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REPORT OF HER EXCELLENCY MRS. ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AND
CHAIRPERSON OF THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE
ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

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I. Background

1. The 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly requested the AUC in consultation with RECs and relevant Stakeholders to continue to engage Member States including PRC in Addis Ababa and the Africa Group in New York and decided to establish a High Level Committee (HLC) comprising of two Heads of State and Government per region, chaired by Liberia to refine the African Common Position.

2. The following countries were nominated to be members of the HLC:

- West Africa : Liberia (Chair) and Guinea;
- Central Africa: Congo and Chad;
- Eastern Africa: Ethiopia and Mauritius;
- North Africa: Algeria and Mauritania; and
- Southern Africa: South Africa and Namibia.

3. The first meeting of the HLC was held in New York, USA on 23rd September 2013 in the sidelines of the UN General Assembly and among others it approved the roadmap proposed by the Sherpas to finalize the Common African Position on the post 2015 Development Agenda;

4. The Sherpas (representatives of each Member of the HLC) had a number of meetings which discussed and adopted the matrix of priority areas prepared by the technical team composed of (AUC, office of the Chair of the HLC, ECA, AfDB, UNDP and UNFPA). Matrices were based on the inputs from a broad spectrum of key African stakeholders including members of executive and legislative arms of government, regional entities, civil society, academia, youth, Women, the private sector, African Group of Ambassadors and permanent representatives in Geneva, New York, Washington D.C and World Bank Executive Directors of African constituencies, the outcome of African regional consultative meeting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), etc. which served as a basis for the draft Common African Position (CAP). Some of these meetings were attended by Permanent Representatives of Member States in Addis Ababa and representatives of Africa Groups in Geneva and in New York.

5. Sherpas of the HLC Members met in Addis Ababa on 9-10 December to review and finalize the narrative document prepared by the technical working group.

II. Content of the Draft Common African Position

6. The document is structured around five pillars and enablers.

7. **Pillar 1: Structural Economic Transformation and inclusive growth** which include strong, sustained and inclusive growth, agriculture, food security and nutrition, green growth, industrialization and value addition, economic infrastructure development and Developing the Service Sector.

8. **Pillar 2: Science, technology and innovation** include Enhancing technological capacities; Enabling financial and regulatory environment; Increasing support for research and development; technology at secondary school level and Optimal use of space and geospatial technologies

9. **Pillar 3: People-centered development** includes Eradicating poverty; Education for developing human capital ; Providing universal, equitable access to quality healthcare; Gender equality and empowering women ;Responding to population dynamics and development ;Harnessing the strengths of Africa's youth and Expanding access to sustainable human settlements

10. **Pillar 4: Environmental sustainability, natural resources management and disaster risk management** include Better managing natural resources and biodiversity; Ensuring access to safe water and adequate sanitation for all ;Climate change; Desertification, land degradation, soil erosion, flooding and drought and Disaster risk reduction and management

11. **Pillar 5: Finance and Partnerships which include** Finance; Improve the mobilization of domestic resources; Foster innovative financing mechanisms; Implement existing commitments, promote high-quality, predictable external financing; Partnerships; Mutually beneficial global partnerships; Partnership for trade and Partnership for managing global commons

12. **Enabling Implementation includes** Peace and Security; Good governance, transparency and fighting corruption; Enabling governance architecture; Human rights for all; Macroeconomic Policy; Private sector development; A credible participatory process; Monitoring and evaluation; Traditional Knowledge; Capacity development, etc.

III. Conclusion

13. The participatory approach of the process by which the post-2015 Development Agenda is being formulated provides a unique opportunity for Africa to present a united and a common set of priorities which is genuinely purely African and based on the broad spectrum of African stakeholders. As Africans We want a world with a just and equitable economic order, that is free from poverty, exclusion and human suffering, and one which respects the limits of the planet earth.

14. There is a need to have a fully open, transparent and inclusive global negotiation process in which parties are treated equally and their voice carries equal weight. Africa will speak with one voice to ensure that Africa's voice is heard loud and clear and fully integrated into the global development agenda.

15. These objectives can be attained within 15 years. Therefore, the Post-2015 Development Agenda should be set over a period of 15 years starting from 2016.

IV. Recommendation

16. The summit is requested to adopt the consensual Common African position on post-2015 development agenda.

**Assembly/AU/9(XXII)
Annex**

**DRAFT COMMON AFRICAN POSITION (CAP) ON THE POST-2015
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

DRAFT COMMON AFRICAN POSITION (CAP) ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Preamble:

We, Heads of State and Government of the African Union assembled in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union onJanuary 2014,

NOTE: The participatory approach that led to the elaboration of the Common African Position (CAP) on the post-2015 Development Agenda and involving stakeholders at the national, regional and continental levels among the public and private sectors, parliamentarians, civil society organizations (CSOs), including women and youth associations, and academia. This approach has helped address the consultation gap in the initial preparation and formulation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

RECOGNIZE: The efforts of the members of the High-Level Committee on the post-2015 Development Agenda, the coordinating role of the African Union Commission, and the technical support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in facilitating the process.

