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**REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON
MULTILATERAL COOPERATION
JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2017**

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2017

Introduction

1. During the period under review, the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation under the Chairmanship of the Arab Republic of Egypt, up to April 2017, when the Republic of Djibouti assumed the chairpersonship of the PRC Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation, focused on the consideration of the implementation of Executive Council Decisions that ranged from preparation for the 5th African Union-European Union Summit held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, from 29 to 30 November 2017, the preparation for the TICAD VI Ministerial follow-up meeting held from 23 to 25 August 2017 in Maputo, Mozambique as well as follow-up on the implementation of Decisions regarding the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the Africa – Arab Partnership, the Africa – Korea Partnership, the Africa – Turkey Partnership, the Africa - South America Partnership and the Africa – India Partnership.

2. The Subcommittee focused its attention on the implementation of Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.967(XXXI) taken during its thirty-first Ordinary Session, 30 June – 1 July 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which recalls the Decision No.: EX.CL/DEC.942 (XXX) of the 30th Ordinary Session of the executive council, 25 - 27 January 2017, Addis Ababa, directing the PRC, in collaboration with the commission and the RECs, to hold special sessions within six months to allow for an in-depth discussion and analysis of all aspects of Strategic Partnerships in order to formulate appropriate proposals and recommendations and mandating the commission, in collaboration with the PRC, to undertake an in-depth evaluation of all partnerships and to submit concrete recommendations in July 2018.

3. The Sub Committee also considered the issue pertaining to the future of the relationship between the EU and the ACP Group and the Post-2020 Cotonou Agreement. In that context, the Chair of the PRC, the Chair of the Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation and the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee met with the African Group of ambassadors in Brussels on 16 September 2017 during which they discussed the importance for Africa speaking with one voice and the need for adopting a Common Position for the Post-2020 Cotonou Agreement.

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.

Part I. Evaluation of Strategic Partnerships

5. The subcommittee played its advisory role to the PRC and Executive Council, which generated the two decisions of the Executive Council, which formed the foundation for the evaluation and strategy of AU strategic partnerships:

- a) Decision EX.CL/ 942 (XXX) adopted by the Executive Council during its thirtieth ordinary Session held in January 2017 in Addis, Ethiopia, directing “*the PRC, in collaboration with the Commission and the RECs to hold in-depth discussions and analysis of all aspects of Strategic Partnerships in order to formulate appropriate proposals and recommendations for submission to the Summit, taking into account the following:*”
- *The process of institutional and structural reform of the African Union led by H.E. Mr. President Paul Kagame;*
 - *The criteria that will allow determining the dimension and importance of each partnership, among others, in terms of their benefits to the development of the continent and the implementation of Agenda 2063;*
 - *Highlight the indicators relating to all the benefits Africa reaps from partnerships;*
 - *The roles that the various entities of the African Union should play in the management and coordination of strategic partnerships;*
 - *The relevance of the formats of participation of Member States in the various partnerships;*
 - *Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Commission (Partnerships Management and Coordination Division).*
- b) Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.967 (XXXI) taken during the Executive Council 31st ordinary session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2017, recalling its previous request and matching it with a deadline as follows: “*Mandate the Commission, in collaboration with the PRC, to undertake an in-depth evaluation of all partnerships and submit concrete recommendations in July 2018*”

6. Based on the above Executive Council Decisions, the seventh Joint retreat between the Permanent representatives’ Committee (PRC) and the African Union Commission (AUC) on the Evaluation of Strategic Partnerships was held from 13 to 14 December 2017, in Cairo, Egypt, to discuss the report of the Subcommittee on the evaluation of strategic partnerships and the draft African Union Outline Framework for Strategic Partnerships.

