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**FRAMEWORK FOR A RENEWED UN/AU PARTNERSHIP ON AFRICA'S
INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS (PAIDA)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FRAMEWORK FOR A RENEWED UN/AU PARTNERSHIP ON AFRICA'S INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA [PAIDA] 2017-2027

Introduction and Principles

1. The present document is an **Executive Summary** of the *“Framework For A Renewed UN/AU Partnership On Africa’s Integration and Development Agenda [PAIDA] 2017-2027”*, attached hereto. An initial draft was prepared by a senior UN consultant, following which inputs were made by the various relevant UN institutions *in the fields of development, integration and peace and security*. The relevant departments of the AU Commission also made inputs to articulate the AU perspective and buttress the principle of African ownership. It was then collectively considered and approved by representatives of the member institutions of both the AU and UN systems, during the 16th session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa [RCM-Africa] which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29th and 30th March, 2015.¹

2. The Framework, also known by its acronym, PAIDA, while outlining proposals for the kind of support that the UN system can collectively provide to the Member States of the AU at the continental, regional and national levels, is designed to be the immediate successor programme to the United Nations Ten Year Capacity Building Programme *for the African Union* [TYCBP-AU] which came into being in 2006, subsequent to its adoption by General Assembly of Resolution 60/1 of 2005, and which expires in 2016.

3. The report of the second triennial review of the TYCBP-AU which was presented to, and adopted by, the 15th session of the RCM held in Abuja, Nigeria in April 2014, indicated that while “substantial contributions” had been made towards building the capacity of the institutions of the African Union in the context of the programme, the UN mandates of support to the AU and its NEPAD Agency had been “overtaken by developments”, both within them and the continent; and that the time was ripe for these mandates to be “re-freshened and updated”, to respond to present-day realities by means of a successor programme.

4. Consequently, the 15th Session of the RCM requested the African Union Commission, in consultation with the UN, to set up a Technical Working Group [TWG] to formulate a long-term programme of support for the African Union, including for the AU Agenda 2063. The TWG which drew its membership from the AU system, UN entities operating in Africa as well as the AfDB, commenced work in November 2014 and PAIDA, is the result of its work.

¹ The membership of RCM- Africa comprises UN offices, agencies and institutions working on Africa’s development as well as the African Union Commission, NPCA, APRM, RECs, as well as the AfDB

5. The content and direction of PAIDA is informed by the lessons drawn from the implementation of four previous UN programmes of support established by the UN General Assembly in a period of more than three decades. Indeed, based on these lessons of the past, PAIDA specifies that the following principles should form the basis for the creation and implementation of a new AU/UN partnership to ensure that it achieves greater success than its predecessors:

- i) **ownership and leadership by the African Union**, fashioned by the exigencies of Africa`s needs and priorities as expressed, rather than by a perceived need to craft an external response to emergencies or crises on the continent;
- ii) **respect for Africa`s policy space**, in order to avoid infringements of the continent`s sovereignty;
- iii) **faithfulness to commitments made**, especially in accordance with UN GA 293 of September 2012 establishing the UN monitoring mechanism for reviewing commitments made to Africa`s development;
- iv) **consultation and coordination**, to promote coherence and synergy for success;
- v) **accountability**, to ensure that partners are accountable to each other;
- vi) **strategic partnership** involving the AUC, the NPCA, RECs and all policy and implementing organs of the AU, to bring about change in attaining the continent`s objectives, as specified in the Constitutive Act;
- vii) **pro-active engagement**, as distinct from reactive engagement, to avoid fire- fighting and crisis situations.

6. In addition, due emphasis is accorded the fact that the previous programmes enjoyed only limited success because expectations that adequate, regular, dedicated and predictable support would be provided by the international community, were not realized. Accordingly, one of the fundamental premises of PAIDA is that the UN system will make the necessary arrangements to ensure that this gap is filled.

7. Much stress is also laid on the first two afore-mentioned principles, namely **leadership and ownership by the African Union** as well as **respect for Africa`s policy space**, to the extent that one of the foundations on which PAIDA stands, is its anchoring on the major, overarching blueprint, namely the AU Agenda 2063 complemented by its Ten Year Implementation Plan. The other major frameworks which are subsidiary to the Agenda 2063, namely the CAP Post -2015 Development Agenda, are also taken into account.

