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**REPORT OF H.E. MACKY SALL, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SENEGAL AND CHAIRPERSON OF NEPAD HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT ORIENTATION COMMITTEE (HSGOC)**

REPORT OF THE 37TH SESSION OF THE NEPAD HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ORIENTATION COMMITTEE (HSGOC)

1. The NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) held its 37th Session on 8 February 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the eve of the 33rd African Union (AU) Assembly. His Excellency Macky SALL, President of the Republic of Senegal and outgoing Chairperson of the NEPAD HSGOC presided over the Session.

2. The Session was attended by the Heads of State and Government of Rwanda, and Zimbabwe. It was also attended by the Deputy Prime Minister of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia while other delegations were represented at ministerial and other levels. Also, in attendance, were the UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of UNECA, Dr. Vera Songwe, UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor on Africa, Adv. Bience Gawanas, members of the NEPAD Steering Committee, Commissioners of the AU Commission, Chief Executive Officer of the AUDA-NEPAD, Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, and representatives of partner institutions.

Opening Ceremony

3. In his statement, the HSGOC Chairperson, warmly commended the reform exercise that saw the transformation of the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) into the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD). He reiterated that NEPAD epitomizes the inclusive ownership of Africa's development programmes, which has been attracting international recognition, and serves as a robust model of implementation in solving Africa's multi-dimensional challenges. He also expressed optimism about a new progressive path to Africa's socio-economic development to be charted with the support of the new AUDA-NEPAD institution.

4. The HSGOC Chair noted that since 2013 he has served NEPAD and its ideals with passion. He expressed profound gratitude to African Heads of State and Government for the support that he has received during his tenure, with particular emphasis on the two priorities, namely infrastructure and agriculture, where significant progress has been recorded. He also mentioned the importance of reform of the African Union and in particular the role played by President Paul Kagame in his capacity as leader of the AU reforms, in the transformation of NPCA into AUDA-NEPAD.

5. He seized the opportunity offered by the session to commend Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of AUDA-NEPAD and his team, as well as the Steering Committee for their efforts in serving NEPAD's noble objectives. He appealed to Member States to continue working together to concretise the vision of the Founding fathers towards prosperity. On this note, the Chairperson declared the meeting open.

6. The President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Dr. Gilbert Houngbo, delivered a statement of support, highlighting the role IFAD has played in development and its support to Africa and the AU. He pledged readiness to continue working with AUDA-NEPAD to enable it to deliver on its mandate.

Closed Session

7. The agenda was adopted as proposed, comprising the following items:
 - a) Status of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI);
 - b) Presentation of AUDA-NEPAD new structures, the Statute and Rules of Procedure for the NEPAD Governance Structures;
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 - c) Recruitment of a new CEO for AUDA-NEPAD;
 - d) Rotation of HSGOC Membership; and
 - e) Election of the Bureau of the HSGOC.

Progress Report on the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI)

8. On behalf of H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, Hon. Jackson Mthembu, Minister in the Presidency presented the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) progress report, highlighting the impressive achievements made, and the challenges encountered. He gave an overview of the various projects, stressing the importance South Africa attaches to this initiative.
9. The AUDA-NEPAD CEO, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki underscored 4 points with respect to PICI: noting first the coherence between PIDA and PICI projects; second the significance and pivotal role played by the Champions; third, that 2 key areas mark the second phase of PIDA, namely the use of development corridors and an emphasis on energy; and fourth that AUDA-NEPAD regularly organizes technical and ministerial in order to ensure the very close follow-up of projects.
10. The HSGOC reiterated the critical importance of national and regional infrastructure development, in respect of which NEPAD continues to inspire the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa particularly, the major role assigned to it as the implementing agency for the Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa (IAIDA). Progress in the implementation of the projects under the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) has been impressive. The Session commended the Presidential Champions for their active commitment, particularly H. E President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, for his sterling leadership in coordinating PICI.
11. Additionally, the 37th NEPAD HSGOC Session acknowledged the critical need for PICI projects to advance inter-connectivity among African countries and sub-regions in order to address infrastructure deficits and boost intra-African trade. It likewise stressed the advantage of PICI in providing the strategic impetus for clear and effective communication and coordination under PIDA.

Presentation of the Statute and Rules of Procedure for NEPAD Governance Structures

12. The Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki made a detailed presentation of the adopted Statute and Rules of Procedure of the AUDA-NEPAD Governance Structures. He specified the 11 functions that inform the new provisionally adopted structure, and the integrated delivery model that is now informed by a multi-sectoral approach.

