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**REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON
MULTILATERAL COOPERATION
JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016**

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2016

Introduction

1. During the period under review, the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation under the Chairmanship of the Arab Republic of Egypt continued to engage in the review of the 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), submitted to the Sub-Committee in November 2014 and also engaged in the preparation and successful holding of three Partnerships meetings namely, the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) Summit, the 4th Africa-Arab Summit and the 4th Africa-Korea Forum.

2. In this context, both the Sub-Committee and its Working Group, held 43 Meetings that recorded high attendance by its members, regularly exceeding two thirds of the membership, which enabled them to address most of the issues decided upon by the 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union.

3. 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.

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

1.1 Evaluation of Strategic Partnerships

4. The Sub-Committee had 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).

5. 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”.

6. The objective of the aforementioned 2014 document on Evaluation of Strategic Partnership was to conduct a review of the nine (9) Strategic Partnerships¹ entered into

¹ 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.

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.

7. 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.
- c) Most partnership data and information collected fail to differentiate between continental/regional cooperation and bilateral cooperation.

8. 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 entitled “Report of the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation on the Evaluation of the Strategic Partnerships”, This Report was submitted by the Sub-Committee to the PRC in June 2016 for its consideration.

Recommendation:

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

- i) Adopt the Report titled “Report of the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation on the Evaluation of the Strategic Partnerships”, and;
- ii) Request the Commission, in collaboration with the Partners and all other stakeholders, to gradually implement the recommendations contained in the Report;

Part II. Partnerships Specific Issues

2.1 Africa-Arab Partnership

10. The 4th Africa-Arab Summit was held, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on 23 November 2016, under the Theme “*Together for Sustainable Development and Economic Cooperation*”.

11. As part of the preparation process for the Summit:

- a) The Preparatory Committee of the 4th Africa-Arab Summit, composed of the Co-chairs of the 3rd Africa-Arab Summit (Ethiopia and Kuwait), the host country of the 4th Africa-Arab Summit (Equatorial Guinea) and the Commission and GS-LAS held several preparatory meetings, ending with its 4th meeting on 16 November 2016.
- b) The Commission, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (GS-LAS), organized the 9th and 10th Ordinary and the 2nd and 3rd Extra-ordinary Senior Officials Meetings of the Coordination Committee of the Africa-Arab Partnership in February 2016, in Cairo, Egypt, and in April, September and November 2016 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, respectively. The Senior Officials Meetings were attended by the Chairperson of the Permanent Representatives’ Committee (PRC), H.E. the Ambassador of the Republic of Chad to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Representative to the African Union, and the Chairperson of the PRC Sub-committee on Multilateral Cooperation, H.E. the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Ethiopia and Representative to the African Union.
- c) The PRC also held two consultative meetings on 18 and 21 November 2016.

12. The Summit was preceded by the Africa-Arab Senior Officials meetings and the Joint Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which were held in the same venue on 19 and 21 November 2016, respectively. Africa-Arab Economic Forum and Africa-Arab Meeting of Ministers of Economy, Finance and Trade were also held on the sideline of the Summit on 18 and 21 November 2016, respectively.

13. A total of 60 African and Arab countries were represented at the pre-Summit meetings. However, at the Joint Council of Ministers, Morocco walked out of the meeting insisting that the name plate and flag of the Sahrawi Arab Republic should be removed from the meeting hall. Morocco’s position was strongly supported by Bahrain, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, who also boycotted the Ministerial meeting. Kuwait supported the position of Morocco, but stayed in the hall and co-chaired the meeting, representing the Arab side.

14. The 4th Africa-Arab Summit unanimously adopted the three outcome documents, namely the Malabo Declaration, the Declaration on Palestine and 10 Resolutions on various issues of the partnership. The Summit also agreed to convene the 5th Africa-Arab Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2019. Regarding the Joint Action Plan 2017-2019, the Summit adopted a Resolution which requested the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to convene a retreat of the Senior Officials of the two sides to finalize the Joint Plan of Action and present it to an extraordinary Session of the Joint Council of Ministers of the Africa-Arab Partnership for its adoption, within a period of six months from the date of adoption of the Resolution.

15. The consideration of the Plan of Action was deferred upon the request of the African side, emphasizing the need for more time to revise the Action Plan in order to shift its orientation towards a more regional approach emphasizing continental programs and projects; outlining more concrete undertakings that would tangibly benefit a larger number of countries and citizens of the two regions.

