

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Téléphone : 511092 (Direct) 517 700 Ext. 220 Fax : 510154
website : www.africa-union.org

PRESS RELEASE NO. 45/2006

TASK FORCE PROPOSES WAY FORWARD IN AFRICA'S PARTNERSHIP WITH EMERGING POWERS

14 September 2006- The Meeting of the Task Force on Africa's Strategic Partnership with the Emerging Powers, which was being held at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa since 11 September, ended yesterday (13 September), with the delegates approving recommendations on the scope and form of the strategic relationships.

The main objective of the meeting was to elaborate a framework document for the establishment and operationalisation of Africa's strategic partnerships with the selected countries: i.e. China, India and Brazil. The conference was based on a collective African agenda to serve as a global framework for cooperation with the three countries. The strategic approaches which were being discussed built on the historical and cultural relations that have existed between Africa and the three countries and also on the policy of South- South cooperation.

The meeting featured presentations and discussions under the Africa- China, Africa- India, and Africa- Brazil partnerships in plenary sessions, which generated the following main issues among others:

The need for a pivotal role for the African Union and its programme, NEPAD in the implementation of the emergent Strategic Partnership

A systematic assessment, effective and efficient use of Africa's natural resources to vigorously pursue the continent's industrialization process

The launch of new and or strengthening of on going initiatives in the context of the emerging partnership to:

- Enhance economic cooperation, trade and improved market access for African products
- Strengthen Africa's services sector and grow the role of the private sector
- Develop Africa's human resources
- Promote capacity building, technology acquisition as well as knowledge generation, sharing and application
- Actively develop Africa's energy resources
- Step up research and development
- Accelerate the development of infrastructure

- Enhance agricultural productivity
- Strengthen socio- cultural exchange

The conference also heard of the need for Africa to be confident about its own abilities and to look for trading and growth opportunities within itself and to avoid a second colonization under the strategic partnership with the emerging powers. All these factors are important in a multifaceted, fruitful and strategic partnership which is expected to lead to the industrialization of Africa.

According to the Commissioner of Trade and Industry, Mrs. Elizabeth Tankeu, the recommendations from the meeting will be submitted for consideration by African Ministers of Foreign Affairs and those responsible for trade.

**African Union Division of Communication and Information
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia**