

**Africa Regional Consultative  
Meeting on the Sustainable  
Development Goals**

**31 October 2013 to 05 November  
2013**

**Background and  
processes towards the  
preparation of the  
African Common Position  
(ACP) on the P-2015 DA**

**Dossina Yeo  
Economic Affairs Department  
African Union Commission**



## Background

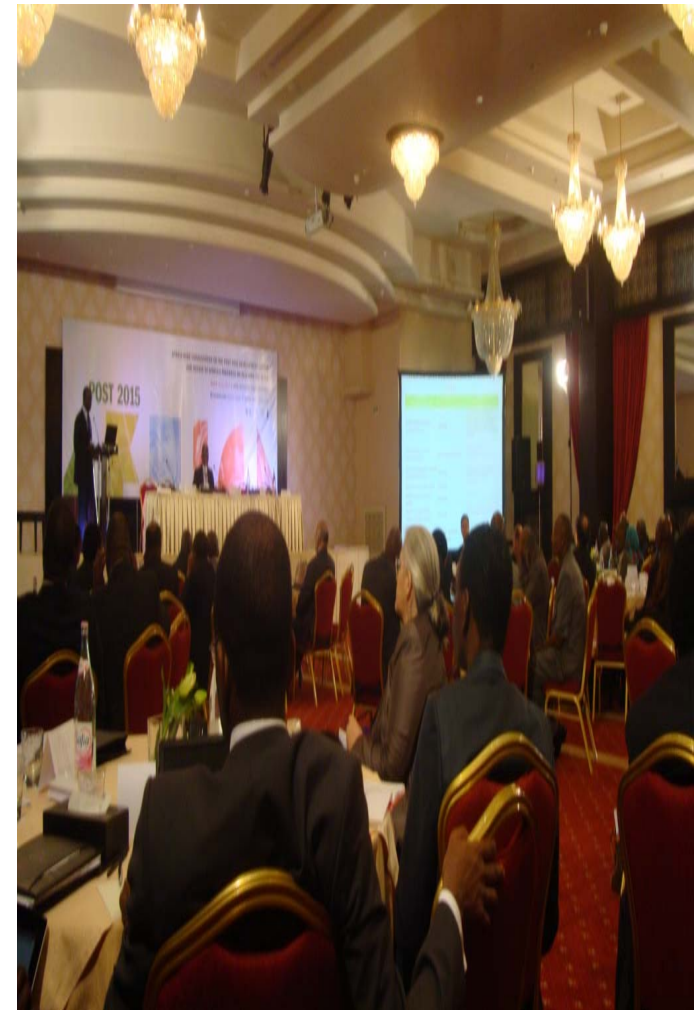
- **2010- AU summit** : A decision on the acceleration of the MDGs; AUC and partners to start reflection on the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
- **November 2011** – Accra : Consultative workshop by AUC and partners, on the Post-2015 agenda;
- **July 2012 – AU Summit** :
  - the findings of Accra are presented to CAMEF and HoS by AUC and partners;
  - AUC and partners to consult MS and RECs and identify Africa's priorities for the Post-2015 DA – they should come up with an ACP

## What inspired the common position?

- Africa is the largest theater of development work;
- Africa has not been at the forefront of the articulation of development initiatives;
- Africa has made considerable progress on MDGs but least likely to achieve the targets;
- Hence Africa has a major stake in the post 2015 agenda;
- The global community's actions or inactions impinge on Africa's development; trade; aid; environmental externalities; investment;

# Regional consultations across Africa

- **Two sub-regional workshops**
  - October 2012- Mombasa: Discussed priorities of Eastern and Southern Africa
  - December 2012 – Dakar: Discussed priorities of West, Central and North Africa
- **One Africa wide meeting**
  - March 2013, Hammamet, Discussed Africa's priorities – Harmonized views and priorities of the five sub-regions
- **Ministerial Conferences**
  - March 2013, Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
  - Ministers of Health
- ❖ Views were gathered from stakeholders from African countries, Participants included governments, RECs, CSOs of which youth and women's organizations, parliamentarians, academia, the private sector.



## Guiding principles of Draft ACP

- Balance between social and economic development;
- Ownership and accountability to domestic stakeholders;
- Access to good quality social services;
- Reduced inequality;
- Capacity to measure performance;
- One development agenda;
- A focus on development outcomes and enablers.

## Draft ACP

- Main priorities identified so far in draft ACP
  - Structural economic transformation and inclusive growth
  - Innovation, technological transfer and Research and Development (R&D);
  - People-Centred Development
  - Environment Sustainability and Natural Disaster Management
  - Financing and partnerships
  - And a number of enablers starting with Peace and Security, human rights, governance, regional integration, etc.