8. PAIDA notes that the 2063 Agenda and its **First** Ten-Year Implementation Plan, the first of five which will be developed between 2013 and 2063]delete), as well as the CAP Post-2015 Agenda, have incorporated into themselves, all the concerns of all the other major continental frameworks specifically elaborated in the past in a sectoral context. These include PIDA; CAADP; AMV; AGA; PSA; MIP; AIDA; AU/NEPAD Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action; Africa's Agro-Industry and Agri-business Development Initiative [3ADI], Peace and Security Architecture, as well as others.

9. Furthermore, the AU has developed, or is in the process of developing, new ten- to fifteen- year sectoral frameworks for the implementation of Agenda 2063, as well as flagship programmes, including the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa, 2024 [STISA]; and the continental Technical and Vocational, Education and Training Strategy [TVET]. All other important AU sectoral programmes are given due mention in the body of this Executive Summary.

Political, Social and Economic Situational Analysis and PAIDA's Priority Action Areas

10. Against the background of these major AU blueprints, as well as the said AU sectoral frameworks and flagship programmes, PAIDA provides an analysis of the situation that obtains in each of the various political, economic and social sectors of the continent; and then indicates the priority actions that will require UN support, based on these programmes and frameworks

11. In the economic sector, the point is made that the continental economy is performing appreciably well; and that in fact, Africa's growth performance is relatively high compared with what obtains in the rest of the world .With regard, however, to the challenges faced by the continent, mention is made, for example, of) the fact that in spite of the expansion of the middle class, the absolute number of poor people has actually increased. Thus the magnitude and consistency of growth required for significant poverty reduction in Africa is yet to be fully realised. There is the challenge of the growing inequality in the distribution of assets, as well as that of inequality of access to public services such as education and health care programmes. Mention is also made of the fact that the current account deficit continues to deteriorate, brought about by declining export earnings due, *inter alia*, to drops in commodity and oil prices, and rising purchases of capital goods to support infrastructure development and construction.

12. The way forward in the area of economic development would appear to lie in the total structural transformation of the African economy, through the formulation and implementation of the appropriate macro-economic frameworks, in order to facilitate and enhance inclusive growth, and reduce inequalities and poverty.

13. Another priority would also be the pursuit of rapid industrialisation because of its potentially transformative impact. Attention should be paid to the enhancement of beneficiation and prioritisation of value - addition, especially in the extractive industries

and in the primary commodities sector. **The Plan of Action for Accelerated Development [AIDA] will guide industrial policy implementation.**

14. Again, increased attention should be accorded to the role of the private sector in the transformative process, in bringing about more inclusive and sustainable growth. It should thus be strengthened by improving the business and investment climate, promoting strong partnership with the public sector, and shifting the emphasis from lower to higher productivity sectors. The potentials of private sector operators will be tapped to encourage them to play roles as partners, implementing agents, or intermediaries in such critical sectors as sustainable energy, agriculture and agri-business, digital and physical infrastructure as well as the green and blue economies and the social sector. The support in this regard should focus on the AU 2016 -2020 Private Sector Development Strategy.

15. Additionally, efforts should be made to significantly enhance capacity for domestic resource mobilization, public financial management, tracking and curbing illicit financial flows and evolving innovative financing models that fit African realities.

16. Efforts should also be made to harness the data revolution through supporting the **African Data Revolution Agenda**, as a means of enhancing evidence-based development policy –making. This is with a view to reaping the demographic dividend through the formulation of an **African Social Cohesion Agenda** within **Agenda 2063**.

17. In the area of natural resources, there will be more focused efforts on capacity development at the continental, regional and country levels, to engender better and sustained management of the continent's vast natural resources, including land and marine resources. This will include better management of the continent's biodiversity, the reversal of environmental degradation, especially the growing desertification and depletion of the continent's forest cover. The management of the continent's vast waterways such as the Nile, Niger and Volta Rivers, the Great Lakes and Lake Victoria, will also be addressed. Given that many of these waterways are trans-boundary resources, efforts must also be made to collectively manage and regulate them.

18. The management of the continent's mineral resources, calls for the creation of capacities at the continental, regional and national levels, through the judicious and sustainable exploitation of these mineral resources and the implementation of the **African Mining Vision**. Africa's dependence on fossil fuels must be reduced and the exploitation of its vast sources of renewal energy must be promoted.

