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THE AFRICAN SOLIDARITY INITIATIVE (ASI)

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS OF PRIORITY AREAS OF NEEDS
FOR PCRD COUNTRIES

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This short document is prepared in the context of the African Solidarity Initiative (ASI) process (led by the AU) which, inter-alia, aims at mobilizing a higher level of support, particularly from Africa, for Post Conflict, Reconstruction and Development efforts of the PCRD countries in Africa. The ASI promotes various in-kind contributions/engagements; as well as financial contributions, where feasible. These include in-kind sharing of expertise, approaches, best practices, offering training facilities, exchange familiarization schemes, and capacity building commitments, as essential non-monetary forms of support.

II. BACKGROUND

2. As part of various follow-up activities for implementation of the PCRD policy, the AU Commission through the Peace and Security Department, organized multidisciplinary assessment missions to a number of post-conflict countries in the continent (Burundi, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan). From these multidisciplinary PCRD assessment missions, priority areas have emerged for consideration of possible support from other AU member states to PCRD countries, in addition to support from other partners.

3. Based on the work that has been undertaken so far and the magnitude of continuing challenges, the African Union is launching and coordinating the implementation of a new initiative, called the African Solidarity Initiative (ASI); in order to mobilize a higher level of support, particularly from Africa for post conflict reconstruction and development efforts in PCRD countries.

III. GUIDING SUGGESTIONS FOR ASI PLEDGING AND BUILDING OF COMMITMENTS

4. While the major pledging forum will be the first Africa Solidarity Conference (ASC) to support PCRD efforts in Africa, African countries as well as organizations/institutions/private sectors are encouraged to kindly consider and to urgently initiate or increase solidarity support to PCRD sister African countries (given the growing magnitude of challenges these countries are facing). Such support, through the African led ASI platform, will help compliment the support of development partners for PCRD in Africa.

5. The ASI process encourages and promotes support from: African countries, parastatal set-ups, African rich persons/private sector, key organizations/institutions, academia, African celebrities, Diaspora, CSOs/NGOs/FBOs, women/youth networks, and African individual experts/professional associations, and partners.

6. One of the major hallmarks of the ASI process is the emphasis placed on the usefulness of African in-kind as well as financial (as feasible) pledges/contributions of support for post conflict reconstruction and development efforts in Africa; as an additional and continental platform for increased solidarity towards a new level of “Africa helping Africa”.

7. The summary below reflects the key priority areas of needs generally applicable to the PCRD countries concerned. It is organized in terms of sector/thematic or issue areas.

(i) Security Sector:

- Capacity building of the security forces (armed forces and police, prisons);
- Resources needed to support various sector needs;
- Disarmament and collection of small arms;
- Dismantling of militias and the armed groups;
- Border stabilization programmes;
- Resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees; and
- Support for contextualized and inclusive demobilisation programmes (DDRRR/DDR, etc).

(ii) National Reconciliation/Peace Building/Maintenance and Consolidation:

- Need for technical and financial support to enhance reconciliation processes begun by the Peace Commissions, TRC's, and other similar set-ups in PCRD countries;
- Support to enable investments in consolidating peace and security, including with neighbouring countries;
- Need for overcoming the deeper, structural causes for some of the on-going pockets of conflict at a local level;
- Support political dialogues and participatory promotion of policies of recognition and national unity;
- Support for bilateral and regional/sub-regional initiatives for consolidation of peace and security;

- Create a corps of African volunteers and beef up teaching and medical corps; and
- Support for preparation and adopting/implementation of measures of national reconciliation and unity.

(iii) Agriculture:

- Technical and financial support for recovery and growth in agriculture production and revitalizing the rural areas with the ultimate goal of poverty reduction;
- Need for technical and financial support for growth in agricultural product;
- Support for improve animal husbandry, food security, land tenure legislation, household agriculture, model of rural marketing and access of women to credit and inputs; and
- Support through bilateral relations for experience sharing in the agricultural sector.

(iv) Infrastructure and Energy:

- Technical and financial support to enable, extend and upgrade major infrastructure deficits in all areas of infrastructure (energy generation and distribution systems, water reservoirs, roads, bridges, dams, communication networks, schools, hospitals, clinics and residential settlements);
- Need to support infrastructure Action Plans;
- Need for resources for various infrastructural projects and Trust Funds in PCRD countries;
- Need for decentralization of service delivery place under humanitarian/livelihoods;
- New information and technology development;
- Need for technical and financial support for electricity connectivity in many parts of countries concerned;
- Support development of energy supply through public-private partnerships; and
- Support for the establishment of rural electrification programmes.