EMPHASIZE: That the post-2015 Development Agenda provides a unique opportunity for Africa to reach consensus on common challenges, priorities and aspirations and to actively participate in the global debate on how to provide a fresh impetus to the MDGs and to examine and devise strategies to address key emerging development issues on the continent in the coming years. The post-2015 Development Agenda should also reaffirm the Rio Principles, especially the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the right to development and equity and mutual accountability and responsibility, as well as, ensure policy space for nationally tailored policies and programmes on the continent, including appropriate support for the implementation of the NEPAD.

ACKNOWLEDGE trends such as population growth, the youth bulge, urbanization, climate change and inequalities, and therefore **REITERATE** the importance of prioritizing structural transformation for inclusive and people-centred development in Africa. **CONVINCED** that such a development approach requires: development of adequate policy space and productive capacities, notably through infrastructure development; science, technology development, transfer and innovation; value addition to primary commodities; youth development; women's empowerment; addressing the challenges posed by climate change, desertification and land degradation, drought, loss of biodiversity sustainable natural resource management; and the promotion of responsive and accountable global governance architecture including through the full and equitable representation of African countries in the international financial and economic institutions

REASSERT: The urgent need to end poverty in all its forms, and achieve an integrated, prosperous, stable and peaceful Africa that is effectively engaged in the global arena, and that this aspiration should remain the overarching goal of this development agenda.

We therefore commit to speak with one voice, act with unity and ensure that Africa's voice is heard and is fully integrated into the global development agenda.

I. Background

1. Recall the Decision of July 2012 African Union Summit (Assembly/AU/Dec.423 (XIX)) mandating the African Union Commission, in close consultation with Members States and Regional Economic Communities to identify Africa's priorities for the post-2015 Development Agenda, and further recalling the Decision of May 2013 AU Summit to establish a High-Level Committee (HLC) of Heads of State and Government to sensitize and coordinate the activities of African leaders and build regional and inter-continental alliances on the Common African Position (CAP) on the post-2015 Development Agenda (Assembly/AU/Dec.475(XXI)), a ten-member committee was formed.¹
2. The CAP, identifies substantive issues of importance to Africa, and arrives at a consensus on Africa's key priorities, concerns and strategies to be reflected in the outcomes of the post-2015 negotiation process. To achieve this, account was taken of the wealth of information collated by national and regional stakeholders (the executive and legislative arms of government, private sectors, CSOs, youth associations, women groups, trade unions, and academia) as well as the African multilateral institutions and the United Nations System.
3. Take note of the various initiatives established to conceptualize the post-2015 Development Agenda including the High (Level?) United Nations Task Team and the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons. Also take note of the United Nations Secretary-General's report – "A Life of Dignity for All" (A/68/202) – and the outcome of the United Nations General Assembly Special Event on the MDGs (A/RES/68/6) of September 2013.
4. Recall the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – "The Future We Want", which among others agreed to a coherent and integrated global post-2015 Development Agenda.
5. Acknowledge the processes in the implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes such as the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals, and Africa Regional Consultation on the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. Reiterate that the post-2015 process should galvanize political will and international commitment for a universal development agenda, focused on the eradication of poverty and exclusion as well as the pursuit of sustainable, inclusive development.

¹Members of the HLC are Heads of State and Government of Liberia (Chair), Algeria, Chad, Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa.

7. Call for the adoption of concrete measures supported by adequate means of implementation to ensure the full realization of the Agenda.

8. Emphasize the primacy of a transparent and a fully inclusive intergovernmental process in the articulation of the post-2015 development agenda.

II. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

(a) Learning from the implementation of the MDGs:

9. Recognize the remarkable advances that have been made in some areas, such as net primary school enrolment, gender parity in primary education, representation of women in decision making, immunization coverage, and reversing the trend of the spread of HIV/AIDS.

10. Notwithstanding the progress made, more needs to be done. Africa's progress remains uneven across goals/targets, within groups and between countries. For example, despite rising enrolment rates in primary schools, the quality of education remains a concern, and learning outcomes are in many instances poor. Progress on the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) such as child and maternal mortality, quality of health services and access to sanitation is insufficient to achieve the targets by 2015 in many countries. Reducing inequity in access to basic social services remains a major challenge for many African countries.

11. The inclusive process in the formulation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda should enhance Member States' ownership of development and generate the required political will to address the unfinished business of the MDGs, and should respond to the emerging issues and gaps in implementation, particularly with regard to data collection and monitoring.

12. While Africa acknowledges that it has the primary responsibility for the attainment of the MDGs, international partners also have a key responsibility to honour their commitments and support country-led strategies.

(b) Assuming ownership:

13. The Post-2015 Development Agenda should be Member State driven, and in this regard, Africa will stand together in negotiating an outcome that will result in our collective ownership of the new agenda. This CAP is our contribution to this vital development agenda. We come as 54 countries in unison, determined to represent a broad spectrum of stakeholders. The elaboration of this common position takes us on the path of ownership, which engages all citizens and enables them to hold key development stakeholders mutually accountable.

