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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL AGENDAS, INCLUDING
NEPAD, MDGs AND OTHER SPECIAL
INITIATIVES IN THE EASTERN AFRICAN
SUBREGION

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I. OVERVIEW

1. The ECA Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) covers the following 13 countries: Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda. Almost all are LDCs and show a low level of development and a high level of poverty. Although this sub-region has the biggest share of African population (30%), it represents only 10% of the GDP of the continent. Five out of the 13 countries are landlocked, five (5) have access to sea and three (3) are islands in Indian Ocean.
2. Eastern Africa is a sub-region riddled with several conflicts with far-reaching consequences on socio-economic conditions in most countries, especially on stabilization and development efforts. Although some progress in terms of growth has been achieved in recent years, poverty has not significantly receded, and this continues to be a major concern for over 50 per cent of the population. Major diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis still affect large parts of the populations in the sub-region with prevalence rates at 10 per cent and over in some countries. Further, most of the population, as much as 60 to 70 per cent live in the rural areas, and are not always able to secure enough food for their survival.
3. Within the new strategic orientation of the ECA and its repositioning, the Sub-Regional Offices (SROs) have been given a major role in mainstreaming the work of the ECA at subregional level and strengthening the collaboration with Regional Economic Communities and other relevant agencies in support of Africa's development and implementation of regional and international agendas.
4. In that framework, the SRO-EA has established partnerships with Regional Economic Communities in the subregion, namely: EAC, IGAD, IOC, CEGPL and ICGLR, as well as member countries and regional and international development institutions in order to achieve, at subregional level, NEPAD programme and regional integration processes.

II. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER PROGRAMME 2006-2007

5. The ECA work undertaken under Eastern Africa Subregional Office (SRO-EA) subprogramme for biennium 2006-2007 emphasized the formulation and implementation of harmonized macroeconomic and sectoral policies and programmes as the driving forces to achieve the development objectives of regional integration in Eastern Africa, especially those defined under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); the African peer Review Mechanisms (APRM); and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

6. SRO-EA implemented a series of activities including: intergovernmental meetings (10th and 11th sessions of the ICE), experts meetings, policy research and analysis; advisory services to member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs); and formulation of multi-year programmes for cooperation with RECs and Intergovernmental Institutions. The activities covered issues related to the convergence policies in the RECs; PRSPs, MDGs and their impact on poverty reduction; and strengthening regional integration.

2.1. Support for the implementation of NEPAD activities in the Eastern African subregion

7. In collaboration with the NEPAD Eastern Africa Secretariat, the SRO-EA organized from 27 to 29 November 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya, the ad hoc expert group meeting on the "Support for the implementation of NEPAD activities in the Eastern Africa Subregion". The workshop brought together experts representing NEPAD National Focal Points from 15 East African member states, National Infrastructure experts, representatives from Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and key partner institutions.
8. The main focus of the meeting was the identification of the modalities, for the successful consolidation of efforts to ensure that NEPAD was fully domesticated by the regional block as per the recommendations of the 2003 Heads of State Summit held in Kampala, Uganda. The meeting provided a platform for sharing country experiences in implementing NEPAD programmes and made recommendations on the following issues:
 - definition of a short and medium term strategy for NEPAD agenda in East Africa; modalities for an appropriate and effective operational structure for the NEPAD;
 - location of the Eastern Africa office; the pre-feasibility study commissioned on proposed regional infrastructure projects; and
 - resource mobilization for project implementation as well as operationalization of the NEPAD Eastern Africa.

a) Support to subregional groupings for the implementation of NEPAD and related initiatives

9. SRO-EA participated in the ad hoc expert group meeting on challenges and prospects of implementation of NEPAD held in Dakar from 13- to 15 June 2007. The meeting provided a platform for experts and policy makers from AU Commission, NEPAD Secretariat, the REC's as well as regional, subregional and national institutions to review a report prepared by ECA on "Challenges and prospects of implementation of NEPAD in Africa". The meeting identified critical challenges facing the implementation of NEPAD; proposed strategies to accelerate NEPAD implementation; and provided opportunity to engage in meaningful deliberations and useful policy recommendations. Furthermore, the meeting gave a better understanding of the policy prerequisites for maximizing the gains and minimizing the challenges associated with implementation of NEPAD at regional, subregional and national levels.