19. Given the potential transformative impact of agriculture on development, as well as its importance in achieving food and agricultural security on the continent, emphasis should be placed on its development and modernization. This will be realized by pursuing policies and programmes that boost productivity, as well as through increased diversification, value-addition across the agricultural value- chain, development of agro-industries and agri-businesses, and significant stimulation of the green and blue economies.

20. Further, a **Commodities Strategy** will be formulated to help African countries receive higher earnings from their commodity exports, ease their stronger integration into the global value-chains, and boost their value-addition and content development. To this end, efforts will be geared towards the realization of the **AU 2014 Malabo Commitments on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods**. Furthermore, special emphasis will be placed on the widespread mechanization of African agriculture, an area where the continent stands to achieve quick gains. The threat of climate change to African agriculture and fisheries will also be addressed.

21. At a broader level, the issue of climate change will be accorded attention, especially with regard to African LDCs. Efforts will be made to protect the cities, towns and villages in the 35 African coastal countries threatened by coastal erosion. The **African Climate Fund** will be made fully operational. Substantial support will also be provided to the **African Climate Policy Centre** as part of the **Climate Information for Development in Africa Programme [Clim-Dev-Africa] initiative**.

22. Particular attention will also be paid) to the fight against land degradation and desertification and initiatives such as the **Great Green Wall of the Sahara and Sahel** will be pursued with greater vigour. In view of the exposure of and vulnerability of livelihoods and production systems to various risks, efforts will be geared) towards supporting the implementation of continental risk reduction programmes like the **AU African Risk Capacity [ARC]**, as well as others at the regional and national levels. Capacity building in early warning will be pursued. The implementation of **Africa's Space Policy** will be strongly supported.

23. In the particular case of education, mention is made of the positive development brought about by the fact that enrolment rates for girls and gender parity in primary schools are rising faster than anywhere else in the world; and that generally, African countries are re-doubling their efforts to scale-up investments in education, based on their understanding of the critical fact that the development and utilization of the continent's human resources is dependent on the expansion of access to high quality education and training at all levels---primary, secondary and tertiary. In fact, in spite of increasing enrolment, there are low standards in numeracy and literary skills achieved at the primary school level, as well as low rates of completion, especially for girls, due **to** factors such **as** early marriage. The situation has led to critical skills gaps and the creation of barriers to social and economic opportunities. Access to education will be increased through distance, technical and vocational education and through the **new continental education strategy** to succeed the **Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa**.

24. In addition, challenges in matching education to the evolving labour market remain. Thus support needs to be accorded the intensive efforts which are being made, to enhance the relevance and responsiveness of education. Additional efforts must be made to increase access to higher education.

25. Support must also be given to efforts being made to revitalize and strengthen scientific research and innovation to address current challenges, including enhancing productivity in key sectors as agriculture and management of natural resources. Intra-African collaboration in research has increased significantly, thus enhancing the continent's capacity to develop solutions to common problems ; and initiatives like the **Pan-African University** are helping to model strategic linkages between higher education and research on the one hand, and the public sector on the other.

26. Most African countries will soon be experiencing a demographic and urbanization transition: The continent has the most youthful population in the world. By 2040, this youthful population will swell dramatically into the largest labour force in the world----1 billion workers ----and this will be more than those of China and India combined. It needs to be underlined that this phenomenal rise in the labour supply on the continent will only translate into a demographic dividend if the economy is made to expand significantly to enable it effectively absorb these large numbers of young additional workers. This can be achieved if the right investments in developing their capabilities are made, to ensure that the future labour force is of high quality and therefore employable. Thus, the youth should be given increased access to more relevant training opportunities, decent and productive employment, as well as increased access to financial and credit services, in accordance with the **Ouagadougou Plan of Action**. Youth volunteerism will be promoted to enhance Pan-Africanism, social responsibility and employment preparedness among young Africans

27. The area of employment in general, remains a priority, because in spite of increased growth, unemployment and the quality of the jobs created on the continent remain a major challenge. Thus for example, Africa's urban unemployment and under-employment rates, especially among the youth, are the highest in the world. This is due to the fact that economic growth has been concentrated mainly in the capital intensive sectors of the economy such as the extractive industries. Further, job creation has occurred mostly in the low-productivity, informal and agricultural sectors.

