continent, would be developed after receiving inputs from AUC technical Departments and after the process of evaluating the Strategic Partnerships has been completed and recommendations adopted. It is believed that the generic Outline Framework document will guide future development of all Strategic Partnership documents.
- v) It is observed that some of the African Union Partners seek visibility and would readily accept to engage cooperation in various areas that may fall outside their core competencies. In that regard, Africa should focus its partnership with respective partners on specific areas, after conducting an assessment on the prospective Partners' abilities to engage in identified areas of cooperation. This will ensure that partners actively and effectively deliver on the agreed areas of cooperation.
- vi) In addition to the principles enshrined in the African Union Constitutive Act, there is a need to further identify guiding Principles that are expected to establish the platforms necessary to provide guidelines on the baselines and approach that underpin the identification of areas of cooperation, development of framework for cooperation and necessary working documents for the Partnerships that the African Union is engaged in. Hence, seven guiding principles have been developed (strategic focus, stakeholder inclusiveness, conciseness and reliability, self-reliance on initiation of concept and funding, development of Strategic Partnerships Forum/Summit Declarations, monitoring and evaluation, future outlook).
- b) A Matrix on Areas for Cooperation (Annex 2): The purpose of this document is to indicate the existing structured/formalized Strategic Partnerships, including the current areas of cooperation and the envisaged priority areas, as well as their justification. The Matrix is aligned with the First Ten Year Plan of the African Union Agenda 2063. It is envisaged that this Matrix will guide the formulation of the African Union Program Budget particularly, with respect to programs funded jointly with Partners.

**11.** Thereafter, the Sub-committee began considering the Report on the Evaluation of Strategic Partnerships prepared by the Commission, focusing on the challenges and recommendations together with the nine case studies on the Strategic Partnerships. In doing so, the following major challenges emerged:

- a) First: Should these partnerships remain primarily about African bilateral relationships with the partner, or should they be managed within a multilateral context that provides for a significant regional or continental impact that helps Africa implement Agenda 2063?

- b) Second: If the African multilateral context is important to our relations with the Partner, and if we need Africa to speak with one voice to the Partner:
  - i) Which Africa are we talking about? All African States? All African Union Member States? Or simply all African States with diplomatic relationships with the Partner?
  - ii) Hence, taking into consideration the relatively limited scope of African diplomatic representation to Partners, compared to the African Union, who should take the lead in representing Africa before the Partner? The African Ambassadors accredited to the African Union, or the African Ambassadors accredited to the Partner?
- c) Third: To what extent should Africa proceed in the direction of multilateralism with its Partners without competing with the pool of resources available to Member States in a bilateral context with the Partners?
- d) Fourth: Given the challenges facing the current application of the Banjul Formula, should this Formula be revised or merely its application? Which partnership merits the visibility accorded by the non-application of the Banjul Formula or by any other agreed formula in the future for rationalized participation?

**12.** These fundamental questions are just examples of the issues that the Sub-Committee is currently seized with. Clearly, an answer is not expected from the PRC at this juncture, until the Sub-Committee exhausts the debate on these matters.

### **Recommendations:**

**13.** At this juncture and in accordance with paragraph 11.1 of the June 2015 Executive Council Decision n° EX.CL/Dec.877 (XXVII), the Sub-Committee proposes to the PRC the following recommendations for adoption by the Executive Council:

- a) Requests the PRC through its Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation to continue its evaluation of Strategic Partnerships and to submit its recommendations in the envisaged overall evaluation report.
- b) To engage the Partners and other relevant stakeholders in the aforementioned Matrix on Areas of Cooperation, with a view to verifying the identified areas of competencies for the partnership relationship.
- c) To align the African Union Program Budget, jointly funded by Partners, according to the priority areas identified in the First Ten Year Implementation Plan.

- d) That the African Ambassadors accredited to the African Union take the lead in representing Africa before the Partners, while soliciting the views of their respective Ambassadors accredited to the Partner.