16. The Summit also adopted a Resolution on the “Principle and Criteria for Partnership on Africa-Arab Meetings and events”. The Resolution requests the African Union Commission and the Secretariat of the League of Arab States to engage in constructive discussions to define mutually acceptable and binding principles and criteria for the joint meetings of the Africa-Arab Partnership in a manner that reflects their mutual interests and the potential of their strategic relations, and to submit their recommendations to a Joint Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Recommendations:

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

- i) Express appreciation to the Government of Equatorial Guinea for hosting the 4th Africa-Arab Summit, pre-Summit meetings and meetings of the Coordination Committee;
- ii) Request the Assembly to welcome the Malabo Declaration, the Declaration on Palestine and the 10 Resolutions of the 4th Africa-Arab Summit;
- iii) Request the Commission, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, to coordinate and follow up the timely implementation of the Resolutions of the 4th Africa-Arab Summit, especially:
 - Resolution 7, which called for the convening of an extra-ordinary session of the Joint Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, within a period of six (6) months from the date of this Resolution to adopt the Action Plan

- Resolution 10, which requested the two sides to engage in constructive discussions to define mutually acceptable and binding principles and criteria for the joint meetings of the Africa-Arab Partnership in a way that reflect their mutual interests and the potential of their strategic relations

2.2 Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

18. The activities on TICAD for the said period were focused on the preparation for the TICAD VI Summit, the first ever TICAD Summit in Africa, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 27-28 August 2016 under the theme: “Advancing Africa’s Development Agenda – TICAD Partnership for Prosperity”.

19. The Summit was co-organized by Japan, the African Union Commission, the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, and attended by more than 6000 participants from 54 African countries including 32 Heads of State and Government, 52 partner countries, 74 international and regional organizations (IO), representatives of the Regional Economic Communities (REC), private sector, African and Japanese civil society organizations.

20. The Policy Organs along with the Commission as co-organizer and the three countries (Djibouti, The Gambia and Kenya) have worked collectively to host two preparatory meetings, namely a Senior Officials Meeting, held on 14-15 March 2015 in Djibouti, and a Ministerial Follow-Up and Preparatory meeting held on 16-17 June 2016, in Banjul, the Islamic Republic of The Gambia.

21. Preceded by two other preparatory meetings in Nairobi, namely: (i) Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), on 23-24 August 2016; (ii) Pre-Conference Ministerial, on 26 August 2016, the Summit concluded with the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration and Implementation Plan, in which Japan pledged to invest in Africa USD 30 billion from 2016 to 2018, in the three priority areas of the Declaration, through implementing measures centered on Africa’s structural transformation as enshrined in Agenda 2063 and its First Ten Year Implementation Plan as follows:

- i) Promoting structural economic transformation through economic diversification and industrialization;
- ii) Promoting resilient health systems for quality of life;
- iii) Promoting social Stability for shared prosperity.

22. In addition, the Summit enabled the African side to gain a significant hold in the TICAD process, including on issues relating to promoting equal roles between the African Union and Japan. With the adoption of the three year cycle and the principle of rotation between Africa and Japan, the TICAD VI provision will run concurrently with the implementation of TICAD V Yokohama Action Plan (2013-2017) till its term, culminating

with the holding of the TICAD VII Summit, in Japan, in 2019. Thereafter, switching to a Five Year Cycle would be an issue to be considered by the 2019 Summit.

Recommendations

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

- i) Express appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for the successful hosting of the first ever TICAD Summit in Africa, the TICAD VI Summit;
- ii) Also express appreciation to the Government of Djibouti and the Government of the Islamic Republic of The Gambia for the successful hosting of the TICAD Senior Officials Meeting and the combined TICAD V Follow-Up and TICAD VI Preparatory Ministerial Meetings;
- iii) REQUESTS the Assembly to welcome the Nairobi Declaration and the Implementation Plan 2016-2019;
- iv) Follow up on the implementation of the TICAD VI Implementation Plan as relevant to the three agreed upon priority areas in line with AU structural transformative Agenda 2063

2.3 Africa – EU Partnership

24. It is to be recalled that during the 4th Africa – EU Summit held in Brussels in April 2014, both sides adopted the Roadmap 2014-2017 and agreed that implementation of the actions set forth, will be evaluated in the Joint Annual Forums, which replaced the Joint Task Force, with the participation of all stakeholders in the partnership.