7. The Joint Retreat between PRC and AUC considered the Report on the Evaluation of Strategic Partnerships finalized by the Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation and submitted to the PRC for consideration in June 2016. The Report on the Evaluation of Strategic Partnerships reviewed the nine (9) Strategic Partnerships¹

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

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. A general consensus emerged that the evaluation report is accepted by Member States, who underscored its importance. However, the retreat directed the Commission to update the report including the evaluation of each of the existing nine strategic partnerships, to enable Member states to adopt strategic decisions about them. July 2018 is the deadline for finalizing that exercise.

Recommendations:

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

- i) **Take Note** of the report of the Seventh Joint Retreat between the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) and the African Union Commission (AUC) on the Evaluation of Strategic Partnerships held in Cairo, Egypt, from 13 to 14 December 2017.
- ii) **Endorse** the recommendations of the Seventh Joint Retreat between the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) and the African Union Commission (AUC) and **Direct** the Commission in collaboration with the PRC to ensure their full implementation in line with Institutional Reform of the African Union.
- iii) **Direct** the Commission to develop a Protocol with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) formalizing cooperation modalities for management of partnerships and resource mobilization. The Protocol would lay out cooperation in negotiation of partnerships scopes, progress reporting, as well as roles and responsibilities in management of partnerships, which reflect the evolving role of RECs in AU Governance;
- iv) **Further Direct** the Commission in close collaboration with the PRC to finalize an African Union Partnerships' Strategy Framework, which defines clear strategic approaches for existing and potential partnerships, and **Decide** that all Africa's strategic partnerships should be labelled as AU partnerships, where the Chairperson of the African Union Commission will be responsible for implementing on behalf of the Union the AU relevant guidelines and Decisions in managing partnerships, including co-organizing Summits and other events.
- v) **Reaffirm** its Decision, EX.CL/Dec.942 (XXX), Paragraph A2, which called **for** the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the Commission

(Partnerships Management and Coordination Division) **and Request** the Commission to build internal systems and capacity for partnerships management by upgrading the Partnership Division under the Bureau of the Chairperson to a Directorate, which treats in a holistic manner functions of partnerships management and resource mobilization; fulfills the ability to analyze and negotiate partnership scopes; develops the vision for Africa's role in the world; and enhances Africa's voice and representation.

- vi) **Further Request** the PRC to open up the Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation to become a committee of the whole for purposes of transparency and effectiveness;

Part II. Partnerships Specific Issues

2.1 AU – EU Partnership

9. The Subcommittee in preparation for the 5th AU – EU Summit held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, from 29 to 30 November 2017 agreed to establish a Joint Steering Committee with the European side. The Joint Steering Committee was composed among others by the Chairperson of the PRC, the Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation, the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee, the Ambassador of Cote d'Ivoire representing the host country and the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission.

10. The Joint Steering Committee had several meetings in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), in Brussels (Belgium) and in Abidjan (Cote D'Ivoire) as well as through Video Teleconference to discuss issues related to the outcome documents of the Summit, issues related to the participation to the Summit, the Summit Agenda, the side events, the dates for the Senior Official Meetings and the Ministerial Meetings as well as issues related to logistic arrangements, accreditation, reception of the delegations, seating arrangements, etc.

11. Furthermore, the PRC dedicated a two-day retreat on 12 and 13 October 2017 to discuss the preparation for the 5th AU-EU Summit and to consider the draft outcome documents prepared by the Commission and reviewed by the Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation.

12. During the formal meeting of the PRC held on October 14th, and 16th, 2017, Recommendations proposed by the retreat of the PRC were endorsed including recommendations to the Executive Council to adopt the Draft Declaration and the Draft Priority Projects initiated by the African side for negotiation with the European Union.

13. On 16 October 2017, the Executive Council met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at its Seventeenth Extraordinary Session and endorsed an African Union Common Position regarding the outcome documents of the 5th AU-EU summit and reconfirmed its previous decision on modalities of participation to the said Summit.

14. Following the adoption of the Draft Outcome Documents elaborated by the African side by the executive Council, the Draft Declaration and the Draft Joint Priority Projects were submitted to the European Union for review and feedback. Negotiations with the EU at the Joint steering committee level started on 9-10 November 2017 and continued on 20 and 21 November 2017 during which both sides decided to work on the basis of the African proposals and made substantial progress after intense negotiations.