b) Ministerial meeting on NEPAD infrastructure network

10. In August 2007, SRO-EA participated in a ministerial meeting organized in Kigali, Rwanda to discuss the legal and policy frameworks for the implementation of the NEPAD ICT Infrastructure Broadband Network, including EASSy cable. During this meeting, 23 countries from the region, including Ministers, discussed a draft regulatory protocol and adopted a protocol that encapsulates the policy and regulatory framework, as well as the details of “Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)” that will own, operate and maintain the NEPAD network.
11. Ministers also adopted a timeframe for signing the Protocol open until November 30, 2007. As at that date, twelve (12) countries including: Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, had signed the Protocol.

c) Regional meeting on “Connect Africa”

12. SRO-EA assisted in the preparations and participated in the regional meeting “Connect Africa Summit”, held in Kigali (Rwanda) from 29 to 30 October 2007. The Summit was organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the African Union, the World Bank Group, the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development, the African Development Bank, the African Telecommunication Union, the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the Global Digital Solidarity Fund.

2.2. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

13. In streamlining its collaboration with East African countries, RECs and other subregional IGOs, the SRO-EA undertook major policy research studies and group training activities including the study on “Food security and sustainable development” followed by the ad hoc expert group meeting on the same theme (April 2007); the progress report on the implementation of NEPAD and MDGs in Eastern Africa (April 2007); the workshop on “ECA African gender development index”; and the workshop on PRSPs, MDGs and macroeconomic policies (April 2007). The implementation of these activities provided opportunity to make specific policy recommendations on subregional development issues including convergence policy; food security and sustainable development; and the interrelations between PRSPs, MDGs and macro-economic policies and their impact on poverty reduction in Eastern Africa.

2.3. SRO-EA Multi-year programmes with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)

14. SRO-EA organized in November 2007, a subregional workshop attended by experts representing the East African Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), Communauté Economique des Pays des Grands Lacs (CEPGL), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to formulate a partnership programme.

The following Inter Governmental Organizations (IGOs) also attended the meeting: TTCA-NC, PMAESA, Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and Central Corridor-TTFA.

15. The meeting aimed at charting out the EA-SRO's partnership with RECs on their specific agenda priorities; modalities for implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-Generals Report to the sixty-first session of the UN General Assembly with special focus on agreeing on multi-year programmes with the different RECs.

16. Under these objectives, the following outcomes were pursued:

- Chart out the modalities for cooperation between ECA and RECs in the context of the priority programmes of RECs and ECA Business Plan 2007-2009:
 - ✓ Define possible areas for cooperation;
 - ✓ Identify activities undertaken with indicator performance;
 - ✓ Determine key role players and stakeholders;
 - ✓ Indicate budgetary requirement and mechanisms for resources mobilization;
 - ✓ Coordination, reporting, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
- Agree or initiate on multi-year programmes between the different RECs and SRO-EA :
 - ✓ Discussing the MoUs on multi-year programmes already developed between SRO-EA and the RECs;
 - ✓ Initiate and share information on developing multi-year programmes with the other RECs that have not yet started the process.

17. The meeting adopted harmonized multi-year programmes to be jointly implemented by SRO-EA and five (5) RECs and IGOs. Experts also drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) charting out the modalities for collaboration on the multi-year programmes with each REC.

2.4. NEPAD discussions, conclusions on institutional mechanisms

18. The ad hoc expert group meeting on the SRO-EA's Multi-year programme (November 2007) reviewed progress and accomplishment made by the Regional Consultative Mechanism (RCM) for UN agencies working in Africa, as well as the way forward to organize their activities around thematic clusters covering priority areas of AU/NEPAD agenda¹.