28. On the urbanization front, while Africa is the least urbanized region in the world, its urban growth rate is also the fastest and is projected to double in 20 years, mainly as a result of rural-urban migration, natural population increases, and other factors. However, the presence of more people in the continent's towns and cities, has placed a strain on the already inadequate infrastructure and services, including roads, access to clean water, drainage and sanitation, waste disposal, energy, education, and health. This situation has led to economic and social alienation and tensions. Planning and managing this rapid urban growth should aim at avoiding and alleviating these tensions. However, beyond this, rapid urban growth also raises the necessity for better planning and management, if African cities and towns are to serve as the foundation of the continent's structural transformation. At present, 65 to 70 per cent of Africa's GDP is generated from urban-based economic activities. Going forward, this percentage contribution is certain to rise. Efforts must be intensified to make the African town and city the springboard for the continent's industrialization, poverty-reduction and employment creation, as well as for uplifting the standards of living of millions of Africans.

29. In the light of Africa's rapid urban growth, emphasis will be placed on programmes to enhance the capacity of municipal administrators.
30. In the area of health, commendable progress has been achieved as a result of increased productive investment. For example, since 1990, Africa has done well in many of the MDG health-related sectors---as a result of increased and more productive investment. Thus, life expectancy has increased markedly; the Neo-natal Mortality Rate has significantly fallen; the Infant Mortality Rate has dropped; the Under-five Mortality Rate has recorded an impressive decrease; and there has also been a huge reduction in the Maternal Mortality Rate. In the fight against Ebola, Africa has made notable progress. New HIV infection and AIDS death rates have also both declined significantly. There has been a reduction in the incidence of TB infections and deaths. Improvements in HIV/AIDS and TB statistics are attributable to the use of anti-retroviral treatment across the continent.
31. Nonetheless, the highest levels of infection continue to occur in Sub-Saharan Africa which also hosts 71 percent of people living with HIV globally, with women constituting a large proportion of the affected population. Indeed, AIDS is the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age and adolescents in the region.
32. The outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa has exposed Africa's capacity weaknesses in effectively responding to this type of health emergency, in terms of health systems and coping mechanisms, including at the household level. This has aggravated already existing deep poverty levels and vulnerability. In particular, Ebola has posed an unprecedented challenge to women's rights and protection, given the fact that women play a primary care-giving role in their households and communities, as well as in health care-systems as nurses.
33. The Ebola outbreak has also revealed the challenges to the predictability and adequacy of the international response to such complex emergencies.
34. While significant additional investments have to be made in the health systems in Africa in general, including catering for women and children, the building of resilient and sustainable health systems that can help prevent, detect and respond to public health emergencies will be at the centre of the AU's programmes. **The African Centre for Disease Control** will be operationalized to provide the necessary support in this regard. Also to be covered will be the AU's medium and long-term post Ebola recovery plan and strategy in its assistance to countries in strengthening their capacities to effectively implement international health regulations and prepare to avert future threats of this kind.
35. Overall, issues pertaining to maternal and child health and to addressing communicable and non-communicable diseases will remain high on the agenda. Priority will also be accorded to issues of increased access to healthcare system, especially in the rural areas, and to food and nutrition security in accordance with the **African Health Strategy** that is to be implemented.

36. Regarding the advancement of the critical issue of continental integration, whereby the continent seeks to remove the constraints created by the existence of small economies and reap the benefits of economies of scale, some of the Regional Economic Communities, namely ECOWAS, EAC, SADC and COMESA have made significant progress in trade liberalization and facilitation; and in the area of free movement of people, ECOWAS's achievements stand out. SADC and the EAC have also progressed in the area of infrastructure development; and ECOWAS and SADC have made commendable progress in the area of peace and security. In the transportation sector, attention needs to be paid to the situation where transport costs are extremely high and many road, air and rail networks are not sufficiently inter-connected. All the RECs are working towards improved transport methods, in order to promote unrestricted facilitation, reduce costs and improve overall efficiency. These programmes need to be supported.