(c) *Reaffirming our common interests:*

14. The Post-2015 development agenda presents a unique opportunity for Africa to articulate its common priorities, opportunities and challenges. Therefore, we affirm our collective interests, which include the pursuit of structural economic transformation for inclusive and people-centred development. This requires productive capacities development, notably through: infrastructure, agriculture, industrial and services sectors development; science technology and innovation; value addition to primary commodities; youth development and engagement; women's empowerment; sustainable natural resource management; addressing the challenges posed by climate change, desertification and land degradation, drought, loss of biodiversity; and the promotion of a responsive and accountable global governance architecture including through the full and equitable representation of African countries in the international financial and economic institutions.

15. We stress that the Post 2015 UN development agenda should reflect Africa's priorities and development programmes as defined by NEPAD.

III. **Statement of our Position on the post-2015 Development Agenda**

16. Africa's development priorities are grouped into five pillars: (i) structural economic transformation and inclusive growth; (ii) science, technology and innovation; (iii) people-centred development; (iv) environmental sustainability natural resources management, and disaster risk management; and (v) finance and partnerships.

Pillar One: Structural economic transformation and inclusive growth

17. **CONCERNED** that the benefits of Africa's resources have been concentrated in a few enclave sectors and limited to narrow segments of society, thus exacerbating poverty, inequality and fragility,

18. **RECOGNIZE** the need to promote an integrated economy that nurtures inter-sectoral synergies, linkages and job growth. Also **AWARE** of the potential role that structural transformation can play in creating resilient economies, decent employment opportunities, minimizing income and wealth disparities, and eradicating poverty.

19. **ACKNOWLEDGE** the role of value addition in promoting job creation and expanding the fiscal space for development financing, including social protection programmes, and eliminating poverty. Also **MINDFUL** that a successful and effective value-addition programme depends on a stable supply of raw materials, as well as a services sector that is supportive and responsive to the needs of the agricultural and industrial sector.

20. **STRESS** the importance of a conducive international environment including the international economic and financial institutions in the achievement of sustained and inclusive economic growth. Further stress that Governance at the international level

should be more responsive, legitimate, democratic and inclusive by strengthening the voice and participation of African countries.

(a) **Inclusive growth that reduces inequality**

- (i) In order to realize inclusive growth that is underpinned by decent and productive employment which rapidly reduces inequality, **we COMMIT** to strive for accelerated, stable, sustained and inclusive growth with equity that: creates decent jobs; nurtures sustainable social protection programmes; facilitates economic diversification and strengthens resilience to external shocks; enables measures that cause transition to inclusive external shocks; and fosters rapid inclusive, resilient and sustainable socio economic development leading to eradication of poverty.

(b) **Sustainable agriculture, food self-sufficiency and nutrition**

21. To address this development priority, we **RESOLVE** to:

- (i) Enhance the production, storage, transportation, availability, accessibility, utilization, safety and quality of food.
- (ii) Improve the productivity of smallholder agriculture and livestock through extension of technological support, small-scale irrigation schemes, rural infrastructure, credit and social services.
- (iii) Support modernization and diversification of agricultural sectors through: private sector participation in agriculture; agri-business development; improved agro-industry linkages; providing special support to integrate women into agri-business value chains; equitable access to land; and sustainable land management practices, including for our arable lands for current and future generations.
- (iv) Promote agricultural marketing and information flows by establishing national and regional information centres, and cooperation mechanisms in agriculture, food and nutrition security.
- (v) Adopt sustainable agricultural, ocean and freshwater fishery practices and rebuild depleted fish stocks to sustainable levels.
- (vi) Strengthen resilience to external and climate shocks, such as droughts, floods, commodity price volatility, food shortages and export restrictions, particularly on staple foods.
- (vii) Urge for multilateral partnerships in favour of food loss reduction, resilience to commodity price fluctuations, food shortages and export restrictions during crisis.

(c) **Diversification, industrialization and value addition**

22. In achieving this, we **PLEDGE** to:

- (i) Develop the private sector and strengthen the productive capacity of the informal sector to ensure a more active contribution to industrialization and value-addition;
- (ii) Reallocate and reinvest wealth generated from extractive and other primary commodity sectors into sectors that prioritize value-addition and promote job-rich growth and ensure fair taxation;
- (iii) Promote processing of primary commodities by developing national value chains across sectors and designing and enforcing national content and beneficiation policies in the extractive and primary commodity producing sectors of the economy; and
- (iv) Advocate Blue/Ocean Economy as well as sustainable exploitation of marine resources in order to make the oceanic industry a solid and viable pillar of our economies.

(d) Developing the Services Sector

23. Developing the service sector is vital for generating decent employment, and optimizing and upgrading our industrial structures and other important sectors of African economy. Noting the important role that the service sector can play in facilitating economic transformation and recognizing the weak linkages between the services sector and other sectors of the economy,

24. We **COMMIT** to:

- (i) Improve linkages between the services and real sectors, inter alia, through: strengthened support to the agricultural and industrial sectors; improved coverage of broadband Internet services; and strengthening of telecommunications as one of the backbones of the service sector;
- (ii) Stimulate home-grown innovations in service delivery, including by improving the quality and efficiency of public services, modern logistics, high-tech services, culture, e-commerce, tourism and health-related services (e.g. elderly care); and
- (iii) Accelerate international development exchanges and cooperation in this sector.