15. The Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation considers that the African side demonstrated a united front in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, which led to a successful 5th AU-EU Summit held as scheduled from 29 to 30 November 2017 preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting on the 26 and 27 November 2017 and the Joint Ministerial Meeting held on the 28th November 2017 with the full participation of all AU member States.

16. The Summit endorsed the outcome document as negotiated with the EU, which was then published on the AU website. The Summit also requested the two Commissions to develop an action plan, within three months of adoption of the 5th AU-EU Summit Declaration, to detail joint projects and programs within the AU-EU Joint Priority areas of cooperation that both sides agree to implement, and to establish a joint follow-up mechanism. An ambitious first draft of the priority projects was developed within two weeks of the Summit, which detailed cooperation on a number of Agenda 2063 flagship projects, particularly education and skills development; silencing the guns; governance, domestic resource mobilization, fight against corruption and illicit financial flows; building climate resilience; managing mobility and migration; investing in PIDA, CAADP and AIDA; supporting the Continental Free Trade Area; and fast tracking the AU 2050 Maritime strategy.

Recommendations:

17. The PRC Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- i) **Express Appreciation** to the People and Government of Cote D'Ivoire for the successful hosting of the 5th AU-EU Summit, and calls on the Commission to put in place mechanisms for implementation of the Summit outcomes;
- ii) **Congratulate** both sides of the partnership for the successful negotiation of cooperation plans under the AU-EU summit, which stand to mobilize significant investments for Africa's development and make tangible progress towards agenda 2063's flagship projects;
- iii) **Recommend** to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government to endorse the Declaration of the 5th African Union – European Union Summit held from 29 to 30 November in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

2.2 On the Future of the ACP Group and the Post-2020 Cotonou Agreement

18. Regarding the issue of the future of the ACP Group and the post-2020 Cotonou Agreement, the Subcommittee considered the Draft Concept Note prepared by the African Group in Brussels (Belgium) and informed the PRC about the work done by the African Group in Brussels during the retreat of the PRC on the preparation for the 5th AU-EU Summit held on 12 and 13 October 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

19. From the deliberations of the meeting of the PRC held on 14 and 16 October 2017, the PRC recommended to the Seventeenth Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council held on 16 October 2017 to endorse the establishment of a Taskforce on Post-2020 Cotonou Agreement and the future of the ACP Group and to direct the Commission in Collaboration with the PRC to speed up the completion of the Common African position for endorsement by the January 2018 Summit of Heads of State and Government. The Executive Council adopted a Decision in that regard as stated above.

2.3 Africa-Arab Partnership

20. The 5th Ministerial Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Africa-Arab Partnership was held at the Conference Hall of the African Union Observer Mission to the United Nations, in New York, USA, on the Margin of the 72nd UN General Assembly, on 23 September 2017.

21. Present at the meeting on the African side were, the Republic of Guinea (Current Chair of the African Union), Republic of Chad (Immediate past Chair of the Union), Republic of Equatorial Guinea (Host Country of the 4th Africa-Arab Summit) and the African Union Commission, while the Arab side was represented at the meeting by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Current Chair of the Arab League), Islamic Republic of Mauritania (Immediate past Chair of the Arab League), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Incoming Chair of the Arab League and designated host of the 5th Africa-Arab Summit) and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.

22. The meeting was Co-chaired by the Republic of Guinea, representing the African side and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, representing the Arab side.

23. The Progress Report on the Implementation of the Resolutions of the 4th Africa-Arab Summit, jointly drafted by the African Union Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, was presented to the meeting by Dr. Levi Uche Madueke, Head of AU Strategic Partnerships,

24. In his presentation Dr. Madueke informed the meeting that the two meetings of the Senior Officials of the Coordination Committee, supposed to be held in February and August 2017 in Cairo and Addis Ababa, respectively, could not be convened due to busy schedule. Accordingly, he stated that the progress Report focuses only on the efforts made by the two organizations to implement the Resolutions of the 4th Africa-Arab Summit.