¹ The system wide clusters are :

1. Infrastructure development

The meeting emphasized the need for the SROs to put in motion consultation processes on subregional coordination through supporting AU/NEPAD programmes that foster regional integration. The meeting also recommended that regional cooperation should be factored into the multi-year programmes between SRO-EA and RECs.

a) Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD)

19. In line with ECA Business Plan 2007-2009 and work programmes, the objectives of ECA-SRO-EA/IGAD Multi-year programme should mainly focus on developing IGAD capacity in the three major sectors and other crosscutting thematic issues. These are:

Promoting Economic cooperation and integration

- National and subregional capacities strengthened in multilateral trade negotiations and trade services within the REC;
- Increased competitiveness in Industrial sector based on market oriented production and subregional value-chains strategies;
- Harmonized subregional policies adopted in tourism sector among IGAD countries;
- Subregional programmes and projects initiatives are undertaken for infrastructure development.

Food security and environmental protection

- Enhanced of IGAD member States for agricultural development and food security through regional cooperation;
- Natural resources management and energy development;

Key-crosscutting themes

- Gender equity mainstreamed in national policies, programmes and strategies;
- Strengthened capacity in information and documentation through knowledge sharing within member States;

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2. Governance
 3. Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development
 4. Environment, Population and Urbanisation
 5. Human Resources Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS
 6. Science and Technology
 7. Advocacy and Communications
 8. Peace and Security

- Regional initiatives undertaken to support the implementation of NICI and Scan-ICT programmes in IGAD Member States.

20. As part of the multi-year programmes agreed with RECs, ECA/SRO-EA undertook in May 2007 a study to assist the Secretariat of IGAD in formulating a more comprehensive development strategy and programmes for its member States. This ultimately will strengthen the capacity of the “Economic cooperation and social development Division (ECD)” of IGAD in better addressing the needs of its eight (8) member States in the areas of transport and infrastructure; industrial development; and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

b) Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA)

21. The SRO-EA undertook in 2007 a policy study on “Customs cooperation within the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC)”. The study report gave a critical analysis of establishment facts in areas of trade liberalization and proposed a road map and a time frame taking into account ongoing work and/or negotiation so that by 2008 an actual customs is achieved in Eastern Africa.

c) East African Community (EAC)

22. The multi-year programme agreed between SRO-EA and the EAC encompasses the joint implementation of priority programmes in seven (7) key development sectors.

- **Agriculture and Food Security:** *To promote value addition, productivity and competitive agricultural supplies to realise cross border trade for sustainable food security.*
- **Industry:** *To promote balanced and globally competitive Industry in the region.*
- **Tourism and Wildlife:** *To maximise benefits from sustainable tourism and wildlife resources.*
- **Environment and Natural Resources:** *To establish sustainable environmental management and economic utilization of natural resources.*
- **Infrastructure development**
 - ✓ **Roads:** *To improve road connectivity and operations across the region.*
 - ✓ **Civil aviation:** *Maximised benefits of a safe, secure and efficient air transport system in the region.*
 - ✓ **Railway Sub-Sector:** *To maximise benefits from an efficient railway system.*

- ✓ **Maritime and Ports Sub-sector:** *To have in place efficient, safe and secure maritime operations and ports' performance*
 - ✓ **Meteorological Services:** *To have in place expanded and upgraded meteorological services in the region.*
 - ✓ **Information and Communication Technology:** *To integrate Information and Communication Technology into regional development initiatives.*
 - ✓ **Energy:** *To increase access to sufficient, reliable, affordable and environmentally friendly energy sources in the region.*
- **Health:** *To strengthen and expand collaboration in the health sector.*
 - **Education:** *A completely harmonised East African education system for enhancement of a productive and creative human resource.*

d) Communauté Economique des Pays des Grands Lacs (CEPGL)