(e) Infrastructure development

25. Accelerating Africa's infrastructural development is pivotal to connect African people, countries and economies as well as to help drive social, cultural and economic development. In this regard, we are **DETERMINED** to:

- (i) Develop and maintain reliable, sustainable, environmentally friendly and affordable infrastructure in both rural and urban areas with a focus on land, water and air transport and storage facilities, clean water and sanitation, energy, waste management, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT);
- (ii) Implement infrastructure projects that facilitate intra-African trade and regional and continental integration including, with the assistance of the international community, enhancing research and technological development and the provision of adequate financial resources; and
- (iii) Promote the delivery of infrastructure programmes such that they generate local jobs, strengthen domestic skills and enterprise development, as well as enhance technological capability.

Pillar Two: Science, technology and innovation

26. **MINDFUL** of the importance of science, technology and innovation for the transformative agenda of the continent, and **COGNIZANT** of the low levels of technology development, transfer and utilization in Africa, and the continent's capacity deficits with respect to technology, we **COMMIT** to:

27. **STRESS** the importance of access by all countries to environmentally sound technologies, new knowledge, know-how and expertise and the importance of cooperative action on technology innovation, research and development.

(a) **Enhancing technological capacities for Africa's transformative agenda**

28. **DEVELOP** technological capacities by: enhancing the development, transfer and diffusion of technology and innovation in line with each country's development needs; improving access to funding for home-grown technological innovations and to environmentally sound technologies; and strengthening the science and technology component of education curricula.

29. **CONCENTRATE** our efforts on developing technological capacities by enhancing utilization of ICTs in key social and economic sectors.

(b) **Enabling environment**

30. **CREATE** an enabling financial and regulatory environment to support an innovation culture by: strengthening and creating, where needed, African property rights institutions; protecting intellectual property and industrial rights; increasing funding for science and technology research and innovation; and fostering collaboration among African countries on science and technology for development.

(c) **Increasing support for research and development**

31. **INCREASE** support for R&D by: promoting greater links among academia, industry, government and CSOs with respect to their roles in R&D; marketing and commercialization of R&D; scaling up investments in science and technology parks; and encouraging action-oriented research at all levels of the education and training system.

(d) **Optimal utilization of space and geospatial technologies**

32. **MAXIMIZE** the utilization of space and geospatial technologies by increasing investments in space and geospatial technologies, and promoting human resources development in the management and deployment of space and geospatial technologies.

Pillar Three: People-centred development

33. **CONVINCED** that the eradication of poverty in all its forms should remain the overarching priority in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

34. **COGNIZANT** of the fact that sustainable and equitable development can only be guaranteed in Africa when people are the means and end of the economic growth process, particularly when the potential contribution of women and youth is fully realized, and that investment in children, youth and women always generates substantial development multipliers with positive effects on all sectors of the economy and society.

35. **COGNIZANT** of the fact that Africa is witnessing a number of demographic trends including the youth bulge, increasing migration, and an increasing ageing population, and thus the need to respond to the social and economic consequences of Africa's changing demographic structure by implementing the right public policies, particularly in education and health services.

36. **PLEDGE** to **PROVIDE** universal and equitable access to affordable and quality healthcare for all, with particular attention to improved access for people in vulnerable situations and the need to end preventable newborn, child and maternal mortality and to significantly reduce the incidence of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including mental health.

37. **MINDFUL** that education is the foundation for development and the need to strive to achieve excellence in education and boost human resource capacities through improvements in the quality of learning and investment in education infrastructure.

38. To achieve our overarching goal of people-centred development; we **COMMIT** to:

(a) Eradication of poverty

39. **PROMOTE** the empowerment of all people, including those living in vulnerable situations (including women, children, the elderly, youth, people with disabilities, rural populations, displaced persons and migrants), through: inclusive growth that creates decent jobs; improved access to social protection for them and promoting measures that ensure that no individual remains below the poverty line. In this regard, we commit to ensure that no person – regardless of ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, race or other status – is denied universal human rights and basic economic opportunities.