25. The meeting agreed to convene the 6th Ministerial Meeting on the margin of the 73rd UN General Assembly in New York, between 22 and 24 September 2018. Exact date will be agreed upon between the two sides.

Recommendations:

26. The Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- i) **Recall** its Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.942 (XXX) of the 30th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, 25 - 27 January 2017, Addis Ababa, which directed the Commission, in accordance with the principles and decisions of the AU, and in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, to coordinate and follow up on 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 joint Africa-Arab Action Plan;
- ii) **Request** the Commission to expedite organization of the extra-ordinary session of the Joint Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in advance of the AU Summit of July 2018;
- iii) Further Request the Commission to engage with the League of Arab States (LAS) to ensure that the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Africa-Arab Partnership is held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

2.4 Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

27. In line with the Executive Council Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.16 (XXX), January 2017 and No.: EX.CL/Dec.967 (XXXI), July 2017, the first Ministerial Follow-up Meeting was held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 23 to 25 August 2017, one year after the TICAD VI Nairobi Summit, held in August 2016. The Meeting 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. The meeting examined the progress made in implementing the TICAD V Plan of Action adopted in Yokohama, Japan, in 2013 and the implementation plan of TICAD VI, adopted in Nairobi in 2016. The TICAD VI Follow-up Ministerial Meeting also identified actions aimed at facilitating preparations for the upcoming TICAD VII Summit to be held in Japan in 2019.

Recommendations:

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

- i) **Express Appreciation** to the People and Government of Mozambique for the successful hosting of the TICAD Ministerial in August 2017.
- ii) **Direct** the Commission to follow up on implementation of cooperation programmes with the Government of Japan and to present a follow-up Report to the Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation and PRC;

2.5 Africa-Korea Forum

29. Following the holding of the 4th Africa – Korea Forum, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 7 December 2016, the Executive Council through Decision No. EX.CL/Dec.942 (XXX) taken at its thirtieth Ordinary Session held on 25 – 27 January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Requested the Commission in close collaboration with the PRC and the Partner to implement the Addis Ababa Declaration and to determine the content of the Africa-Korea Framework of Cooperation 2017 – 2021 that both sides agree to implement within a period of six months from the date of adoption of the Addis Ababa Declaration.

30. In accordance with the above-mentioned decision, the Commission developed a set of regional and continental concrete projects in line with Agenda 2063 priority goals and targets.

31. The Subcommittee of the PRC on Multilateral Cooperation reviewed the proposals submitted by the Commission and expressed its readiness to the Korean side to have consultative meetings to agree on the projects and programs to be implemented.

32. After the presidential election held in Korea on the 9th May 2017, the Korean side informed the Commission that due to the change in the leadership of the country, it would be better to hold all partnership meeting and negotiation until the new foreign policy leadership takes office and are fully reported on the Africa-Korea partnership process. Korea proposed to the Commission that all activities related to the finalization of the 4th Africa – Korea Framework of Cooperation be postponed to a later date after the AU July Summit.

33. From 11 to 13 September 2017, a delegation of the African Union composed of the Chairperson of the PRC, the Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation, the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee and Staff Members of the Commission undertook a Mission to Seoul, Korea, and participate in a consultative meeting with the Korean side to discuss the implementation of the Africa – Korea Framework of Cooperation 2017 – 2021.

34. Before engaging with the Korean counterpart, the AU Delegation had a fruitful meeting with the African Diplomatic Corps in Seoul to discuss African cooperation with Korea and harmonization of position between the PRC in Addis Ababa and the African Diplomatic Corps in Seoul.