### **1.3 *Rescheduling of Partnerships Summits***

14. The Sub-Committee noted that several Summits and other Partnership meetings are held while the Sub-Committee has not yet concluded its comprehensive review of the various partnerships relationships as requested by the Summit. In addition, a number of separate Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings were held at different times and in multiple venues in preparation for various Partnership Summits. This situation poses an additional challenge, as preparation for such meetings hinders the completion of the envisaged comprehensive review. In fact, some Members requested a moratorium on Partnership meetings until the comprehensive review is complete, in order to base the interaction with the Partners on clear guidance from the Summit. Others opposed such a moratorium, based on the need to respect current obligations in this regard.

15. The Sub-Committee also noted that most partnerships are on a three year cycle while some are on a five year cycle. In this regard, the Sub-Committee underscored the need to streamline the process of scheduling Partnership meetings, with a view to ensuring uniformity and allowing the accommodation of adequate preparatory processes for all Partnership meetings, while maintaining an adequate level of attendance by Heads of State and Government. The Sub-Committee also considered the proposal by the Working Group to limit the number of Partnership Summits, to be held each year to two Summits, as per the attached schedule (Annex 3).

### **Recommendations:**

16. The Sub-Committee proposes to the PRC to recommend to the Executive Council:

- to encourage Partners or designated host countries to ensure that other Summits' meetings (Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings) are held in the same venue and immediately precede respective Partnership Summits where feasible.
- the adoption and gradual implementation of a five-year cycle for all Partnerships, taking into consideration the need to reschedule previously adopted Partnership meetings accordingly, including at the Summit level, and in consultation with the respective Partners and host countries.

### **1.4 *Involvement of the Sub-Committee at meetings with Partners***

17. Based on the initiation of a Member State, the Sub-Committee discussed the need for the representation of the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation in

AUC delegations travelling within the framework of African Union Partnership, in accordance with a decision by the PRC in this regard. In keeping with this decision, the Commission has to meet the travelling costs of the Chairperson of the PRC, the Chairperson and the Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee agreed on upholding this decision.

**Recommendation:**

**18.** The Sub-Committee recommends to the PRC to request the Commission to ensure that:

- Financial provisions are earmarked to cover the cost of participation of the representatives of the PRC and the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation in all partnership meetings abroad, while ensuring holding such meetings at the Headquarters of the African Union whenever possible.

**Part II. Partnerships Specific Issues**

**2.1 Africa-Arab Partnership**

**19.** The Sub-committee was represented through its Chair at the 8th Senior Officials and 3rd Ministerial meetings of the Africa-Arab Partnership, that were held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 30 August 2015 and New York, USA, 28 September 2015, respectively. The Senior Officials meetings followed up the implementation of the Resolutions of the 3rd Africa-Arab Summit held in Kuwait in November 2013 and the initiatives of H.H. the Amir of Kuwait on Investment and Development. The meeting also finalized the Concept Note on the 4th Africa-Arab Summit that would be held in Equatorial Guinea in 2016.

**20.** The 3rd Ministerial meeting considered the consolidated Report of the Senior Officials meeting on the implementation of the Resolutions of the 3rd Africa-Arab Summit and gave guidance on the way forward. It also endorsed the Concept Note on the Summit, with the exception of Para 27, which reads as follows: "AUC and LAS-GS will send invitations to their respective Member States. The Host Country will send invitations to all Member States of the African Union and the League of Arab States. All invitations should be sent at least three months before the date of the Summit", of which Morocco argues that invitations should be extended only to African and Arab countries that are recognized by the United Nations. The meeting requested the African Union Commission and the League of Arab States to engage in consultations to build consensus on the issue.

**Recommendation:**

**21.** The Sub-committee requests the PRC to recommend to the Executive Council:



- to urge the Commission in collaboration with the League of Arab States to finalize consultations on Paragraph 27 of the Concept Note and continue preparations for the Summit as per the agreed roadmap.