37. Programmes to robustly increase intra-continental trade and boost market integration will be given priority; and in that regard, the AU Assembly Decision to establish a **Pan-African Continental Free trade Area [CFTA]** by the indicative date of 2017 should be supported. The AU Assembly has also established as part of the CFTA architecture, a **High-Level African Trade Committee [HATC] comprising Heads of State and Chairs of the RECs**. The CFTA is expected to build on the best practices of the **SADC-EAC-COMESA tripartite free trade process** and agreement, as well as other regional integration efforts. Mention **needs to be made of other integration arrangements such as Customs Unions and Common Markets**. Mention **must also** be made of the fact that efforts to roll-out the continental integration agenda, especially in the context of inter-African trade, are hampered by the fact that women, who form the bulk of informal cross-border traders in Africa, suffer from stigmatism and lack of recognition of their contribution to economic development. Support must therefore be given to efforts to adopt gender-sensitive inter-African trade policies, so that the continent can benefit from the critical input of its cross-border women traders.

38. Other actions for strengthening the economic integration efforts of the continent will include the following: The establishment of a continental alert mechanism [Observatory of Economic Development] which will aim at enhancing coherence in Africa's integration agenda, as well as reduce disparities through playing a critical role in designing optimal policies, apart from anticipating crises and their potential impact; the promotion of trans-boundary, trans-national infrastructure projects, especially those identified by PIDA. Since financing integration is crucial, the actions will also include strengthening and fully implementing the financial and banking and other institutions of integration such as the African Central Bank, African Monetary Fund, African Investment Bank and African Stock Exchange. The integration of the financial markets on the continent is contingent upon the harmonization of national policies and procedures as well as institutions across member states. Attention should also be accorded to the strengthening of river basin organisations.

39. Given the role of the RECs as the building blocks of integration on the continent, the implementation of their own special programmes on integration will be supported.

These programmes include the creation of free trade areas, customs unions and common markets; the promotion of intra-regional trade and the development of transport and communications, infrastructure, energy, industrialisation, peace and security and governance. In the case of North Africa, special emphasis will be placed on intra-regional trade; multi-modal transport systems and ICT connectivity; agricultural development; peace and security; political reform; strengthening governance; empowering women and youth; and addressing unemployment. In Central Africa, priority will be accorded to conflict resolution and prevention initiatives with support being accorded through the **Central African Peace and Security Council [COPAX]** and the **UN Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa**. Special attention will also be accorded to the infrastructure and transport projects of the Economic Community of Central African States[ECCAS], in pursuit of the region's integration goals; management of the region's forest reserves; implementation of the energy projects of PIDA, as well as programmes that address the peculiar energy problems of the region.

40. Regarding East and Southern Africa, priorities include the development of transport corridors in the eastern, northern and central parts of the region; transformation of agriculture [including livestock and fisheries]; development and strengthening of integrated water resource management systems such as those of the **Nile Basin Initiative [NBI]** and **Lake Victoria Basin Authority**; greater exploitation of the region's vast tourism potential; and programmes on science and technology and ICT.

41. Building on the advances that have been made in ECOWAS in the context of the free movement of persons and the consolidation of the establishment of the key community institutions, its objective of creating a **common market in West Africa by 2020** will receive strong support. Priority will also be accorded to its programmes for the development of infrastructure and public utilities such as the **West Africa Power Pool** and the **West Africa Gas Pipeline**. Its programmes to accelerate the pace of industrialization and revolutionise its food production systems will also be supported. In the area of peace and security, ECOWAS will work with the AU and UN to intensify efforts to address, degrade and eliminate the threat posed by the rise of Jihadist (delete) and Islamist (delete) militancy in the Sahel belt of West Africa.

42. In addition, the RECs must be encouraged to establish their own development banks to assist their member states in financing integration projects.

43. Attention must also be accorded to the strengthening of river basin organisations.

44. In the area of infrastructure development, the AUC is working together with the NPCA, the RECs and the AfDB, for the implementation of the **Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa [PIDA]**. As is well known, PIDA is a major flagship project of the AU Agenda 2063 and regarded as a key driver of social and economic integration of the continent, through strengthening intra-African trade, building peace and security, and promoting free movement of persons, goods and services. The implementation of PIDA is to be enhanced through the **PIDA Priority Action Plan [PIDA PAP]**. PIDA will also supplement and support the implementation of existing continental

frameworks such as the **CFTA, CAADP, AIDA, AMV, MIP, and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Action Plan**. Through the **Presidential Infrastructural Champion Initiative, [PICA], eight major PIDA infrastructure projects are being championed for implementation**; and at the Dakar PIDA Financing Conference, **16 priority projects were identified for immediate implementation under the PIDA PAP**. Furthermore, **the** institutional Architecture for Infrastructural Development in Africa [AIDA] has been operationalized and a monitoring, evaluation and reporting system set up.