25. During its 26th Ordinary Session of January 2016, the Executive Council requested the Commission in collaboration with the PRC to agree with the European Union side, on the date for the Joint Annual Forum (JAF) and to take necessary steps to ensure effective preparation of the JAF and speed up the process of consideration of the draft working documents.

26. Following the recommendation, the Working Group of the PRC Sub Committee on Multilateral Cooperation held meetings in collaboration with the AUC technical Departments to finalize the initial draft of the Concept Note of the Africa – EU Joint Annual Forum.

27. Owing to time constraints and other activities held on both the African and EU sides, it was not possible to hold the first Africa–EU Joint Annual Forum (JAF) in 2016.

However, a JAF consultative meeting was held on 4th April 2016, in order to agree on the final draft Concept Note of the Joint Annual Forum, as well as the tentative dates for the JAF. Accordingly, during the meeting, both sides agreed that the first Joint Annual Forum would be held during the last quarter of 2016, tentatively in Addis Ababa, mid – October 2016. However, owing to busy schedules on both sides during the last quarter of 2016, the JAF could not take place as planned. Hence, it is expected that the first JAF takes place during the second quarter of 2017, bearing in mind that the fifth Africa – EU Summit is planned for November 2017.

28. Cote D'Ivoire offered to host the 5th Africa-EU Summit in 2017. The offer was welcomed during the last AU Summit in Kigali, Rwanda.

Recommendations:

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

- i) Welcome the proposed date of November 2017 for the 5th Africa – EU Summit in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and request the host country in collaboration with the Commission to propose in due course the exact date of the holding of the Summit;
- ii) Urge Member States through its PRC Sub-Committee to engage internal consultations in order to kick start the preparation process along with Technical Departments of the AUC and the host country, bearing in mind that as per the usual practice, the host party should initiate the outcome documents of the Summit including its programme.

2.4 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

30. Since the successful hosting of the Johannesburg Summit of the FOCAC held in Johannesburg from 3 to 5 December 2015, the Partnership Management and Coordination Division in close collaboration with the Chinese Mission to the African Union held follow-up meetings to ensure the of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit. In this regard, the two parties continued to engage on the modalities of the implementation of the 10 major areas of cooperation within the framework of China-Africa partnership, which was announced during the 2015 FOCAC Summit that was held in Johannesburg, South Africa².

31. Furthermore a FOCAC Coordinators meeting was held in Beijing, China, on 29 July 2016. Coordinators from China and 51 African countries as well as the African

² The 10 major areas are industrialization, agricultural modernization, infrastructure, financial services, green development, trade and investment facilitation, poverty reduction and public welfare, public health, people-to-people exchanges, peace and security

Union Commission were present at the meeting. The Coordinators Meeting was preceded by a “Seminar on Business Cooperation between Chinese and African Entrepreneurs”, which was held on 28 July 2016.

Recommendation

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

- i) Request the African and Chinese sides to establish workable mechanisms that would expedite the implementation of the outcomes of the 2015 FOCAC Summit that was held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

2.5 Africa-Korea Forum

33. The 4th Forum for Africa-Korea Cooperation was held in Addis – Ababa, Ethiopia at the African Union Headquarters Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 7 December 2016. The Forum was preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting that was held on 6 December 2016.

34. Being a Continent to Country Partnership, the participation modality was based on the Banjul Formula. Compliance was made easy and workable through an initiative to embark on a joint issuance of invitations to countries and participants. The opening ceremony was made a little accommodating by the extension of invitation to all African and non-African members of the Diplomatic Corps resident in Addis Ababa.

35. The 4th Africa-Korea Forum adopted two documents, namely: The *Addis Ababa Declaration and the 2017 – 2021 Framework for Cooperation*

36. The criteria for the selection of focus areas of cooperation in the Framework were based on:

- i) Korea's areas of core competences as expressed by President Park Geun-hye in her speech at the African Union in May 2016; in terms of Manufacturing / industrialization, Trade and investment, Human capacity development, Science, technology and innovation, Blue economy – shipping industry (ship building / repairs; port operations; freight services etc.), public health and peace and security;
- ii) Priority areas and targets that have to be addressed at the Continental level in line with the First Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063.