## **2.2 Africa-India Partnership**

**22.** Pursuant to Paragraph 15 of the June 2015 Decision EX.CL/Dec.877 (XXVII), which requested the Commission, in collaboration with the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation to speed up the process of consideration of the draft working documents proposed by the Indian side, the Sub-Committee, through its Working Group, held several meetings to consider the two versions of the Draft Declaration and Framework for Strategic Partnership for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-India Forum Summit, drafted by the Commission and by the Indian side. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-India Forum Summit was successfully held in New Delhi, India from 26 to 29 October 2015.

**23.** In considering these documents the Sub-Committee was guided by the preliminary findings and conclusions of the evaluation on Africa-India Partnership and the goals and aspiration of the Ten Year Implementation Plan of the AU Agenda 2063 and the 2014 -2017 AUC Strategic Plan. The Sub-Committee, through its Bureau also held discussions with the Indian Delegation on the preparation process for the Summit, including on the application of the Banjul Formula.

**24.** After developing the African positions on the two documents, the Sub-Committee, in collaboration with the Commission, through its Chairperson and together with the Chair of the PRC held a two day negotiation meeting with the Indian side in Addis Ababa. The final draft documents agreed by the two sides were endorsed by the PRC and presented to the Senior Officials Meeting on 26 October 2015 in New Delhi. The two documents were further amended by the Senior Officials and Ministerial meetings and adopted by the Summit.

### **Recommendation:**

**25.** The Sub-Committee proposes that the PRC recommends that the Executive Council to:

- Request the Commission in collaboration with the PRC to follow up on the implementation of the Declaration and Framework for Strategic Partnership adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-India Summit.

## **2.3 International Conference on African Development (TICAD)**

**26.** The Sub-Committee focused on the preparations for the TICAD VI Summit, scheduled to be held in Africa in 2016 including the implementation of the Executive Council June 2015 Decision n° EX.CL/Dec.877(XXVII), which “URGED the two countries. The Gambia and Kenya to finalize their consultations for a decision to be taken on the host country for the TICAD VI Summit. Pursuant to the above-mentioned Decision, The Gambia

and Kenya finalized their consultation, reaching an agreement that the Summit would be held in Nairobi, Kenya, while the preparatory meetings would be held in The Gambia.

**27.** The Sub-Committee, as a follow up of the aforementioned Decision, is engaged with the other co-organizers to determine the suitable dates to all stakeholders for the TICAD VI Summit as well as the venue and the date for the preparatory meetings.

**28.** The Sub-committee, through its Chair and Rapporteur, participated at the Joint Secretariat and the Joint Monitoring Committee Meetings held on 26 August 2015, in Tokyo, Japan, to discuss the preparations for the TICAD VI Summit and the Second TICAD V Ministerial Follow-up Meeting as well as to take stock of the implementation of TICAD V Action Plan. On this occasion, the co-organizers endorsed the agreement reached by the African side to hold TICAD VI Summit in Nairobi, Kenya in August or September 2016 and adopted the 2013-2015 Progress Report on the implementation of the TICAD V Action Plan, while agreeing that the process of hosting the Second TICAD V Ministerial Follow-Up Meeting and the TICAD VI Ministerial Preparatory Meeting should be through an African procedure to be agreed upon by the PRC.

**29.** The Sub-committee noted that the Government of Malawi and the Government of the Sudan applied to host the Second TICAD V Ministerial Follow-up Meeting and the TICAD VI Ministerial Preparatory Meeting, respectively. The Gambia also indicated that it would host the TICAD VI Ministerial Preparatory Meeting in Banjul in 2016, premised on the agreement reached by The Gambia and Kenya that, should Kenya host the TICAD VI Summit, The Gambia would host the Ministerial Preparatory Meeting.

**30.** During the Joint Secretariat Meeting held on the margins of the UNGA in New York, on 27 September 2015, the Co-organizers proposed to combine the Second TICAD V Ministerial Follow-Up and the TICAD VI Ministerial Preparatory Meetings into one meeting to be held 2-3 months prior to the TICAD VI Summit. Thereafter, the Government of the Republic of Malawi withdrew their application to host the TICAD Ministerial Meeting.