(b) Education and human capital development

40. **ACHIEVE** excellence in human resources capacity development through an improvement in the quality of education and training by: investing in learning infrastructures; increasing the use of ICT; ensuring higher completion rates; promoting pre-schooling, integrated adult education and tertiary education; and improving the quality and conditions of service of educators and trainers;

41. **ENHANCE** equity by: improving and sustaining progress on gender parity at all levels of education, with special emphasis on secondary and tertiary education; creating a positive environment for girls and boys at school; increasing the representation of female teachers especially in science and technology; and eliminating human trafficking and child labour, thus allowing children to benefit from facilities for their full development;

42. **STRENGTHEN** school curricula to include: basic rights and responsibilities of citizens; quality education beyond primary schooling; developing entrepreneurship skills, life skills and vocational and technical training to respond to labour market demands; providing information and technology skills; and introducing age-appropriate and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education for all

(c) **Universal and equitable access to quality healthcare**

43. **IMPROVE** the health status of mothers, newborns, children and people in vulnerable situations such as youth, the unemployed, the elderly and people with disabilities by reducing the incidence of communicable diseases), non-communicable diseases (e.g. mental health) and emerging diseases; ending the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria; reducing malnutrition; and improving hygiene and sanitation. This can be achieved by: ensuring universal and equitable access to quality healthcare, including universal access to comprehensive sexual reproductive health [and reproductive rights] (e.g. family planning); improved medical infrastructure including local manufacturing of health commodities, health systems and health financing (e.g. commitment to the Abuja Declaration); and putting in place monitoring and evaluation, and quality assurance systems.

(d) **Gender equality and women's empowerment**

44. **PROMOTE** equality and women's empowerment by: enhancing their occupational mobility and eliminating gender-based wage inequality; ensuring their access to and ownership of land and other productive assets, credit and extension services, training; eradicating all forms of violence against women and children, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and early marriage; and eliminating gender-based discrimination in political, economic and public decision-making processes.

45. **PROVIDE** adequate resources to strengthen the voice, and ensure full and equal participation of women in all decision-making bodies at the highest levels of government and in the governance structures of international organizations, including by eliminating gender stereotyping in appointments and promotions, and building women's productive capacities as agents of change.

46. **SUPPORT** the crucial role of women in conflict prevention and resolution, mediation and peace-building efforts, and in the rebuilding of post-conflict societies, *inter*

alia, by strengthening their capacities including leadership skills and creating legal frameworks that protect their engagement in political and economic decision making.

(e) Population dynamics and development

47. **IMPROVE** space planning and concomitant evidence-based urban policies to address town planning, and ensure political and financial sustainability by establishing clear plans and rules for the equitable provision of quality services for all age groups, with a monitoring and regulatory framework. This will be achieved through public and private partnerships, the strengthening of municipal revenue generation and self-resilience, and collaboration between municipalities, scholars, ministries and civil society;

48. **ENSURE** the provision and implementation of adequate public policies in education and health services; create jobs, especially for youth; strengthen the linkages between migration and development; support the elderly; promote human capital development within the context of regional integration; develop innovative plans and incorporate them into the national planning frameworks; ensure equal access to quality and affordable healthcare and social services for all people; ensure equity and access to services by making them adequately and geographically available in both urban and rural areas; promote investments in education, health, job creation and good governance; and eliminate human trafficking, especially of youth, particularly girls.

(f) Realizing Africa's Demographic Realities/ Harnessing Africa's youthful population

49. **ENSURE** that Africa's youth bulge is translated into demographic dividends by putting in place policies and strategies that: strengthen entrepreneurial skills and capacity; increase youth's access to financial services; promote decent and commensurate jobs; increase access to business advisory services and credit facilities; promote participation in decision-making processes; and support the African Union initiative to create a continental framework on demographic dividends.

(g) Access to sustainable human settlements

50. **COGNIZANT** of the rapid urbanization rates in Africa and the importance of having the necessary infrastructures and amenities for an improved quality of life, we are **COMMITTED** to expanding urban infrastructures and developing a planned approach to rapid urbanization and the emergence of new cities, as well as promoting urban and rural planning. This includes: increasing decent and affordable housing; improving sanitation and hygiene services; promoting access to social and economic amenities in human settlements; and increasing the efficiency of delivery and use of physical facilities and amenities, including waste management, transport and energy.

Pillar Four: Environmental sustainability natural resources management and disaster risk management

51. **CONCERNED** that the exploitation of Africa's natural resources and biodiversity base is not fully translating into value-adding activities, adequate employment opportunities, and enhanced economic returns for the continent.

52. **CONSCIOUS** that many of these resources are non-renewable and **DETERMINED** to ensure profitability, intergenerational equity and sustainability in their use;

53. **MINDFUL** of the importance of ensuring the availability of potable water supply for all and closing the sanitation gap and also **CONCERNED** about the challenges posed by climate change, desertification and land degradation, natural disasters such as drought and floods, loss of biodiversity, management of waste and chemicals, coastal erosion, marine pollution and rising sea levels that threaten the existence of coastal mega-deltas and Small Island Developing States;

54. **DETERMINED** to address the potential adverse effects of these challenges on Africa's transformative agenda and **COGNIZANT** of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, in addressing the challenges of natural resource management and biodiversity,

(a) **Improving natural resources and biodiversity management**

55. we are **COMMITTED TO:**

- (i) Promoting the sustainable exploitation of the continent's natural resources and biodiversity, including land and water for the continent's economic and social transformation by: combating the depletion and degradation of Africa's natural resource base; and fostering the conservation and recovery of African biodiversity, which represents an inestimable heritage, through improved control of access to the genetic resources of Africa;
- (ii) Ensuring that the utilization of the natural resources and the biodiversity financially and economically benefit the countries that possess them; and further ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use, with consideration for both the current and future generations; and
- (iii) Promoting value addition, pertinent R&D, and technological innovations for sustainably harnessing the natural resource base and biodiversity by developing joint ventures and private public partnerships to facilitate the establishment of industries in Africa.