13. On the Rules of Procedure he drew the attention of Member States to 3 areas for their consideration , namely:

- a. Rules of Procedure of the HSGOC: Rule 3 (1) which specifies “initiating” countries is inconsistent with Rule 3 (3) which states that there shall be rotation of the 25 Members of HSGOC, rendering the specification of initiating countries irrelevant;
- b. Rules of Procedure of the HSGOC: Rule 3 is inconsistent with Rule 15 (3) which specifies rotation of the HSGOC Chair between initiating and non-initiating countries; and
- c. Rules of Procedure of the Steering Committee: Rule 13, where the Co-Chair is designated as a representative of the Chairperson of the Commission (as opposed to the representative of the Chairperson of the Union).

14. The AU Legal Counsel in responding to issues raised by Member States, provided clarification as follows: that the wording in Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure flows directly from Assembly Decision 691 and that any amendment will require a new Assembly Decision.

15. She also clarified that with respect to situations where a Member State of HSGOC also chairs a REC, Rule 3 (Composition of HSGOC) specifies: *“Where the Head of State and Government chairing a REC is already a member of the HSGOC by virtue of its State membership, the Vice Chair or any other representative designated through consultation shall represent the said REC”*.

16. The HSGOC session after deliberations, proposed that an amended Decision be presented to the Assembly retaining the principle of non-rotation of initiating members, and to maintain, as customary practice, the Co-Chairing of the NEPAD Steering Committee by a representative the Chairperson of the AU.

Recruitment of a new CEO for AUDA-NEPAD

17. The HSGOC session noted that the contract of the incumbent CEO of AUDA-NEPAD would be ending on 31st March 2020. However, since the process of recruiting a new CEO had not yet commenced, the HSGOC session having acknowledged the exceptional leadership, high competency of Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, recommended

to the Assembly the extension of his contract until the nomination of a new CEO at the 38th Session of the NEPAD HSGOC. The Session however, emphasized the necessity to appoint a new CEO as soon as possible in accordance with the Statute and the African Union Staff Regulations and Rules. This, it was indicated, would assure African stakeholders and external partners of Africa’s strong commitment to the NEPAD process.

18. HSGOC noted the TORs have been validated by the Steering Committee and requested the Chairperson of the Commission to launch the process of recruitment of a new CEO. This process should include representation of the Steering Committee in the Panel of Eminent Persons.

HSGOC Membership

19. In order to promote broader ownership and inclusiveness of the NEPAD agenda, HSGOC membership was extended to 33 members, including Heads of State and Government Chairing the RECs. Elections were then conducted for the rotating membership of the HSGOC based on the outcomes of regional consultations among Member States, facilitated by the AUC and Ambassadorial Deans in Addis Ababa. The 25 rotating members will serve for a term of two (2) years. Thus, current composition of the HSGOC reflecting the rotating 25 Members States, in accordance with the five (5) regions of the Union and 8 Member States chairing the Regional Economic Communities, are as follows:

Central Africa	East Africa	North Africa	Southern Africa	West Africa
1. Cameroon	6. Kenya *	11. Algeria	16. Lesotho*	21. Benin
2. Chad	7. Mauritius *	12. Egypt	17. Malawi	22. Mali
3. D R Congo	8. Rwanda	13. Mauritania	18. South Africa	23. Nigeria
4. Equatorial Guinea*	9. Sudan	14. Morocco*	19. Zambia	24. Senegal
5. Gabon	10. Uganda	15. Tunisia*	20. Zimbabwe	25. Togo*

Note: * Newly-elected Members States

26.	ECOWAS	
27.	ECCAS	
28.	IGAD	
29.	UMA	
30.	COMESA	
31.	SADC	
32.	EAC	
33.	CENSAD	

Election of the Chairperson and the Bureau of the HSGOC

20. Based on the adopted Rules of Procedure of the NEPAD Governance Structures, the 37th Session of the NEPAD Orientation Committee conducted elections to the Bureau of the HSGOC, comprising the Chairperson and four (4) Vice Chairpersons, including the Rapporteur for a single term of two years. H.E. President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda was unanimously elected as the new Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State

and Government Orientation Committee.. The function of Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur will be held by the outgoing Chairperson of the HSGOC,. The three (3) other Vice-Chairpersons will be nominated pending the outcome of regional consultations..