45. In the area of ICT, there have been marked improvements in application and use. SADC, ECOWAS, COMESA and UMA have significantly increased connectivity in their respective regions. The AU has been working on the African Internet Exchange System [AXIS] project, aimed at providing capacity building and technical assistance for the establishment and proper management of national and regional internet exchange points, as well as regional internet carriers on the continent.

46. In the energy sector, the RECs are exploiting economies of scale by significantly expanding supply chains through regional power pools and the development of benign power sources, in order to minimize costs. Some member States of ECOWAS, SADC and EAC have made appreciable progress in this context. In the light of the above, high priority will continue to be given to the development, expansion, and effective maintenance of public infrastructure for energy, especially renewable energy, water and sanitation systems, transport and communications, ICT, education and health delivery.

47. Further, the integration and development projects formulated in the context of PIDA, such as **the Trans-Africa Highway, African High Speed Rail Network, Grand Inga Dam, Pan-African E-Network, the RECs ICT broadband and infrastructure projects, will all be accorded priority attention**; and Member States will be encouraged to better harmonise their policies and regulatory frameworks in the infrastructure sector.

48. In the area of governance, steady progress is being made towards improving political, economic and corporate governance. There is a greater demand from individual citizens and civil society for democracy, transparency and accountability, and anti- corruption measures, and there is indeed a greater spread of public anti – corruption institutions throughout the continent. Elections are also held more regularly. To buttress these positive developments, priority needs to be attached to deepening democracy through combatting discrimination; promoting the management of diversity through enabling democratic practices at the local, national and continental levels; strengthening public institutions of governance at the national and continental levels; achieving gender parity in economic and political governance.

49. Following its recent formal integration into the AU, the strengthening of the processes and systems of the APRM should be enhanced to enable it to play its role as Africa`s lead governance institution, while it engages and creates synergies with other AU institutions, the RECs, and AU member states. The AU Anti-Corruption Board should also be strengthened and well-resourced. In the meantime, the AU is forging ahead with the implementation of the **African Governance Architecture, the African Charter on**

Democracy and Elections. Furthermore the African Court on Human and People's Rights and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights should be well – resourced.

50. In the field of peace and security, actions will be taken to tackle the causes of conflict in Africa, namely social and economic exclusion; competition over resources; proliferation of arms; gender and income inequalities; and discrimination on religious and ethnic grounds. Efforts will be made to strengthen Africa's conflict interventions, as well as strengthen cross-border cooperation in resolving disputes; and inclusive conflict resolution programmes will be developed and supported. Actions will also be taken to silence the guns, including the elaboration of an **African Human Security Index**. The **African Peace and Security Architecture of the AU** will be fully supported and implemented. **The African Standby Force and Rapid Development Capability** will also be fully developed.

51. The new threats to the integrity and continued existence of some African states, notably in the North, Eastern and Central regions as well as in the Sahel, impelled by the increasing incidence of ethnic regional and religious insurgencies, will be addressed.

52. Efforts will also be made to confront the threat of transnational organized crimes, including money –laundering and trafficking in drugs, persons and wildlife; to intensify efforts to ensure the full protection of women in conflict situations and from terrorism, as well as impunity in sexual and gender-based violence; and to promote and ensure women's involvement in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace-building; and post-conflict decision-making and reconstruction.