(b) Access to Safe Water for All

56. IMPROVE universal and reliable access to safe water in a sustainable manner, especially access to safe drinking water in urban and rural areas by: enhancing the protection and judicious management of water resources to safeguard water quality, and assurance of access to these resources for all uses; ensuring effective conservation and management of catchments areas; minimizing wastewater discharges; improving wastewater and water quality management systems; and improving sanitation and hygiene services in rural and urban areas.

(c) Climate change

57. While Africa is not responsible for the pollution and the factors that are causing climate change but stands to suffer most, the African leadership poised to cooperate fully along the lines of the Rio+20 outcome:

58. COMMIT to reduce deforestation, desertification and pollution, promote reforestation and reduce soil erosion; improve land management promote renewable energies; promote efficiency of energy production, consumption and recycle; and effectively implement the Kyoto Protocol.

59. RECOGNIZE the fact that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our times, we emphasize that we are deeply concerned by the vulnerability of developing countries, in particular Africa to the adverse impacts of climate change and the fact that adaptation to the phenomenon represents an immediate and urgent global priority.

60. URGE developed country parties to the UNFCCC to fully implement their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol in order to bridge the gap between the aggregate efforts of mitigation, pledge and aggregate pathways consistent with having the likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2 degrees or 1.5 degrees above the pre-industrial level.

61. CALL UPON developed countries to provide sufficient and predictable financing to developing countries mainly through capitalizing the Green Climate Fund with 100 billion dollars per year by 2020, as well as the transfer of technologies and capacity building in accordance with the relevant decisions adopted in Cancun.

(d) Desertification, Land degradation, Soil erosion, flooding and drought

62. CONSCIOUS of the fact that desertification, land degradation, soil erosion, flooding and drought are challenges of global dimension and continue to pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of all countries in particular Africa, as recognized in the UNCCD.

63. RECOGNIZE the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation, soil erosion and desertification. This should act as a catalyst for adequate support, including by

mobilizing predictable, appropriate and timely financial resources in order to enable developing countries especially in Africa to face these challenges.

(e) Natural disaster risk reduction and management

64. STRENGTHEN Africa's resilience to natural disasters by: building capacities for anticipating and responding to disasters adequately and reducing their impact on people living in vulnerable situations; implementing the African Solidarity Initiative, which targets countries in difficult situations; developing and supporting early-warning systems; and increasing support for loss and damage incurred through climate disasters.

Pillar Five: Finance and Partnerships

65. The priority strategies identified in this common position need to be financed. To this end, resource mobilization and innovative financing methods will need to be effected. In addition implementation of the strategies will require consolidation of existing partnerships and forging of new ones.

We therefore,

A. Finance

66. REAFFIRM previous commitments by developed countries in financing development, including through Agenda 21 and its programme of implementation, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, among others, as indispensable for achieving the full and effective translation of partners' commitments into tangible sustainable development outcomes.

67. REITERATE that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, and that the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies is critical. We **REAFFIRM** that African countries need additional resources for sustainable development. We recognize the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing. A stable global financial architecture that supports global systemic economic risk management and emphasizes the importance of financial and investment flows as opposed to aid, as well as fair and inclusive multilateral trading systems are vital for financing development in Africa.

68. NOTE the importance of adequate financing and a conducive global environment in accelerating rapid and sustained development through improved domestic resource mobilization, innovative financing, quality and predictability of external financing, mutually beneficial partnerships, and a fair and rule-based multilateral trade system. In this regard, we are **DETERMINED** to:

(a) Improving domestic resource mobilization

69. Improve domestic resource mobilization by: ensuring financial deepening and inclusion (e.g. domestic savings and microfinance) and strengthening tax structures, coverage and administration; carrying out fiscal reforms, encouraging public private partnerships, and capital markets

70. Curtail illicit financial flows and fight corruption in a way that ensures efficient resource use; and improve mobilization and the efficient utilization of domestic long-term financing, such as insurance, pension schemes and capital market instruments.

(b) Innovative financing

71. PROMOTE and ENHANCE efficiency of innovative financing mechanisms by: developing mechanisms to secure and invest remittances; reducing remittance transfer costs and enhancing their effective management; developing and strengthening long-term, non-traditional financing mechanisms

(c) Implementing existing commitments and promoting quality and predictability of external financing

72. CONCERNED that global commitments on financing development have not been fully met, and that this has been one of the reasons, among others, why several of the MDGs are not likely to be achieved in many African countries by 2015. Therefore **CALL UPON** development partners to fulfill their promises and commitments in the spirit of the Monterrey Consensus and G8 Gleneagles Summit. This will restore trust, confidence and mutual respect in global partnerships.