35. During the Consultative meeting with the Korean side, the partner informed the Commission that Korea is still reviewing the projects proposals submitted by the Commission in accordance with the 4th Africa – Korea Framework of Cooperation endorsed in December 2016. However, the partner announced to the delegation that the Government of Korea has approved a set of Cooperation projects of an amount of 16 million dollar US for some African countries. The AU delegation expressed in clear terms its dissatisfaction to the partner as the projects endorsed by the Korean side were not based on the African side submissions and were driven by Korea's bilateral cooperation with some of the African countries.

36. As a way forwards both the African and the Korean sides decided to continue their consultations especially during the next consultative meeting to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2018 with a view to speeding up the implementation of the 4th Africa – Korea Framework of Cooperation.

2.6 Africa-Turkey Partnership

37. In line with the follow up of the implementation plan for 2015-2019, the first Agriculture Ministers Meeting was held in Antalya, Turkey, on 27th 28th April 2017. The Meeting discussed the mechanisms and instruments that would assist in promoting investments in Agriculture and agro-industries aimed at achieving higher productivity, inclusive growth, poverty reduction and improved food security and nutrition.

38. Also, the 7th Africa-Turkey Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) took place on 19 June 2017 at the Headquarters of the African Union Commission. The meeting took stock of the activities being undertaken in the implementation of the 2015-2019 Implementation Plan. The African Union informed Turkey of the ongoing reform and evaluation of all African Union strategic Partnerships, and reiterated its stand that Africa wants Turkey to be a Strong Strategic Partner and promote cooperation at the multilateral level, on concrete projects without diminishing the importance of bilateral relationship with AU Member States.

39. Both sides have also been consulting and agreed to hold a Ministerial Review Conference from 11 to 12 February 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey.

2.7 Africa - South America

40. Following the directive of the Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation, to engage the South American side on the possibility of holding the 4th Africa-South America Partnership Summit, a meeting between the African side Coordinator (Nigeria), Ambassador of Ecuador and the Commission was held on 10 February 2017 at the Commission.

41. It was agreed on the need to convene a meeting that would involve the Brazilian Ambassador, being the Coordinator of the South American side, to pronounce on the readiness on the South Americans to hold the Summit.

Recommendations

42. The Subcommittee proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- i) **Recall** its Decision No.: EX.CL/Dec.942 (XXX) taken during its 30th Ordinary Session held on 25 - 27 January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, requesting the Commission in collaboration with the PRC to engage in consultations with the South American side with a view to propose new dates for the Africa-South America Summit, and to Request the Commission in collaboration with the PRC to finalize consultations in that regard in advance of the AU June Summit.

2.8 Africa-India Partnership

43. The main activity carried out during the period under review was to agree on the format of the implementation matrix of projects embedded in the Framework for Cooperation and to develop these projects accordingly. To this end, relevant technical Departments of the Commission provided project profiles for projects featuring in the Framework for Cooperation.

44. The India side carried out the same activity and both sides consolidated all project profiles into a final document providing full information for each project in terms of project location, beneficiaries, timeline, goals and objectives, estimated budget, etc.

45. Upon approval by the decision making organs, the implementation process will start. However, it is worth recalling that the Government of India has been carrying out some of the agreed projects through bilateral procedure.

2.9 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

46. The Subcommittee on Multilateral Cooperation has not been involved in the preparation of activities related to the FOCAC. However, the Subcommittee has been briefed that the Government of China and South Africa, the African side Coordinator in the FOCAC mechanism have agreed that the next FOCAC meeting will be held in September 2018, at Summit of Heads of State and Government level, in Beijing, China.

Recommendations:

47. The Subcommittee proposes that the PRC recommends to the Executive Council to:

- i) **Take Note** of the announcement by China and South Africa to hold the FOCAC at Heads of States and Government level in September 2018.
- ii) **Mandate** the PRC to engage in negotiations with the Government of China for the African Union to represent the Continent in FOCAC, and to provide intellectual leadership from the African side to the partnership with China and **Request** the PRC in close collaboration with the Commission to work with the Government of China for holding the 2018 Summit in Beijing in line with that mandate.

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