## Rationale for transformation

- Dependence on primary commodities
- Weak inter-sectoral linkages
- Limited employment effects of growth
- Concentration of growth in few sectors
- Wealth concentration and rising inequality
- Low growth elasticity of poverty:
  - A 1 percentage point increase in growth reduces poverty by:
    - 1.39 percent in Southern and East Africa;
    - 2.48 percent in East Asia and Pacific, and
    - 3.08 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Rationale for technology

- African institutions of higher education enroll 60 per cent of students in the arts and humanities and 40 per cent in science and engineering.
- Enrolment in technical subjects (engineering and mathematics) lags behind other regions. In 1995,
  - Africa - 0.04% of population; Asian Tigers -1.34 per cent
- Low R&D expenditure: Africa -0.3% of GDP; India (0.7) China 0.6)
- institutions of higher learning in Africa rank lower than other regions
  - highest ranked African university ranks 400 worldwide.
  - the best East Asian University ranks 86<sup>th</sup> worldwide



# Rationale for People-Centred Development

- Almost half the African population is below the extreme poverty line (\$1.25 per day).
- One out of every two maternal deaths (per 100,000 births) worldwide occurs in Africa.
- Africa exc. North Africa the most severely affected globally by HIV/AIDS; nearly 1 in every 20 adults (4.9percent) living with HIV
- Africa accounts for 69 percent of the people living with HIV worldwide.
- Low primary school retention rates: 1 out of every three enrolled primary school pupils drop-out.
- Low Gender parity in secondary and tertiary institutions:of the 36 African countries with data for 2010, only eight countries had achieved gender parity in tertiary education while nine countries had a very low parity level – i.e., less than 0.40
- Sanitation coverage and access to improved water sources also remain poor particularly in rural areas.

## Rationale for partnerships and financing

- domestic resource mobilization is not only about fund raising; it strengthens country ownership, expands policy space and promotes greater accountability of governments to domestic constituents.
- Africa's share of trade is low; 3%
- Real declines in ODA two successive years
- Growing importance of emerging countries
- ODA should complement DRM; Dev. partners must be held accountable for their commitments
- Africa's development must not be held hostage to donor commitments

## Draft ACP

- May 2013 – AU summit:
  - A draft ACP was presented to HoS out of findings of consultations
  - The Summit requested to continue to engage MS, PRC and NY;
  - The Summit established a HLC to further consult, finalize the ACP and build regional and intercontinental alliances around it;
  - Summit instructed AUC in collaboration with ECA, AfDB, UNDP and Office of the Chair of HLC;

# The HLC and its work

- **After consultations with Regional Deans, the following are Members of the HLC:**
  - West Africa: Liberia (Chair of HLC) and Guinea
  - North Africa: Algeria and Mauritania
  - Central Africa: Congo and Chad
  - East Africa: Ethiopia and Mauritius
  - Southern Africa: Namibia and South Africa
- **Terms of reference of HLC:**
  - Coordinate activities on Post 2015 Development on the continent;
  - Refine and finalize the draft African Common Position
  - Create regional and inter-continental alliances the African common position
  - Ensure that Africa's priorities are reflected in the final document on Post 2015 DA

## The HLC and its work (cont'd)

- The HLC's secretariat is assured by AUC,
- Core Team to support the work of the Secretariat (UNECA, AfDB, UNDP, UNFPA and Chair of HLC Liberia);
- AUC has consulted the African Group of Ambassadors and permanent representatives in Geneva, New York, Washington D.C. and some of the pertinent organizations including UNICEF, Global Compact, OSSA, World Bank Executive Directors of African constituencies.
- Several countries provided inputs on the draft African Common Position.

## The HLC and its work (cont'd)

- **Content of the roadmap**

- 23 Oct: Consultation with PRC in Addis Ababa,
- 25-26 Oct. : Technical Group Meeting in Addis (PRC, Afr. group in NY and Geneva);
- 28-29 Oct: Meeting of the HLC Sherpas +African group in NY and PRC in Addis; selected key stakeholders;
- 3 Nov: Secretariat to finalize the ACP document by integrating the comments received
- 5 Nov: document to be sent to the HLC chair
- 7 Nov: document to be distributed to all HLC members for their review
- 28-29 Nov: meeting of the Sherpas to endorse the draft ACP
- Dec 2013: Meeting of HLC HoS for final approval,
- January 2014, ACP to AU Summit.

## The HLC and its work (cont'd)

- The document best remains a framework.
  - leaves scope for national and regional policy space;
  - accommodates national and regional peculiarities and specificities and
  - allows room for negotiation to manoeuvre
- 3 types of versions of the document are planned to be prepared:
  - Refined African common position that is readable and easy to popularize
  - A technical version which explain the rationale for priority Areas;
  - A negotiating document for exclusive use by Africa's lead negotiators, showing red-lines

## The HLC and its work (cont'd)

- **Outcomes of this meeting:**

- The HLC will make sure the outcomes of the SDG meeting will be incorporated in to the draft ACP on the Post 2015 development agenda;
- Therefore, the outcome of this meeting should be submitted to the HLC secretariat (AUC, Department of Economic Affairs), for incorporating what is not yet in the Matrix of Priorities;



## Conclusions

- The process has come a long way the draft ACP constitutes an important starting point
- The exercise is being undertaken in the spirit of garnering global support and advocacy for Africa's developmental aspirations and gaining consensus on the key issues Africa would like to see in the globally negotiated report
- Finalization of the draft ACP must therefore be informed by this spirit
- We hope that this meeting will lead to consensus on the draft African Common Position including issues related to structure, substance and language.

Thank you for your kind  
attention