23. Recognizing regional integration as a privileged tool for the development within the subregion, the multi-year programme between SRO-EA and CEPGL emphasized the crucial role that ECA should play to support development effort and initiatives from RECs by strengthening its presence and visibility within the subregion. In this context, the two institutions agreed that ECA would provide technical support to relaunch CEPGL activities in the formulation, and implementation of priority development initiatives as well as to play the advocacy role for the mobilization of necessary funds with potential funding partners.
24. The meeting identified sustainable development as the main focus areas for potential cooperation between SRO-EA and CEPGL. This will include the joint implementation of priority programmes in five (5) development sectors as defined by the CEPGL Council of Ministers held in Bujumbura, Burundi, on 17 April 2007. These sectors are: energy, infrastructure and communications; agriculture and food security; investment promotion; education and research; and peace, security and governance. The meeting identified for inclusion in the multi-year programme, a series of sectoral activities including:
- Macroeconomic policy research and sectoral studies on priority themes
 - Knowledge and information sharing on regional integration and socioeconomic development among member States
 - Needs assessment and establishment of a road map for re-launching the CEPGL
 - Identification and support the implementation of existing projects
 - Prepare priority projects identified under the programme agenda as defined by the Council of Ministers
 - Provide institutional support to the Permanent Secretariat of the CEPGL

- Preparation of plan of action for resources mobilization
- Preparation and holding of round tables of development partners
- Preparation and holding of seminars, workshops for capacity building in various priority areas including statistics, management, communication and advocacy.

e) The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

25. The IOC is an intergovernmental organisation comprising five (5) countries of the Western Indian Ocean islands with a total population of 20.5 million. Four of these countries are ACP States and the fifth is France acting on behalf of its overseas department of Réunion. Three of the member States are also Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), of which two (2) LDCs. It was agreed with IOC that further consultations would be undertaken to define the areas for the multi-year programme with SRO-EA.

f) International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)

26. The ICGLR reviewed the draft multi-year programme and underlined the importance of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes region signed by the Heads of States and Government of the member states of the ICGLR on 15 December 2006. The ICGLR insisted on the fact that the multi year-programme should base its activities on the projects that were agreed upon by the IGLR organs consisting of the following 15 projects:

- Regional micro-credit support facility
- Concept paper on the trans-border development basins
- Food security project
- Northern Corridor
- Trans-African Highway (Mombassa-Lagos)
- Lobito Corridor project
- Southern Corridor
- Pre-feasibility study of the Northern Corridor railway extension
- Central corridor
- Feasibility study on the rehabilitation and navigability of the River Congo basin
- Rehabilitation and connectivity of Inga Dam
- Feasibility study on the regional oil pipeline
- Methane gas project (Kivu regional pipeline project)
- East African Submarine Cable System (EASSy)

g) Other IGOs

PMAESA

27. The Secretary-General of PMAESA, was pleased to be associated with the multi-year programmes of SRO-EA and RECs. The meeting noted that

PMAESA has a MoU with some RECs such as the EAC and is prepared to work with other RECs in the Eastern Africa.

NORTHERN CORRIDOR

28. The Northern Corridor welcomed the initiative by ECA/SRO-EA to establish the multi-year programmes with RECs. The meeting was also informed that Northern Corridor already has a MoU with ECOWAS, COMESA and ECA.

CENTRAL CORRIDOR

29. The Central Corridor expressed its firm commitment to participate in the SRO-EA programme. The Secretariat of the Central Corridor will soon be in place after the Member States Parliaments ratify the Agreement on the creation of the Central Corridor. Funding is expected from AfDB.

30. Regarding the corridors, the implementation of different projects will need to set up a Cargo tracking system in real time. To this end, ECA should collaborate with the corridor and member states to extend the existing fruitful experience of Transit Transport for Central Africa (TTCA). The sub region will also need to set up a transport observatory aimed at building a Comprehensive transport database at the regional level. Some countries such as Kenya and Tanzania have their own internal system. The harmonization of transport management policy to connect and harmonize the national system on regional basis is therefore a priority.

2.5. Observatory for Regional Integration

31. In the context of its policy directives for promoting African regional integration, the SRO-EA is currently implementing a major pilot project on "Observatory of regional integration". The observatory is a platform of information sharing and decision-making at the subregional level as well as regional and world levels. It has three themes:

- Political integration (peace, good governance, democracy)
- Economic integration
- Social integration

32. Its main objectives include:

- Identifying basic information needed by governments, private sector and civil society to promote and sustain political and economic integration;
- Promote, organize and facilitate social and political dialogue needed for consolidating peace and security in the subregion;
- Track magnitudes of crises so as to reduce through preventive approaches the degree of tension in the subregion;
- Put in place a portal presenting the current situation of various sectors, provide practical information and detailed results and economic analyses;

- Facilitate the dissemination of activities and publications of the Office and its partners on socio-economic development and regional integration.