53. Efforts will be made to insulate the continent from threats from diseases such as Ebola.

54. In spite of the gains made in the context of the economic and political empowerment of women challenges still remain; and indeed, women constitute the majority of the poor and extremely poor and are found in informal and low-paying jobs. The fact is that the current growth in Africa is still not fully translating economic gains into meaningful gender equality outcomes for women in all fields of endeavour. There is need to promote the idea that gender equality and the empowerment of women is a key factor for sustained progress and development; and more needs be done at the national, regional and continental levels, by way of formulating and implementing appropriate gender-sensitive policies and promulgating legislation to bring women out of poverty. Action should be taken to tackle all forms of gender-based discrimination; enhance women's productivity and incomes; improve their general and reproductive status; promote their human rights; improve their occupational mobility; address their wage inequality; improve their access to ownership of land and other productive assets; improve their access to credit, including access to credit beyond the mere financing of micro-businesses, extension services and training. **It is therefore timely that the African Union has declared 2015 as the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development Towards AU Agenda 2063, and 2016 as the Year for Human Rights for Women.**

55. As the implementing arm of the AU, UN support for the promotion and implementation of a number of frameworks and programmes which the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency [NPCA] has devised at the continental, regional and continental levels, is sought through PAIDA. One of the major pre-occupations of the NPCA, is the issue of capacity-building across- the- board, which it seeks to achieve through its **Capacity Development Strategic Framework [CDSF]**. The CDSF aims at enhancing in significant measure, capacities at the national, regional and continental levels, for the planning, monitoring and implementation of programmes; building effective partnerships; mobilizing domestic and external resources to finance development projects and plans; judiciously managing economic development, as well as implementing NPCA programmes. Institutional re-engineering and strengthening, including for the NPCA itself and the RECs, is one of the concerns of the NPCA. In the context of the implementation of its programmes, the NPCA is concerned with a range of issues, including equity, in particular gender equality; employment creation; environmental sustainability greater private sector involvement; development and transformation of agricultural systems and fisheries; rural development programmes; strengthening of knowledge management systems, including indigenous knowledge; and gender and youth empowerment. One other major pre-occupation of NEPAD is the diversification of its partnerships, including within the South, with a view also to improving their quality. UN support for this is required.

Institutional, Programmatic and Resource Support Delivery Strategy and Arrangements

Institutional and Programmatic Support

56. Regarding institutional support, the Regional Coordination Mechanism will continue to be responsible for the delivery of UN-wide programme support to this Framework at the continental level, through the activities of its clusters and sub-clusters. UN partnership with the RECs will be through the activities of the sub-regional Coordination Mechanism. Whose secretariat will be located in the ECA sub-regional offices. The RCM system will align its clusters very closely with the established structures of the AUC and RECs to ensure more effective delivery of the priorities spelt out in this Framework.

57. The RCM Joint Secretariat established by the RCM in 2010, and comprising dedicated staff of the UNECA and the AU, will continue to be the institutional anchor of the RCM; and will backstop it by providing the requisite direction and administrative and logistical support. The Joint Secretariat will provide coordination between its respective AU and UNECA components which will in turn jointly manage the daily affairs of the RCM system. It will convene and service meetings of the RCM and each cluster and sub-cluster, and jointly coordinate the activities of the clusters and sub-clusters, in order to ensure joint programming and joint implementation, based on the priorities and programmes of the AU; prepare and disseminate RCM cluster reports; monitor and evaluate cluster activities and mobilise resources for RCM and cluster activities. Further the joint Secretariat will formulate and implement an information and communications

strategy and be the knowledge hub for the generation, collation and dissemination of information among UN member institutions of the RCM, and between them and African organizations and beyond.

58. The UN system at large will continue to provide advocacy and implementation support to the AU in its various integration and development programmes at the continental, regional and national levels. The UN system will build and strengthen confidence among the UN agencies on the one hand and between themselves and the AU system. A number of UN bodies will play special roles of support in this context:

59. In addition to its above-mentioned responsibilities relating to the running of the RCM Joint continental and regional secretariats, UNECA will also be responsible for coordinating support to the AU by key stakeholders in its negotiations on trade matters, especially in the Doha round and on climate change, as well as on mining and other contract agreements. Further, UNECA will provide support to the capacity development requirements of the AUC, RECs, as well as the NPCA with regard to its CDSF. For its part, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa will continue its global advocacy and policy advisory activities on behalf of the AU.

60. For its part also, the UN Office to the AU [UNOAU], with strong backing by the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations, Political Affairs and Field Operations, all at UN headquarters, will continue to be the primary mechanism of support to the AU in the field of peace and security, in close collaboration with the relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes.

61. Regarding programmatic support, the programmes and priorities of the African Union, as spelt out in this Framework, and derived in turn from AU Agenda 2063, the Ten-Year Implementation Plan, the Strategic Plans of the AU and NPCA, and CAP Post-2015 Development Agenda, will enjoy the support of the UN. UN entities participating in the RCM and SRCM, will, to the extent possible, harmonise their programme planning and budgeting cycles and have them aligned to those of the AU system.

