



**United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa**

## **Review Meeting**

**Measures to Enhance the Functioning of the Regional  
Consultation Mechanism of United Nations Agencies and Organizations  
Working in Africa in support of the African Union and its NEPAD  
Programme**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
16-17 September 2008**

## **Aide Memoire**

## I. Background and Justification

In 2002, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the framework within which the international community, including the UN system, would channel its support to Africa's development. In this regard, the UN system developed a comprehensive structure at the global, regional and country levels to support the initiative and ensure maximum results. In its capacity as the regional arm of the UN in Africa, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was assigned the responsibility for coordinating UN support to NEPAD at the regional and sub-regional levels (GA resolution 57/7 of 2002). To this end, the Regional Consultation Mechanism (RCM) was established in 2002 for coordination of support to NEPAD by all United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa. ECA was designated the coordinator of the RCM. Subsequently, thematic clusters were created within the framework of the RCM based on the priorities of NEPAD. These clusters have undergone continuous reconfiguration to effectively support the implementation of NEPAD (Refer to the annex for the list of clusters and their conveners).

In 2003, based on the Maputo Declaration, African Heads of State expressed their desire to see a properly integrated NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union (AU). This was reiterated in subsequent meetings, brainstorming sessions and through further declarations. In response to this new reality, at the Seventh Meeting of the RCM held in November 2006, it was agreed that clusters of the RCM, which had up to then focused exclusively on the implementation of NEPAD, should undertake a clear and traceable alignment of programmes and resources with AU priorities. The meeting also called for improving cooperation and coordination between the UN and the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, the AfDB and the RECs; and also endorsed the expansion of the RCM to include the AU Commission.

The signing of the Declaration on enhancing UN-AU cooperation in November 2006, by the then Chief Executives of the two organizations, sharpened the focus on the need for better alignment with the programmes and priorities of the AU and its NEPAD programme. The Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU under the Framework Agreement is aimed at enhancing cooperation between the UN and the AU in their areas of competences and in conformity with their mandates. It was agreed that the Programme should serve as a framework for UN system-wide engagement with the AU on the basis of the latter's needs and strategic priorities. ECA has been charged with coordinating this support.

The Eighth Meeting of the RCM held on 5 and 6 November 2007, emphasized that the effective functioning of the cluster system is central to enhancing efficiency and coherence in the delivery of support to AU and its NEPAD programme. In this regard, it was agreed that clusters should increase focus on, and align activities with the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU. It was also agreed that cluster activities should take into consideration, the programmes and strategic plans of the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, relevant decisions of the AU and RECs, as well as outcomes of AU Sectoral Ministerial bodies. The meeting called for the evaluation of existing arrangements at the subregional level, with a view to putting in place an institutional framework for collaboration in support of AU and its NEPAD Programme at that level.

In light of the foregoing, the current configuration and functioning of the cluster system of the RCM need to be re-evaluated with a view to properly aligning it with both NEPAD and AU priorities and programmes to effectively support the implementation of NEPAD and the UN-

AU Cooperation Programme. To this end, ECA commissioned a study on measures to enhance the functioning of the RCM towards accelerating the implementation of NEPAD and the UN-AU Cooperation Programme. The objective is to produce a well-informed and objective report, with specific, practical and action-oriented recommendations aimed at enhancing the functioning of the RCM of UN agencies and organizations working in Africa, with a view to accelerating the implementation of NEPAD and the UN-AU Cooperation Programme.

## **II. Objective of the meeting**

The main objective of the meeting is to enable participants to deliberate on the report, provide comments and inputs with a view to its finalization. The meeting will also provide a platform for experts and policy makers from African continental and regional organizations, as well as UN agencies and organizations, to share views and experiences and reach a consensus on specific, practical and action-oriented recommendations aimed at enhancing the functioning of the RCM towards the accelerated implementation of NEPAD and the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU. The outcomes of the meeting will feed into the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RCM that will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 21 to 22 October 2008.

## **III. Format of the meeting**

**The meeting will be divided into three parts:**

1. Presentation of the report;
2. Discussions around the report; and
3. Presentation and adoption of the recommendations and other outcomes of the meeting.