33. After this presentation, participants emphasized the need of the implementation of this project and its contribution to subregional integration. They also expressed the wish that its implementation be done in a participative spirit involving all concerned parties and taking into account what already exists in terms of data collection.

2.6. Collaboration with other Partners

34. The SRO-EA strengthened its subregional and multilateral partnership through undertaking policy research and analysis, convening regional forum and providing advisory services in view to promote capacity building among member States. In partnership with East African Business Council (EABC), and the Rwandan Private Sector Federation, with the financial support of ProInvest, GTZ and the European Union (EU), ECA-SRO organized in March 2006 the “Regional meeting on investment promotion in Eastern Africa”. The forum provided an opportunity for private sector actors, as well as representatives of investment organizations from 11 East African countries, 3 RECs (COMESA, CEPGL and EAC) and other international organizations to review the investment environment in East Africa; identify constraints; and adopt policy measures and recommendation towards establishing sound and sustainable financial system to attract investment capital flow in the sub-region.

2.7. Collaboration with other UN Agencies

35. In collaboration with other UN agencies, SRO-EA actively participated to a number of meetings and working groups undertaken towards the establishment of the “One UN” in Rwanda. This process culminated in the signing of the “One UN” agreement on 28 November 2007 between the UN Country Team including SRO-EA as signatories with the Government of Rwanda.

III. PROGRAMME PRIORITIES FOR BIENNIUM 2008-2009

36. The EA-SRO’s work for biennium 2008-2009 will continue to emphasize partnership with AU the RECs, member States and other UN agencies in delivering operational activities targeted at specific priorities agenda within the Eastern Africa Subregion. These encompass:

- Enhanced capacity of COMESA, the IOC and CSOs to formulate and implement harmonized macroeconomic policies on food security, land and environment, transport, energy, and lake/river basin development;
- Support policy advocacy, policymaking and implementation of subregional integration programme;

- Strengthening the role of the intergovernmental machinery through improved networking among key stakeholders involved in the subregional development agenda;
- Follow up on the technical assistance programme to the Secretariat of the IGAD and CEPGL;
- Implementation of the multi-year programmes concluded in November 2007 between the EA-SRO and five (5) RECs and IGOs;
- Establishment of trade points and trade information systems among member states of the Great Lakes Area;
- Implementation of the “Regional Project on E-governance”. The project aims at promoting transparency, democracy, and public access to government services in East African countries.;
- Implementation of a project on Observatory of Regional integration in East Africa. The Regional observatory will be a platform of information sharing and decision-making at the subregional level as well as regional and world levels. It has three themes: Political integration (peace, good governance, democracy); Economic integration; and Social integration;
- Implementation of the regional cargo tracking system (RCTS) along the Northern Corridor. The project will be implemented in collaboration with the “Transit Transport Coordination Authority of the Northern Corridor”; and
- Harmonization ICT Policies in the context of the NEPAD.

IV. THE WAY FORWARD

37. During the meeting with the five (5) RECs and East African IGOs to agree on bilateral multi-year programmes with different RECs, it was proposed that “ECA and the RECs should put in place a credible and transparent mechanism for reporting to their respective constituencies and governing bodies on the implementation of agreed plan of action and other agreement concluded. This may include regular reporting to their respective Councils of Ministers, Summits of Heads of States and Governments, and other governing bodies and subsidiary organs meetings”.
38. The meeting emphasized the evident overlapping among multi-year programmes on some activities identified under the priority agenda of the different RECs. SRO-EA was called upon to consult with all RECs in view of coordinating and harmonizing the various multi-year programmes. In this regard, ECA seeks support from the present ICE to hold consultative meeting among the concerned RECs as soon as possible.

39. It was also agreed that ECA and each REC would finalize a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) through further consultation between their Secretariats. This process being currently at advanced stage for most RECs, ECA would like to seize the opportunity of the present ICE to have some of these MoU signed by heads of ECA and of the different RECs.
