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CONCEPT NOTE

AU-RECs-UNECA-AfDB-NEPAD-ACBF JOINT COORDINATION MEETING

Lusaka, Zambia, 10-12 March 2016

(Rev. 7, 1 March 2016)

I. BACKGROUND

1. The last Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting of the Chief Executives of the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the African Development Bank (AfDB) took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 11 May 2015.
2. The meeting of May 2015 discussed amongst others: i) the draft of the First 10-year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063; ii) Assessment of risks for the implementation of Agenda 2063; iii) Updates on Agenda 2063 Flagship projects; iv) issues related to the allocation of Roles and Responsibilities between the AUC and the RECs and capacities for the implementation of Agenda 2063. During this meeting, it was agreed that the Coordination meetings shall be held on a rotational basis between the AUC and the RECs. In this regard, the forthcoming meeting will be hosted by Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), under the leadership of its Secretary General H.E Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya.
3. The forthcoming Coordination meeting scheduled to take place in Lusaka, Zambia on **11 – 12 March 2016**, provides an opportunity for the Chief Executives and the strategic continental institutions to discuss the regional dimensions of the Ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063, flagship projects, roles and capacities, among other important issues.
4. The Coordination Meeting shall be preceded by the meeting of Experts and Senior Officials at the same venue on **10 March 2016**, to consider follow-up of the implementation of the previous recommendations of the Coordination Meeting of May 2015, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of Agenda 2063, and validation of the status of integration in Africa, among others.
5. This concept note sets out the objectives, expected outcomes, participants, venue and other logistical information regarding this meeting.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE COORDINATION MEETING

6. The main objective of the Coordination meeting is to receive inputs, share experiences and harmonize approaches on the priorities and programmes with regards to the flagship projects in the context of Agenda 2063, covering key sectors such as; Infrastructure (transport, energy, ICT, etc.); Industrialization, Trade and Investment; Agro-processing sector; Mobility and Free movement of people and goods; Continental Free Trade Area; Skills and youth unemployment; gender equality and Peace, security and Governance.

The AUC will also be expected to provide updates on the Agenda 2063 10-year Implementation Plan.

7. The meeting will further discuss the proposed allocation of roles and responsibilities amongst the AUC and the RECs and other institutions in the implementation of Agenda 2063, and the status of implementation of the outcomes of the last AUC-RECs-AfDB-UNECA Joint Coordination meetings held in Addis Ababa, on 11 May 2015. The draft agenda of the meeting is attached.

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

8. The meeting is expected to achieve the following outcomes:
 - Updates on work in progress on the implementation of the first Ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and a strategic discussion on how to accelerate implementation of flagship projects by the AUC, RECs and other institutions. The meeting will also look at how the SDGs fits in and are subsumed in Agenda 2063.
 - Make recommendations on the delineation of roles and responsibilities amongst AUC, RECs, NPCA and other relevant institutions to ensure the execution of different programmes in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and improve teamwork, responsibility sharing and strengthen role of RECs as the building blocks of the AU.
 - Take forward the strategic discussions on Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, in the context of the Agenda 2063 Monitoring and Accountability Framework.
 - Adoption of an Outcomes document that will be submitted to the Ministerial Retreat of the Executive Council towards the preparations for the forthcoming AU Summit to be held in Kigali, Rwanda in July 2016.

IV. PARTICIPANTS FOR COORDINATION MEETING OF EXECUTIVES

9. The participants will include the AUC, RECs, UNECA, NPCA, AfDB and ACBF. The participants to the meeting will therefore be as follows:
 - **AUC:** All Commissioners (10) and Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD Coordination Agency (+1);
 - **RECs:** Chief Executives of the RECs, Liaison Officers to AU, plus additional Officers (+1);
 - **AUC Departments:** Advisors from the Bureau of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, and Officers from the following AUC Departments: Strategic Planning, Peace and Security, Economic Affairs, Trade and Industry, Infrastructure and Energy, Political Affairs, Women and Gender Development Directorate, Office of the Legal Counsel and Division of Information and Communication;

- **AU Liaison Officers to the RECs:** EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, SADC and IGAD). As well as SARO-AU and Cairo office;
- **Joint Secretariat Support Office (JSSO)**
- **Secretariat:** COMESA assisted by one officer each, from the Departments of Economic Affairs, Peace and Security, PBFA and BCP.
- **Drafting Committee:** AUC drafting committee including members from other institutions.

V. PARTICIPANTS FOR SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING

10. The Experts meeting shall be coordinated and chaired by the AUC, with the following proposed participants;
 - **AUC:** Strategic Planning, Peace and Security, Economic Affairs, Trade and Industry, Infrastructure and Energy, Political Affairs, Women and Gender Development Directorate, OLC and DIC.
 - **RECs:** Experts from RECs (2 each)
 - **Experts from AfDB, UNECA, NPCA and ACBF (2 each)**
 - **Joint Secretariat Support Office (JSSO) (x2)**
11. Each institution shall fund its own participation except where AUC is providing sponsorship.

VI. LOGISTICS

12. The AUC will work closely with COMESA Secretariat to facilitate the necessary logistic arrangements for the meeting.
13. The AUC will sponsor the participation of the Commission and its staff including the Liaison Officers to the RECs, plus the RECs Liaison Officers to the AU. The sponsorship will include air tickets, accommodation and per diem in accordance with AU's Financial Rules and Regulations. The RECs, NPCA, UNECA, AfDB and ACBF will be expected to cater for the costs associated with their participation. The AUC will also sponsor coffee/tea breaks and luncheons for all participants for the duration of the meeting.
14. Interpretation services, including equipment, and translation will be provided in two languages (English and French) and will be sponsored by COMESA, in addition to the provision of ground transportation.

VI. VENUE AND DATES

15. The Joint Coordination Committee meeting is scheduled to take place at Mulungushi International Conference Center in Lusaka, Zambia from **11-12 March 2016**. It shall be preceded by a meeting of Experts and Senior Officials on **10 March 2016** at the same venue.

VII MEETING DOCUMENTS

It is proposed that the following background documents be prepared and circulated at the meeting:

- Minutes of the last Coordination meeting
- Agenda 2063 10 Year Implementation plan;
- Updated report on the Agenda 2063 Flagship projects;
- All thematic inputs/documents in accordance with the proposed agenda;
- Outcomes document of the Me'kele Ministerial retreat and Summit decision on recommendations;
- Agenda 2063 and SDG's;