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43RD MEETING OF THE NEPAD STEERING COMMITTEE

24-25 JANUARY 2012

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

RETREAT OF THE NEPAD STEERING COMMITTEE
RUSTENBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, 2-3 OCTOBER 2011

SUMMARY REPORT
(Chair's Summary)

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1. The NEPAD Steering Committee (SC) held a two-day Retreat in Rustenburg, South Africa from 2-3 October 2011. The Retreat was hosted by the Government of South Africa and chaired by Mr. Mohamed Abdella, representing the Ethiopian Co-Chair. Welcome remarks were made by Ambassador Lindiwe Zulu, South African representative on the Steering Committee, the Ethiopian Co-Chair and Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency. AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs, Dr. M. Mkwezalamba, who led AUC team, also made remarks to the Retreat on 3 October.
2. With the agenda adopted without amendment, the Retreat primarily examined the clauses in the draft Rules of Procedure for NEPAD HSGOC and SC as per the decision of the 24th Meeting of the NEPAD HSGOC in January 2011, towards finalization for submission to the 26th HSGOC at the next 18th AU Assembly.

Draft Rules of Procedure for NEPAD Governance Structures

3. The SC Retreat:
 - a. *reviewed* the drafts Rules of Procedure for HSGOC and Steering Committee and recommended that the two rules be consolidated into one document titled “Rules of Procedure for NEPAD Governance Structures”
 - b. *recommended* additional inputs in the preamble and issues relating to “Membership” and “Attendance” of HSGOC sessions as well as the status, powers and functions of both the HSGOC and SC;
 - c. *agreed* with the focused functions of the HSGOC as proposed by the NPCA CEO, relating to three (3) core issues – provision of strategic direction to the NEPAD agenda; supervision of the implementation of key NEPAD projects and international Partnership issues and this was reflected in the final draft;
 - d. *noted* the role of SC in considering NPCA draft budget before due examination by the AU Organs starting with the PRC, followed by the Executive Council, then to AU Assembly for approval, given NEPAD integration into AU structures and processes;
4. Specifically, the SC Retreat considered and reached common understanding on the following provisions in the draft Rules, including:
 - a. Term of office of the HSGOC Chairperson will be a maximum of two terms of two years each. The second term should not exceed two years and the election methodology will be based on the appropriate AU practice and established criteria;
 - b. Features of HSGOC 20-country membership and quorum, agenda, ordinary and extra-ordinary sessions as well as working languages; selection of venue, dignitaries to address opening and closing ceremonies of the HSGOC, HSGOC Chairperson duties and role of Vice Presidents; and Observer status for RECs’ Chief Executives and NEPAD partner institutions; special invitations for attendance and participation;
 - c. HSGOC decision-making procedures, highlighting the approval procedures and authentication of HSGOC conclusions and recommendations through the adoption by the AU Assembly;
 - d. For SC, nomination of one/two Personal Representative(s) to serve on the SC by HSGOC members; accreditation of SC delegations; SC status, functions and quorum; configuration of SC meetings and consultations and working languages, Co-chairing arrangements based on countries chairing the AU and HSGOC and duties of Co-Chairs; and
 - e. Final technical provisions in the draft Rules dealing with points of order, use of the floor, saving clause, implementation and entry into force;
5. Overall, the SC Retreat requested the NPCA in conjunction with the AUC Office of Legal Counsel which was represented at the Retreat, to provide the latest draft version of the Rules of Procedure

for NEPAD Governance Structures by mid-October and share with SC country members for final round of comments.

Any Other Business

6. AOB issues were considered and the Steering Committee Retreat:

(I) 10th Anniversary of NEPAD

- a. *welcomed* NPCA CEO's updated briefing on the planned events to mark the 10 years anniversary of NEPAD, starting with the NEPAD Week in New York at the 66th UN General Assembly from 6-11 October, which will be followed by a Colloquium in Addis Ababa at a period to be confirmed in November 2011. CEO expressed the desire that the anniversary events will be honored with the presence of SC members;
- b. *noted* the proposed fundraising NEPAD Gala Dinner./Banquet in Johannesburg in December, as a means to mobilize resources for NEPAD implementation;
- c. *took due note* of CEO's emphasis that the Agency will be marking the 10 years anniversary of NEPAD and not celebrating, stating that the focus is to learn from the past experience and map out strategies on future direction for the NEPAD Programme;
- d. *further noted* the indication that NPCA would provide SC members with comprehensive report on 10 years review of NEPAD in due course.

(II) Preparations for the 17th APF in Kigali

- a. *took note* of the status of preparations for the upcoming Kigali 17th APF and the relevant thematic documentation to be shared shortly with SC members.
- b. *expressed* concern on the value addition of APF and called for the urgent review of African participation in this meeting;
- c. *also expressed* concern on logistics for African participants especially in relation to non-provision of local transportation and high costs of hotel accommodation in Kigali;
- d. *requested* the NPCA CEO to formally convey to the Rwandan Authorities the concern of SC members on logistics in Kigali for the 17th APF

(III) Update on Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI)

- a. *also requested* AUC and NPCA to provide a common Briefing Note to update SC members on the level of activities on the Infrastructure initiative as soon as practicable, based on the presentation by the NPOCA CEO;

Conclusion

7. The Steering Committee Retreat agreed that the final draft Rules of Procedure should be made available to SC members by mid October 2011 and proposed a specially convened two-day SC meeting in Addis Ababa in November before the date for the Colloquium to finalize the Rules before sending to the Heads of State and Government on the HSGOC.
8. Finally, SC members expressed, through the Chair, profound appreciation to the South African Government for the facilities for successfully hosting the Retreat in a serene and beautiful North West province along with the hospitality extended to all participants.

NEPAD Agency, Midrand, South Africa, October 2011