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DRAFTING OF AU STRATEGIC PLAN BEGINS

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 19 September 2012- The African Union today started a two day brainstorming process aimed at contributing to a strategic plan, for use within the Union from 2014 onwards. The meeting is being held at the African Union headquarters and is coordinated by the AU Commission's Directorate of Strategic Planning, Policy Management and Resource Management. Participants are directors, heads of division and senior officials from the African Union Commission, other organs and programmes of the AU, and Regional Economic Communities.



The meeting marks the beginning of a drafting period that will culminate in the presentation of the draft strategy to African Heads of State and Government in January 2014. Participants will be guided by a number of benchmarks as they seek to identify

the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the AU. Experiences in Asia will be of particular importance since that continent is moving aggressively on its development trajectory.

“We must project where Africa will be in 20 to 40 years time and in doing so, we must learn lessons from others, such as Asia”, exhorted the Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission Mr. Erastus Mwencha when he officially opened the meeting today. “Asia is projecting to increase its GDP from 17 billion dollars today to 175 billion in 2050. This is a tenfold increase. Africa on the other hand, is expected to register only a doubling of its GDP in the same period”, the Deputy Chairperson said.

In order for the continent to achieve adequate growth that will lead to improved livelihoods, he emphasized the importance of planning. “We are here to plan so that we achieve our goals”, he said, warning that lack of proper planning leads to failure.



The meeting will identify challenges facing African development as it seeks to achieve the AU vision of a prosperous, peaceful and united continent. Similarly, it will identify and leverage strengths so as to come up with a draft that encompasses priority areas, division of labour among the different constituents of the African Union, and a clear timetable of action.

The final AU wide strategic plan will be the result of joint collaboration among the organs of the African Union, RECs, civil society and other stakeholders.

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