(v) Humanitarian and Livelihood:

- Support to expand/ensure needs for further improvements on the provision of basic services such as sanitation and clean water;
- Need to increase food delivery, security and other services in camps for internally displaced;
- Need for technical and financial support for generation of employment and livelihood opportunities, particularly for ex-combatants and youths and in rural areas;
- Support to expand equitable access to social amenities by all, and services delivery for the urban and rural poor areas; and
- Need to reduce vulnerability and long term reliance on relief by laying the foundations for sustainable development

(vi) Governance and Rule of Law/Judicial Reforms:

- Capacity strengthening in the criminal justice system (training, logistics, building of infrastructure);
- Support for addressing internal political rifts (land issues, cattle rustling, shortages etc);
- Need to protect civilians especially the vulnerable and address and resolve human right issues (e.g. sexual violence, discrimination, domestic violence);
- Support for scaling up reforms in the public administrative and finance sector;
- Technical and financial support for establishment of an efficient and credible justice mechanism and judiciary reforms;
- Financial support for reparation of amputees and other victims of conflict;
- Technical and financial support for judiciary to scale;
- Support through training/expense of experiences to Increase the capacity of legislative assemblies; and
- Support to combat corruption through scaled-up efforts and increasing the capacity of anti-corruption bodies in the countries.

(vii) Social and Educational Sectors:

- *Health + HIV/AIDS*

- a) Technical and financial support to enhance reconstruction of the health system;
- b) Needs for capacity building of the health work force;
- c) Need for funding to support health programmes;
- d) Financial resources to enable free access to primary healthcare;
- e) Support for improvements in the performance of national health strategies; and
- f) Support for expanded awareness raising, treatment and care for HIV/AIDS.

- *Education*

- a) Support through capacity building/training of teaching work force;
- b) Need for resources for literacy programmes for youth out of the education system;
- c) Technical and financial support for additional vocational and skills training institutions;
- d) Technical support and experience sharing for curriculum reform and improve overall quality of education;
- e) Support to build over 300 new primary schools and over 100 new secondary classrooms);
- f) Financial support to enhance recruitment and retention of qualified teachers;
- g) Support to create autonomous national capacities for analysis and evaluation of reconciliation and development policies and programmes; and
- h) Need for the provision of over 5.6 million text books.

(viii) Youth Development:

- Support through youth exchange programmes;
- Need for innovative schemes to address youth unemployment, participation education;
- Support to enable the design and fund capacity building programmes for youth, particularly rural and uneducated;
- Need for youth support in terms of bursaries and scholarships;
- Support to improve youth civic education;
- Support through technical assistance (advisers and training) on youth challenges;
- Need for funding for the completion of disarmament, demobilization and direct reintegration efforts, in various significant youth populations;
- Financial support for implementation of identified youth empowerment initiatives; and
- Need for assistance to children who have been victims of trafficking to be rehabilitated and reintegrated into the society.

(ix) Gender Agenda/Women:

- Support to create special Funds for medical, psycho-medical and legal assistance to women victims of conflicts, sexual violence and for their socio-economic rehabilitation;
- Support to launching special micro-finance production programmes for women;
- Technical support to increase political participation of women in decision making;
- Need for resources and expanded programmes to address the challenges related to security of women, rape, gender based violence and consequences of conflicts;
- Support through deploy experts sharing missions to support capacity building and policy making; and
- Technical cooperation/seed resources to enable literacy programmes for rural women.

(x) Private Sector Rehabilitation:

- Need for experience sharing between the country private sector and other African private sector key actors;
- Support to upscale the capacities of investment promotion agencies and outreach in Africa;
- Technical and financial support for the design and implementation public/private partnerships for controlled urban development programme (social housing, urban transport, sanitation, markets and collective cultural, sporting and social facilities); and
- Need for experience sharing on dialogue arrangements with the private sector, through the creation of a state/private sector permanent consultations mechanism.

(xi) Macro-economics:

- Support to deepen the use of banking facilities in the economy, including the promotion of micro-finance in urban and rural areas;
- Need for/of experiences and information exchange programmes to refine various dimensions of macro-economic policy: fiscal policy, and monetary policy;
- Support for construction of refineries, depots, storage facilities;
- Support for mobilization towards reconstruction and development plans to get this international support for full operationalisation (e.g. finding a resolution to the country's bid for debt relief, mobilization of grant and loan funding on soft terms);
- Support for economic diversification to accelerate the full use of unrealized potentials with respect to the country's natural resources and agricultural potential; and
- Need for support to improve coordination and harmonization of partners, actors, programmes and initiative.

(xii) Capacity Building and Development:

- Support through access to free training facilities and/or resources for capacity building and training of professionals is needed in almost all sector and thematic issue areas which are applicable for PCRD; and
- Support through professional exchange on-the-job short-term work experience in sister countries, and sharing of good practices.

For additional information, please contact:

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