62. On the issue of resources, it is to be noted that as has occurred in the past, the UN system is called upon to commit substantial technical and financial resources to support the various programmes of the AU, based on this Framework, which is in turn based primarily on AU Agenda 2063 and its Ten Year Implementation Plan. It would be helpful to bear in mind that the one of the major constraints in the implementation of the TYCBP-AU, as well as the optimal functioning of the RCM-Africa system, has been the lack of regular, predictable and dedicated funding. To prevent this framework from suffering the same fate, the UN General Assembly will be called upon to make the requisite budgetary allocations for the proper functioning and effective operation of the RCM and the SRCM as well as of their respective Joint Secretariat and Secretariat.

63. Further, all UN agencies, programmes, offices, funds and commissions participating in both the RCM and SRCM, will be expected to ensure their full and effective involvement, by making regular financial provisions towards that end,

irrespective of any other commitments in their respective memoranda of understanding with the AUC and RECs

64. Extra-budgetary resources will also be mobilized to supplement the provisions of the General Assembly.

Accountability and Reporting Provisions

65. The clusters and sub-clusters will provide annual reports which will form the basis of reports to be presented annually to the Secretary General and by him to the General Assembly. Similarly, the Chairperson will also present an annual report to the Assembly of the AU. There will be a review of the Framework every three years; and a comprehensive and final appraisal conducted in 2028. The reports on these reviews will also be presented to the General Assembly by the Secretary General and to the Assembly of the AU by the Chairperson of the AU Commission. These reports will indicate the commitments made by donors and the international community at large, as well as the extent to which they have been honoured.

66. The Joint Secretariat will conduct periodic formative evaluation exercises of activities that have been implemented, in order to report to the leadership of the RCM on their results and impact. The Joint Secretariat will also provide comprehensive reports to bilateral and multi-lateral donors on the outcomes of their support.

RECOMMENDATIONS

67. In the light of the foregoing Executive Summary, the PRC may wish to submit the recommendations mentioned hereunder to the Executive Council for approval, and for further transmission to the Assembly for endorsement:

- i) the Assembly of the African Union expresses its appreciation to the United Nations System for the substantial support, past and on-going, that it has provided its Member States in their development and integration efforts, at the national level and through the various institutions at the regional and continental levels;
- ii) the Assembly welcomes the initiative of the Regional Coordination Mechanism to develop a new UN /AU Partnership, as the successor programme to the Ten Year Capacity Building [TYCBP-AU] which expires in 2016 : **Framework for a Renewed UN/AU Partnership on Africa`s Integration and Development Agernda, PAIDA, 2017 to 2027;**
- iii) the Assembly notes with satisfaction, the fact that new **Framework ,PAIDA, [including its Executive Summary]** is based on shared values and important principles, including ownership and leadership by the African Union; respect for Africa`s policy space; consultation and coordination; faithfulness to commitments made,; pro-active engagement; strategic partnership and accountability;

- iv) the Assembly notes with further satisfaction. that particularly in line with the above-stated principles of **ownership and leadership by the African Union and respect for Africa`s policy space**, and in fulfilment of the objective of grounding the new AU/ UN partnership in the **existing realities on the continent**, as well as ensuring its greater success, PAIDA is anchored on the over –arching blueprints of the AU, namely the **AU Agenda 2063 and its first Ten-Year Implementation Plan**, as well as other major blueprints such as the **Common African Position on the Post-2015 Agenda and other major programmes of the AU** ,as enunciated in PAIDA;
- v) the Assembly notes the funding constraints which hampered the smooth implementation of the TYCBP-AU and appeals to the United Nations General Assembly to make requisite, regular, predictable, and dedicated budgetary allocations for the effective implementation of the PAIDA as well its institutional support mechanisms, namely the RCM-Africa system, and including its continental Joint Secretariat and Sub-regional Coordination Secretariat. The Assembly further calls on all UN agencies, programmes, offices, funds, and commissions, participating in these mechanisms, to make regular provisions to that end.
- vi) Requests the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to submit annual and triennial review reports to the Assembly on the progress of the implementation of the Framework/PAIDA.