The consultant will make a presentation of the draft study report. Following the presentation, the chairperson will lead the discussions around the report. The consultant will respond to questions and provide clarifications and additional information as required. The aim of the discussions is to allow ample opportunity to deliberate on and critically examine the draft report in order to provide recommendations and inputs for strengthening and finalizing the report. The consultant will take note of comments, suggestions and recommendations and make a presentation towards the end of the discussions.

## **V. Expected Outcomes and Outputs**

**The meeting is expected to lead to a number of outcomes:**

- Well-articulated comments, inputs and recommendations for the finalization of the report;
- Clear articulation of measures required to enhance the functioning of the RCM for the accelerated implementation of NEPAD and the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU;
- Clear understanding and appreciation of the roles and responsibilities of the different actors; and
- Deeper commitment and more active engagement in the RCM process and in the provision of support to the AU and its NEPAD Programme.

**A number of outputs will be delivered at the end of the meeting:**

- The meeting report;
- A set of specific, practical and action-oriented recommendations on;
  - Measures to align activities of the cluster system of the RCM with AU priorities, NEPAD and the UN-AU Cooperation Framework;
  - Measures to ensure the effective participation of the AfDB in the implementation of the Programme;
  - Mechanisms for cooperation and collaboration among UN agencies for the effective implementation of NEPAD and the UN-AU Cooperation Programme at the regional and at the subregional levels, and standard templates for the operationalization of the mechanisms proposed.
  - A mechanism for resource mobilization that ensures the financial sustainability of UN support; and on
  - A monitoring and evaluation system.
- Press releases and news stories; and
- Web publications.

## **VI. Participants**

Participants of the meeting will include policy makers and experts from the following organizations:

- The African Union Commission (AU Commission)
- The NEPAD Secretariat
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Eastern African Community (EAC)
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD),
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)
- UN agencies and organizations

## **VII. Dates and Venue**

The meeting will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 16 to 17 September 2008 at Conference Room 5 of the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC).

## VIII. Contact Names and Addresses

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## Annex: Regional Consultation Mechanism-Participating Agencies and Institutions by Cluster

Cluster	Convener	Sub Cluster	Members
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT WATER AND SANITATION, ENERGY TRANSPORT AND ICTS	ECA		AfDB, FAO, IAEA, IMO, ITU, ECA, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, UPU, WHO/WAC, WIPO AND WMO
		WATER	
		ENERGY	
		ICT	
		TRANSPORT	
GOVERNANCE	UNDP		AFDB, DPA, DPKO, IMF, NEPAD, OCHA, OSAA, UNDESA, UNDP, ECA, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOHCHR, WORLD BANK, AND WFP
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND HIV/AIDS	UNICEF		FAO, IAEA, ILO, IOM, UNDP, ECA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNFPA, WFP, WHO/WAC AND WIPO
	UNESCO	HUMAN RESOURCES	
	ILO	EMPLOYMENT	
	UNAIDS	HIV/AIDS	
ENVIRONMENT, POPULATION AND URBANIZATION	UN- HABITAT		IMO, ECA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, AND WMO
AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY & RURAL DEVELOPMENT	FAO		FAO, IAEA, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNHCR, WFP, IFAD, ECA, WIPO, WORLD BANK AND WTO
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	UNESCO, ECA (VICE CONVENER)		UNESCO, ECA, WIPO, UNIDO, FAO, OSAA, UNEP, WORLD BANK, CGIAR, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNU/INTECH, AND WHO
ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS	OSAA		UNEP, UNON, UN-HABITAT, WORLD BANK, NEPAD, UNAIDS, UNHCR, UNESCO, ITU, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, ECA, OSAA AND DPI
PEACE AND SECURITY	DPA		DPA, UNHCR, ILO, UNDP, OHCHR, ECA, FAO, IOM, DPKO, WFP, UNAIDS, AND WHO
	DPKO	PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE OF THE AU	
	UNHCR	POST CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTIO N AND DEVELOPMENT	
	OHCHR	HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE, AND RECONCILIATION	
INDUSTRY, TRADE AND MARKET ACCESS	UNIDO		ECA, UNIDO, UNCTAD, ITC, ICF, WTO, WIPO, UNDP, UNESCO, IAEA, UNEP, FAO, ILO, UN-HABITAT, AfDB, AND WORLD BANK