37. The Forum witnessed exchanges by the two sides on two main Thematic areas, namely:

- i) Enhancing Peace and Security in Africa;
- ii) Africa-Korea Partnership for a Shared Economic Development.

38. In the Statement made by the Korean Foreign Minister at the opening session, Korea reiterated its pledge for a 5 billion dollar development assistance package for Africa for the coming years.

Recommendations:

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

- i) Express appreciation to the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the successful hosting of the 4th Forum for Africa – Korea Cooperation that took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 6 – 7 December 2016;
- ii) Welcome the Addis Ababa Declaration of the 4th Forum for Africa – Korea Cooperation and the Framework of Cooperation 2017 – 2021 for the 4th Forum for Africa – Korea Cooperation.
- iii) Request the Commission in close collaboration with the Subcommittee of the PRC on Multilateral Cooperation and the Partner to hold working level meetings to identify projects and programs within the Africa-Korea Framework of Cooperation 2017-2021 that both sides agree to implement as well as develop programming, implementation measures and modalities within a period of six months from the date of adoption of the Addis Ababa Declaration

2.6 Africa-South America Cooperation Forum (ASA)

40. The 4th Africa-South America (ASA) Summit was to have taken place in Quito, Ecuador, in May 2016, but given the unilateral cancellation by Ecuador, Decision EX.CL/Dec.899 (XXVIII) of the Executive Council in January 2016, endorsed the proposal to reschedule the Summit to 2017, in Ecuador.

41. Consequently, the Commission has repeatedly contacted the Embassy of Ecuador in Addis Ababa requesting the latter to consult with its home government with a view to proposing new dates for the Summit that will take place in 2017.

Recommendation

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

- i) Request the Commission in collaboration with the PRC to engage in consultations with the South American side with a view to proposing new dates and a roadmap for the Summit that would be held in 2017.

2.7 Africa-Turkey Partnership

43. As part of the implementation of the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec. 899 (XXVIII), consultations were held with the Turkish side to agree on the convening of the 7th Senior Officials meeting. During the consultation, it was recalled that, the First Senior Officials meeting was held in Ankara, in March 2015, only four months after the 2nd Africa-Turkey Summit in Malabo in November 2014. In this regard, and as the Senior Officials meetings are to be held only twice in between two Summits, as per the Malabo Implementation Plan, understanding was reached to continue to discuss this matter.

44. Turkey has proposed to hold a “Think Tank Forum” on ‘Energy’ under the umbrella of the Africa-Turkey Partnerships, to be held in Addis Ababa in November 2016. During consultations on this request, Turkey was informed that the proposal would be brought to the attention of the relevant AU authorities. It is important to note that Turkey had previously held the Africa-Turkey Think Tank Forum in December 2015, in Istanbul, with participants at the experts’ level from Turkey and African institutions, but without the involvement of the AU structures.

45. With regard to the Turkish contribution to the AU budget, it was agreed that Turkey should formalize its contribution on annual basis so as to enable beneficiary AU structures to anticipate and plan for the budget.

46. Africa – Turkey Economic and Business Forum, was held in Istanbul on 2nd and 3rd November 2016,

Recommendation

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

- i) Request the Commission in collaboration with the PRC to engage with Turkey with a view to bringing the Africa-Turkey Economic and Business Forum as well as the Africa – Turkey Think Tank Forum under the framework of the Africa – Turkey Partnership;
- ii) Urge the Commission, in collaboration with the PRC to continue consultations on the dates of the following meetings:
 - 7th Senior Officials Meeting;
 - Think Tank Forum on Energy Technology;
 - Ministerial Review Conference.

2.8 Africa – India

48. Pursuant to Para 54 of the “Africa-India Framework for Strategic Cooperation” adopted by the 3rd Africa-India Forum Summit, held 26-29 October 2015, in New Delhi, India, the two sides were expected to jointly develop a detailed Plan of Action within three months post-Summit. The two sides have engaged consultations on the modalities to develop the Action Plan

49. The Commission has since received the Indian proposal for the Plan of Action and the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation will soon commence discussion on the proposals from both sides.

Recommendations

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

- i) Encourage expediting the process of implementing the Declaration and framework for cooperation as adopted by the 3rd Africa India Summit that was held in Delhi, India, in 2015.

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