21. With respect to other members of the Bureau, it was agreed that consultations should be pursued with a view to identifying the members.

Acceptance Speech of Newly-Elected NEPAD HSGOC Chairperson

22. The newly elected HSGOC Chair expressed his wholehearted thanks for the trust that had been placed in him to lead this body. He expressed his pledge to do his best to uphold the founding principles of the initiating members. He further expressed his gratitude to outgoing Chairperson, H.E. President Macky Sall, for the hard work and direction with which he has chartered NEPAD HSGOC in the interests of and towards the development of the African continent.

23. President Kagame thanked Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki and his team for the excellent work. In addition, extended his appreciation to all Heads of State and Government for the support they have given to the NEPAD vision and mentioned that he will still seek their counsel in order to deliver on his mandate. In particular, he thanked H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa of the Republic of South Africa for the weight and trust that South Africa has pledged in support of NEPAD process.

24. The HSGOC expressed its gratitude to H.E. President Macky Sall of Senegal for his sterling leadership in steering the NEPAD process since his election in 2013.

25. The next 38th Ordinary Session of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee will hold on the eve of the 34th African Union Assembly and at the same venue in January/February 2021.

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DECISION ON THE REPORT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE ON NEPAD
Doc. Assembly/AU/9(XXXIII)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** the report by the outgoing Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee, H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal;
2. **ENDORSES** the conclusions and recommendations of the 37th NEPAD HSGOC Summit;
3. **RECALLS** that the NEPAD vision and its program, from inception, has been an intrinsic part of the African Union System and should remain so, and **CALLS UPON** the African Union Commission and AUDA-NEPAD Secretariat to continue to harmonize their work programs to prevent duplication of roles;
4. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the progress report presented on behalf of H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa as Chair of the HSGOC High-level Sub-Committee on the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI). While commending the Presidential Champions for their commitment, **UNDERScores** the critical need for PICI projects to advance inter-connectivity among African Countries and sub-regions in order to address infrastructure deficits and boost intra-African trade. **TAKES NOTE** that Financing in Africa infrastructure reveals a gap of US\$ 90 billion, thus, impeding the continent's ability to deliver on critical development objectives. In this regard, **CALLS FOR** the implementation of urgent measures aimed at unlocking access to finance; **AND REQUESTS** AUDA-NEPAD to work closely with the African Development Bank (AfDB) in order to support the Africa co-guarantee platform (CGP) in view of increasing the amount of finance available to Africa for its infrastructure and trade by scaling up risk mitigation;
5. **TAKES NOTE** of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1063(XXXV) adopting the legal instruments of AUDA-NEPAD and **NOTES** the issues raised by some member states of the HSGOC and **DECIDES** that the principle of non-rotation of the 5 initiating member-states be retained;
6. **FURTHER NOTES** Assembly Decision 691 (XXXI) nominating the Chairperson of the Commission to Co-Chair the Steering Committee and **DECIDES** to replace the Chairperson of the African Union Commission with the Chairperson of the Union;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to amend all relevant AUDA-NEPAD legal instruments to include the decisions in paragraphs 5 and 6 above

8. **HAVING AKNOWLEDGED** the exceptional leadership, competency and continued improved performance of the AUDA-NEPAD under the auspices of Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, **ENDORSES** the extension of his appointment until the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and **URGES** the African Union Commission to complete the process of the appointment of the CEO for the AUDA-NEPAD by the next African Union Summit in January/February 2021 along the lines of the Maputo Declaration of July 2003, January 2008 AU Assembly Decision, in compliance with the African Union Staff Regulation and Rules and **CALLS ON** Member States to encourage their citizens to submit applications for the post;
9. **ENDORSES** the election of H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame President of the Republic of Rwanda as HSGOC Chairperson, as well as the four (4) Vice Chairpersons for a single term of two years. The position of Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur will be held by the outgoing Chairperson of the HSGOC and the three other Vice-Chairpersons are nominated after regional consultations; **COMMENDS** H.E. President Macky Sall for the results achieved during his mandate and expresses his profound gratitude for his exceptional leadership as the head of the HSGOC;
10. **RECALLS** Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.691 (XXXI) and Article 7 of the AUDA-NEPAD Statute on the new membership of thirty-three (33) Member States as follows: eight (8) Heads of State and Government representing the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and five (5) Member States per region:

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Report of H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairperson of NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC)

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