73. ENHANCE the quality and predictability of external financing by: encouraging reinvestment of the proceeds from foreign direct investment; promoting conducive policies to encourage capital inflight; holding external partners accountable for their commitments including allocation of 0.7% GNI to international development; encouraging official development assistance (ODA) in the short, medium and long-term development; mobilizing external, non-traditional sources of financing, including from philanthropists and emerging partners; facilitating access to various existing global financing mechanisms without conditionalities, such as the Education For All-Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI) and Climate Finance; and accelerating the implementation of the global commitment to address issues of illicit financial flows. We urge expeditious transition to a development friendly international financial architecture.

B. Partnerships

74. NOTE the need for a conducive, global environment for the implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda. This requires: promoting mutually beneficial partnerships that ensure ownership, coherence and alignment of international support with national and regional priorities; working with partners to develop a global framework

that includes technology and skills transfer that takes into account Africa's specific characteristics; promoting public-private partnerships; boosting intra-African trade; promoting Africa's access to global markets and the fair trade system; and ensuring that the global governance architecture is inclusive, responsive, legitimate, democratic, equitable and accountable. We therefore **CALL** for a new spirit of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual accountability that underpin the post-2015 Development Agenda and affirm our commitment to the achievement of a truly inclusive and transformative 'Global Partnership'.

(a) **Mutually beneficial partnerships**

75. PROMOTE fair and equitable partnerships by: ensuring ownership, coherence and alignment of international support with national and regional priorities; working with partners to develop financing frameworks that take into account Africa's specific characteristics and priorities; promoting public-private partnerships; strengthening South-South, North-South, triangular partnerships and Diaspora cooperation; enhancing the involvement of private sector and civil society stakeholders to ensure better ownership, implementation and accountability; supporting intra-African cooperation including solidarity; supporting countries in special situations (low-income, landlocked, small island countries and post-conflict countries); ensuring that the global governance architecture promotes ownership, reliability, equality of states, leadership and accountability; promoting partnerships for international peace and security; and promoting autonomy and independence of countries to advance alternative policies for development.

(b) **Partnership for trade**

76. COMMIT to accelerating regional integration including boosting intra-African trade and enhancing Africa's participation in the global supply chains systems.

77. REAFFIRM the critical role that an open, universal, rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading and financial system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefitting African countries at all stages of development as they advance towards sustainable development. In this context, the Post 2015 development agenda should urgently address a set of important issues such as, *inter alia*, trade-distorting subsidies and trade in environmental goods and services;

78. URGE the members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to redouble their efforts to achieve an ambitious, balanced and development-oriented conclusion to the Doha Round while respecting the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and consensual decision-making. These efforts aim to strengthen the multilateral trading system and promote trade initiatives (including Aid for Trade) in order to address key developmental concerns of the poorest and most vulnerable states including countries in special situations.

79. REAFFIRM our full solidarity with all African countries in the process of accession into the WTO and urge all WTO members to facilitate and accelerate the accession in line with their level of development and the contours of the current WTO rules. We insist that acceding countries should not be asked to make commitments that go beyond their level of development and current WTO rules. In this context, the principle of Special and Differential Treatment and non-reciprocity should be applied. Those processes should be accelerated and carried out without political impediment.

80. URGE WTO members, WTO secretariat and relevant international organizations to provide technical assistance and provide capacity building prior to and during, and in the follow-up to the accession process in line with their needs and development priorities.

(c) Partnership for managing global commons

81. The experience from implementing the MDGs shows that Africa has not capitalized on the benefits of global commons including trade, finance, and climate change, among others. We therefore,

82. REITERATE the need for sustainable management of global commons, which are important for development.

83. STRONGLYCALL on the international community to collectively address the sustainable management of global commons in the post-2015 Development Agenda. In this regard, we identify five areas of global commons that are vital to accelerating Africa's development priorities: (i) creating and implementing strategies for managing *environmental commons* such as the prevention of climate change, climate change adaptation and the promotion of biodiversity; (ii) preventing and managing *cross-border communicable diseases* (including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and avian influenza); (iii) promoting a fair, predictable, non-discriminatory and rule-based *multilateral trading system* including completion of the Doha Round; (iv) ensuring *international financial architecture* that promotes access to concessional development finance, penalizes illicit financial flows, strengthens early warning systems for global financial fragility, and deepens responsive financial risk management; and (v) promoting *global knowledge for development system* that encourages building, documenting and sharing good practices on pertinent development issues.

IV. Enabling Implementation

84. For the foregoing undertakings to take effect, an enabling domestic, continental and global environment is imperative. To that end, we REAFFIRM the importance of key enablers underpinned by the African Union's Agenda 2063, which presents the vision for the Continent's development. We also recall the Millennium Declaration that established some obligations on the continent and the international community that should be respected by all. The MDGs are still very relevant to Africa, and we call on the global

community to sustain progress already made and deepen the implementation of the challenging areas in the years ahead.

