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Concept note in preparation for the Fifth Mid -Year Coordination Meeting

16th July 2023, in Nairobi, Kenya

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I. Introduction

1. This concept note is designed for the conduct of the Fifth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting scheduled for Nairobi, Kenya on 16th July 2023. The Mid-Year Coordination Meeting will bring together Members of the Bureau of the AU Assembly, Heads of State of RECs, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the CEO of AUDA-NEPAD and a select number of invited guests.

II. Achievements of the Fourth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting

2. The Fourth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting was successfully held in Lusaka, Zambia on the 17th July 2022. It resulted in endorsement of a Declaration for the consideration of the 36th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly. The said Declaration covered the following areas:
 - The status of integration Report and its recommendations
 - The Division of Labour
 - The launch of I-RECKE
 - The Report of the Champion on the AfCFTA
 - The Report of the Champion on COVID-19
3. After lengthy deliberations the Summit decided that a Retreat be organised to enable the Coordination Committee to elaborate more deeply concrete measures on the following:
 - i. Review the African Multidimensional Integration Index
 - ii. Define modalities for the sustainable financing of the integration strategy with the participation of all relevant stakeholders including participation of the African financial
 - iii. Elaborate an economic recovery strategy that will underpin the economic transformation of Africa and further address the impact of COVID 19, climate change, Russia-Ukraine conflict as well as conflicts on the continent
 - iv. Strengthen inter-REC cooperation in order to achieve synergized performance across all RECs in all dimensions of integration.
 - v. Support greater participation of RECs in AU policy organs so that they effectively contribute to the implementation of the continental agenda of economic integration
 - vi. Review the final recommendations of the report on the division of labour

- vii. Assess progress made in the evaluation of the first 10 year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and formulation of the second ten year plan
4. In compliance with the Decision of the Heads of State, the meeting of the Coordination Committee comprising of the AUC Chairperson, CEOs of Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/ Regional Mechanisms (RMs) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and strategic partners was held in Nairobi, on 19 January 2023.
5. The Coordination Committee came up with recommendations as reflected in their report hereto attached for ease of reference.

III. Proposed Agenda of the Fifth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting

6. It is proposed that the Fifth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting will consider the following agenda items:
 - a. Report on the Status of integration in Africa
 - Report from the AUC Chairperson and Chairpersons of each REC;
 - b. Consideration and adoption of an effective Division of Labour between the AU, RECs/RMs and Member States on the remaining sectors;
 - c. AU-RECs Inter-RECs success stories on integration agenda;
 - d. Environment, Climate Change and Blue Economy: Challenges and Prospects for Integration in Africa
 - e. AfDB Continental initiatives; and
 - f. Declaration of the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting

a) Report on the Status of Integration in Africa

7. The AUC will work closely with the RECs to ensure that in line with Decision of the Coordination Committee the Report for 2023 will focus on providing more focused and practical recommendations in order to yield a more analytical report for the consideration of the Summit. It will also include a

section on the status of implementation of Decision of the previous four mid-year coordination Meetings.

8. Regarding the African Multidimensional Regional Integration Index (AMRII) the final outcome will be presented during the Sixth Mid-Year Coordination Meeting after thorough discussion by the Coordination Committee and its Secretariat.

b). Consideration of the remaining sectors for an effective Division of Labour

9. The agreed upon areas of convergence for the remaining sectors will be more comprehensively elaborated and a common position will be submitted to the Coordination Committee through its Secretariat for their consideration and guidance.

c). AU-RECs and Inter-RECs success stories on the integration agenda

10. RECS will be given the opportunity to make a report on AU-RECs and inter-REC success stories for purposes of sharing of best practices arising out of their cooperation on integration matters. The Heads of State and Government of the Orientation Committee (HSGOC) will also be given an opportunity to share success story in the consolidation of regional and continental integration and achieving Agenda 2063.

d). Environment, Climate Change and Blue Economy: Challenges and Prospects for Integration in Africa

11. This item will reflect on climate change challenges & opportunities in Africa and propose recommendations for the Continent to capitalize on its strengths, enhance its integration, and streamline its climate-related policies and action on national, regional and global levels.

e). AfDB Continental initiatives

12. The AfDB will present an update on the progress made by the Bank to deliver critical continental initiatives in support of the implementation of Agenda 2063.

f). Draft Declaration

13. The Draft Declaration is the outcome of all the recommendations that will emanate from the discussions on all the agenda items and it will be submitted to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for their consideration at their next Ordinary Session in February 2024.

IV. Expected Outcome and Road Map

14. The meeting is expected to accomplish the following:

- A more focussed Status of integration process in Africa report;
- Finalisation of the remaining sectors of the Division of Labour between the AU, RECs, and Member States on the remaining sectors;
- Shared experiences by RECs and Member States to strengthen integration at regional and continental levels;
- Provide strategic recommendations for mitigating environment and climate change challenges and proposals for a better Blue Economy Strategy; and
- Consideration and adoption of the Draft Declaration

V. Date and Venue

15. The date of the meeting is 16th July 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.