General conclusions of the 4th meeting of Senior Officials of the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation

Brussels, 17-18 October 2017

We, the Senior Officials,

❖ Recognising the added-value of the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation to focus its cooperation on mutual key priorities, starting with Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture and currently moving on with Climate Change and Sustainable Energy;
❖ Acknowledging that there is a high number of scientific areas where cooperation already takes place and will continue to take place between Europe and Africa at institutional, bilateral and bi-regional level in particular in the field of Global Health through the EDCTP.

On Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture:

▪ Welcome the progress made since the 2016 3rd meeting of the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in Addis Ababa in implementing the AU-EU Research and Innovation (R&I) Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) and reiterate our commitment to work further on maximising the added value of the Partnership;
▪ Recognise contribution of the FNSSA Working Group, launched in March 2017; in this context we acknowledge the results of the light evaluation of the first and a half year of the Partnership;
▪ Welcome the substantial investments of about EUR 65 million already put in the implementation of the R&I Partnership on FNSSA for 2016-2017, through the EU’s research and innovation programme 'Horizon 2020', country contributions, the African Union Research Grants, and development-related actions of institutional nature;
▪ Welcome the substantial investment offered through (a) Horizon 2020 for the period 2018-2020 for further supporting the R&I Partnership on FNSSA to build a coherent approach by promoting clustering of projects, especially on: (i) enhancing sustainable intensification (ii) improving agriculture and food systems for nutrition (iii) strengthening collaboration between researchers and other stakeholders, and (b) through the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) with a view to fostering the links between science and agriculture development;
▪ Look forward to similar investments made by African and European partners, in consistency with the Science Technology Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA 2024) and the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A);
• Welcome synergies with other relevant international initiatives such as the forthcoming Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) and the All Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance.

On Climate Change and Sustainable Energy:

• Acknowledge the efforts of the Bureau to prepare the next focused area of cooperation, namely climate change and sustainable energy (CCSE);

• Adopt the roadmap towards an equal, jointly designed, owned, governed and funded AU-EU Research and Innovation Partnership on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE) (annex 1);

• Welcome the main areas of cooperation of this R&I Partnership -climate action for adaption and mitigation, renewable energy and energy efficiency- and recognise its importance in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our international climate commitments;

• Welcome the substantial investment offered through Horizon 2020 for the period 2018-2020 for supporting the implementation of the R&I Partnership on CCSE, particularly on: (i) identifying human dynamics for climate change and (ii) developing a Joint Programming on renewable energy;

• Recognise the importance of promoting coordination between initiatives in the cooperation areas of climate and energy and of mobilising additional funding for the long-term implementation of the R&I Partnership on CCSE;

• Acknowledge that open access to data and scientific results is key for the implementation of the Partnership.

Therefore:

• Invite our leaders at the AU-EU Summit of November 2017 to acknowledge the prominent role of research and innovation in our overall relations and emphasise the concrete deliverables of our cooperation by (i) reiterating their commitment to continue supporting the AU-EU R&I Partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture and (ii) endorsing the new AU-EU R&I Partnership on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy;

• Task the AU-EU HLPD Bureau to develop, with the support of experts, an action plan for the prompt implementation of the CCSE Partnership and its supervision, and inform the next HLPD meeting on the state of play;

• Invite the AU-EU HLPD Bureau to report on the progress made in the two R&I Partnerships and continue facilitating exchanges between Africa and Europe in scientific areas of mutual interest.
On the HLPD internal procedures:

- **Agree** to change the name of the Policy Dialogue from EU-Africa to AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation, to take full account of the regional dimension of the dialogue and align it to the AU-EU Summit terminology, and modify the HLPD Terms of Reference accordingly.

Signed by the co-chairs of the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation, in Brussels, on 18 October 2017.

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