85. **ACKNOWLEDGE** the need to further sustain the efforts towards democratization undertaken on the continent and **REITERATE** our commitment to end instability and conflicts on the continent. Recognizing that building resilience represents a key priority for Africa and should be prominently reflected in the post-2015 Development Agenda, we **RESOLVE** to:

86. **PROMOTE** peace and security, address the root causes of conflict, including economic and social inequalities, and take measures to prevent the outbreak of armed conflicts by: strengthening cross-border cooperation for the resolution of disputes and for promoting cross-border security; implementing comprehensive, post-conflict reconstruction programmes, including the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), in countries emerging from conflict through effective partnership at regional and continental levels; and promoting the use of mediators for conflict resolution, including traditional conflict resolution mechanisms.

87. **ADOPT** additional measures to fight corruption, promote good political and socio-economic governance, transparency and accountability (especially in the field of natural resources management); and **IMPROVE** the enabling environment for the involvement of civil society.

88. **ACCELERATE** decentralization of the governance system, reinforce rule of law frameworks and strengthen capacities of our institutions in order to protect the human rights, meet the aspirations of our people and **PROMOTE** integrity and leadership that is committed to the interests of the people.

89. **ENHANCE** the implementation and impact of existing continental mechanisms, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African Governance Architecture.

90. **ENSURE** an effective global governance architecture, including full and equitable representation of African countries in international, financial and economic institutions as well as the decision making process, that reinforces the principles of fair trade, deters illicit financial flows, and is framed by genuine cooperation and partnerships for development based on trust.

91. **PROTECT** the human rights of all citizens in order to ensure their meaningful participation in society; fight against all forms of discrimination; and promote constructive management of diversity through democratic practices and mechanisms at the local, national and continental levels.

92. **PROMOTE** the right to development, as adopted in 1986 by the United Nations General Assembly (GA) in its Resolution 41/128 and recognized in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. This is an inalienable human right by virtue of which

every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development. By extension, this also includes the right of poor countries to develop through adequate policy space and involvement in global governance systems.

93. ENSURE equality and access to justice and information for all, as well as the protection of the rights of minorities and people living in vulnerable situations, including children, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, rural populations, displaced persons and migrants, for social sustainability by ensuring the pre-eminence of justice and rule of law.

94. ENCOURAGE mutual accountability between the state and its citizens, and, between the State and development partners.

95. PROMOTE sound macro-economic policies that combine short-term imperatives of growth with long-term development consideration such as equality, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion at national, regional, continental and global levels.

96. RESOLVE to promote private sector development by: improving the investment and business climate; promoting public private partnerships; promoting quality assurance; supporting small-scale enterprises; encouraging participation and leadership of the private sector; promoting local content policy; and encouraging socially responsive and accountable business practices. The implementation of continental mechanisms to promote intra-African trade including the NEPAD framework is also crucial in achieving this objective.

97. ENSURE a viable and credible participatory process that respects diversity and encourages input from all stakeholders, from priority setting to the planning, implementation and monitoring of development policies.

98. INVEST IN and STRENGTHEN national statistical capacities and geospatial information systems for the collection, analysis, production and dissemination of disaggregated data to measure and evaluate policy effectiveness, as well as **PROMOTE** a culture of evidence-based decision making;

99. INSTITUTE and STRENGTHEN effective monitoring and evaluation systems, and **IMPROVE** accountability.

100. ENSURE the preservation, protection and promotion of traditional intellectual property, and promote knowledge creation through its integration in development programmes.

101. To strengthen human and institutional capacities in all areas of priorities mentioned above, we are **COMMITTED** to:

- (i) Building and strengthening capacity to negotiate contracts, concessions and fiscal incentives for investors, including natural resource management, capacity for trade negotiations, e.g. WTO and related issues, as well as capacity for technology transfer, innovation and R&D.
- (ii) Strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. We reiterate the importance of human resource development, including training, the exchange of experiences and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which requires strengthening institutional capacity, including planning, management and monitoring capacities.
- (iii) Continued and focused implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building.

V. Conclusion

102. We, Heads of State and Government of the African Union, COMMEND the participatory approach of the post-2015 Development Agenda formulation process, which provides a unique opportunity for Africa to present a united and a common set of priorities. We believe in a world with a just and equitable economic order, that is free from poverty, exclusion and human suffering, and respect the limits of the planet earth.

103. RECOMMEND that the post-2015 Development Agenda **GIVES ADEQUATE ATTENTION** to: the development of productive capacity that is underpinned by value addition, technology and innovation, and infrastructure development; people-centred development with a particular emphasis on youth empowerment and gender equality; natural resources, and disaster risk management in the context of sustainable development; and a truly inclusive and transformative global partnership. This is important for us to achieve an integrated, prosperous, stable, peaceful and secure Africa that is effectively engaged in the global arena.

104. CALL FOR a fully open, transparent and inclusive negotiation process in which nations are equal and have an equal voice. We commit to speak with one voice and to ensure that Africa's voice is heard and fully integrated into the global development agenda.

105. WE BELIEVE that these objectives are attainable within 15 years, and we therefore **RECOMMEND** that the Post 2015 development agenda should be set over a period of 15 years starting from 2016.