**31.** Japan also sought the stand of the African side regarding the host country and dates for the holding of the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) likely to be held in February or March 2016. Thereafter, the Government of the Republic of Djibouti applied to host that meeting in March 2016.

### **Recommendations:**

**32.** The Sub-Committee recommends to PRC to:

- a) Commend The Gambia and Kenya for the agreement reached to hold the TICAD VI Summit in Nairobi, Kenya.
- b) Endorse the agreement to hold TICAD VI Summit in Nairobi, Kenya in August or September 2016.

- c) Endorse the proposal by the Co-organizers to combine the holding of the Second TICAD V Ministerial Follow-Up and of the TICAD VI Ministerial Preparatory Meetings.
- d) Approve the offer made by The Gambia to host the combined Ministerial Meeting.
- e) Approve the offer made by Djibouti to host the Senior Officials Meeting for the combined Ministerial Meeting.

#### **2.4 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)**

**33.** Pursuant to Paragraph 21 of the June 2015 Decision EX.CL/Dec.877(XXVII), which encouraged the two Co-chairs namely South Africa and China to finalize consultations on the date for the FOCAC Summit, the Sub-Committee was briefed by the African Chair on the agreed dates and on the preparation process for the Summit.

**34.** However, the way FOCAC was handled by the Chinese Partner appears to be actually prejudging the outcome of the comprehensive review of strategic partnerships, by imposing the following answers:

- i) The partnership is primarily a bilateral relationship, not a multilateral one. Hence, there is a limited role for the African Union, if any.
- ii) The partnership is with the Africa whom China has diplomatic relations. So Sahrawi Republic was not invited at all and there was a limited role for the four African Union Member States who recognize Taiwan.
- iii) For all these reasons, the African Union was not consulted regarding the dates of holding the Summit, nor was the African Union required to take the lead in the negotiations. Rather, the lead was given to the host country and to the African Ambassadors in Beijing. At best, the African Union was required to provide its comments to China or to the African Ambassadors in Beijing or to the host country, and they would take care of the rest.

**35.** In short, the African Union continues to be marginalized in this process, due to the absence of clear guidance from the Summit regarding the management of various partnership relationships, although the African Union Commission is a Member of FOCAC. Such guidance is expected once the comprehensive review is ready.

**36.** Until then, the current guidance emanates from the 4th Ministerial FOCAC Conference held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 9 November 2009. It recommended that FOCAC should continue with these countries that have a relationship with China, as is the practice, and that the objectives of FOCAC should be aligned to the strategic objectives of the African Union.

**37.** In this context, the Sub-Committee, while appreciating the two Co-chairs for drafting and negotiating the outcome documents for the FOCAC VI Summit, however, felt it necessary to ensure that the African position was adequately covered in the two documents. In this regard, the Commission reviewed the two documents forwarded to it by South Africa and made necessary amendments accordingly, while amendments by Member States were addressed by the African Ambassadors in Beijing.

**38.** The final draft documents agreed by the two sides were presented to the Senior Officials Meeting on 2nd December 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The two documents were further amended by the Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings and then adopted by the Summit.

**Recommendation:**

**39.** The Sub-Committee proposes that the PRC recommends that the Executive Council :

- Requests the Commission in collaboration with the PRC to follow up on the implementation of the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit Plan of Action.

**2.5 Africa-Korea Forum**

**40.** The Sub-Committee was informed that, in compliance with Dec. EX/CL 877(XXVII), consultations took place between the Government of Ethiopia, the Embassy of Korea and the Commission to hold the 4th Ministerial Africa-Korea Forum in Addis Ababa on 8-9 December 2015. The Sub-Committee noted that the Commission agreed on these dates with the Host Country and the Partner on the ground that there were no conflicting scheduled meetings at that time.

**41.** However, the proposed dates were immediately following FOCAC and the Sub-Committee was later informed of the request by the Government of Korea to postpone this meeting to a later date in 2016.

**Recommendations:**

**42.** The Sub-committee requests the PRC to recommend to the Executive Council to:

- Endorse the proposal to postpone the holding of the 4th Africa-Korea Forum to a later date;
- Request the Commission in close collaboration with the host country and the Partner to propose, for consideration by the PRC, a new suitable date for the Forum;

- Also Request the Commission, together with South Korea, to take the necessary steps to ensure effective preparation for the 4th Africa-Korea Forum and in collaboration with the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation to speed up the process of consideration of the draft working documents to be communicated to Member States.

## **2.6 Africa-South America Cooperation Forum (ASA)**

**43.** Decision EX.CL.877 (XXVII) “approves the proposal by Ecuador to host ASA IV Summit in Quito from 5-7 May 2016 provided that the Commission confirms that there are no overlaps with other partnerships related meetings or with other AU scheduled meetings”.

**44.** The Sub-committee considered the proposal by Nigeria, in its capacity as ASA Coordinator from the African side, to call ASA Senior Officials Meeting at AUC Headquarters, in preparation for the Ministerial meeting, which took place on the margins of UNGA in New York in September 2015 and agreed to convene the meeting in New York for logistical reasons. The meeting accordingly took place in New York.

**45.** Prior to the holding of ASA Summit scheduled to take place in 5-7 May 2016 in Quito, Ecuador, the African Union should come up with a clear stand with regard to its expectations from this partnership. In this regard, the Commission originated draft working documents that outlined possible and implementable areas of cooperation between Africa and South America, for consideration by the Sub-Committee.

### **Recommendation:**

**46.** The Sub-committee requests the PRC to recommend to the Executive Council to:

- Encourage all Member States to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> Africa-South America Summit to be held in Quito, Ecuador, 5-7 May 2016
- Request the Commission, together with the South American side, to take the necessary steps to ensure effective preparations of the 4<sup>th</sup> ASA Summit and the Commission to start preparations for the Summit in collaboration with the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation to speed up the process of consideration of the draft working documents.

## **2.7 Africa-EU Partnership**

**47.** Paragraph 25 of Decision EX.CL/Dec.877(XXVII) requests the Commission, in collaboration with the Sub-Committee, to finalize the Concept Note of the Africa–EU Joint Annual Forum and to also propose, in consultation with the EU side, appropriate dates for the meeting of the Forum. The Sub-committee considered the proposal to convene the Africa-European Union Joint Annual Forum and unanimously agreed to postpone it to a later date in 2016, to allow enough time for the finalization of the

evaluation process. It requested the Commission to circulate the draft Concept Note to Member States for their consideration and necessary preparation.

**Recommendations:**

**48.** The Sub-Committee requests the PRC to direct the Commission in collaboration with the Sub-Committee and the European Union side to:

- Agree on a date for the Joint Africa-EU Joint Annual Forum (JAF);
- Take the necessary steps to ensure effective preparation of the JAF and in collaboration with the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation, to speed up the process of consideration of the draft working documents.

**2.8 Africa-Turkey Partnership**

**49.** The Sub-Committee deliberated a proposal by the Turkish side, addressed to the Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe, in its capacity as Chair of the PRC and to the Commission, to convene a Senior Official Meeting (SOM), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, between 12-16 October 2015, to follow up on the outcome of the 6th Senior Officials Meeting held in Ankara, Turkey, in March 2015.

**50.** The follow up Mechanism as reflected in the adopted Joint Implementation Plan during the 2014 Africa-Turkey Summit, indicates that Senior Officials Meetings occur twice in between Summits. Since the first SOM was held in March 2015 in Ankara, the Sub-Committee decided that there is no urgency to hold the second SOM in October 2015, given that the upcoming Summit is scheduled in 2019.

**Recommendation:**

**51.** The Sub-committee requests the PRC to:

- Direct the Commission in collaboration with the Sub-Committee to engage in consultations with Turkey regarding a more suitable date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Senior Officials Meeting.

2016

# Report of the sub-committee on multilateral cooperation July to December 2015

African Union

African Union

---

<http://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/4911>

*Downloaded from African Union Common Repository*