



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
EASTERN AFRICA SUBREGIONAL OFFICE

ECA/SRO-EA/ICE/2008/08
Original : English

SRO-EA

08

12th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 24-25 March 2008

**Theme: “Meeting Sub-Regional Challenges in the 21st Century: Regional
Integration towards the achievement**

Report on United Nations System-wide Support
to the African Union and its New Partnership
for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Programme

TABLE OF CONTENT

	Pages
1. INTRODUCTION.....	2
2. UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT TO THE AU AND ITS NEPAD PROGRAMME.....	3
2.1. System-wide Support.....	3
2.1.1 Infrastructure Development Cluster.....	3
2.1.2 Governance Cluster.....	4
2.1.3 Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development Cluster.....	5
2.1.4 Environment, Population and Urbanization Cluster.....	6
2.1.5 Human Resources Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS Cluster.....	7
2.1.6 Science and Technology Cluster.....	8
2.1.7 Advocacy and Communications Cluster.....	8
2.1.8 Peace and Security Cluster.....	8
2.1.9 Industries, Trade and Market Access (ITMA) Cluster.....	10
2.2 ECA's support.....	11
2.2.1 General support.....	11
2.2.2 Support to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Process.....	12
3. THE EIGHTH REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING.....	13
3.1 The Cluster system.....	14
3.2 Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union.....	14
3.3 Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development.....	14
4 TOWARD A MECHANISM FOR SUBREGIONAL COORDINATION OF UN SUPPORT TO AU AND NEPAD.....	15
Recommendations.....	15
5 RESULTS, LESSONS AND THE WAY FORWARD.....	16
5.1 <i>Overall Results and Achievements</i>	16
5.2 <i>Lessons Learned and the Way Forward</i>	17

1. INTRODUCTION

1. In 2002, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations 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, 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 (General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 2002). To this end, the Regional Consultation Mechanism (RCM) was established in 2002 for coordinating all United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of NEPAD, and ECA was designated coordinator. Thematic clusters, based on the priorities of NEPAD were created within the framework of the RCM. These clusters have undergone continuous reconfiguration to effectively support the implementation of NEPAD. Currently, there are nine thematic clusters as follows:
 - Infrastructure Development, convened by ECA;
 - Governance, convened by UNDP;
 - Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development, convened by FAO;
 - Environment, Population and Urbanization, convened by UN-Habitat;
 - Human Resource Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS, convened by UNICEF;
 - Science and Technology, convened by UNESCO;
 - Advocacy and Communications, convened by OSAA;
 - Peace and Security, convened by the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA); and
 - Industry, Trade and Market Access, convened by UNIDO.
2. In 2003, based on the Maputo Declaration, African Heads of State expressed their desire to see NEPAD properly integrated into the structures and processes of the African Union (AU). This was reiterated in a series of meetings, brainstorming and further declarations between 2004 and 2007. The Seventh Regional Consultative Meeting of the UN agencies and organizations held on 14 and 15 November 2006 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 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 endorsed the expansion of the RCM to include the AU Commission.
3. The Declaration on enhancing UN-AU cooperation signed in November 2006 by the then Chief Executives of the two organizations established the Framework for the UN Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU. The Framework is based on AU needs and strategic priorities and provides the overall UN strategic framework for cooperation with AU.

4. The overall aim of the report is to inform ECA's member States and other constituencies on the UN system-wide support to the AU and its NEPAD programme during 2007. The report also features the main outcomes of the Eighth RCM and highlights issues and recommendations on subregional coordination of the ad hoc expert group meeting on assessment of the cluster system of the RCM, held from 10 to 11 October 2007. It concludes with lessons learned and the way forward.

2. UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT TO THE AU AND ITS NEPAD PROGRAMME

2.1. System-wide Support

5. This section highlights some major activities undertaken by the thematic clusters and sub-clusters of the UN agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the AU and its NEPAD programme (see Annex 1), in 2007. It is based on the reports of clusters and sub-clusters prepared for the Eighth RCM held on 5 and 6 November 2007.

2.1.1 Infrastructure Development Cluster

6. ECA is the convener of this cluster, which comprises four sub-clusters, namely, water, energy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and transport.

Water

7. The sub-cluster actively contributed to the strengthening of regional cooperation during 2007. The group's members strengthened collaboration with the water units of the respective RECs, as well as the African Network of Basin Organizations. The AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat have been closely involved in the activities of UN-Water/Africa. The group maintained close relationship with relevant African institutions such as the Conference of Ministers of Human Settlements and Urban Development and the grouping of energy ministers of Africa. Other continental bodies with which UN-Water/Africa maintained close working relationship during 2007 included the AU Commission Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture, the AfDB and the African Network of Civil Society Organizations dealing with water.
8. The group's joint activities included sustained institutional support to the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), development of common positions and perspectives on water, publication of key policy documents such as water policy challenges in Africa, African Water Development Report, African Water Journal, African Water Information Clearing House mechanism, Atlas of freshwater agreements in Africa, groundwater assessment reports, etc. The group jointly contributed to the work of the African Water Facility of AMCOW, a financing mechanism, which has recently mobilized about US\$23 million for priority projects submitted by Ministers of Water on behalf of their governments.

Energy

9. UN-Energy/Africa (UNEA) has made commendable efforts to improve the UN's support to the implementation of the energy-related components of NEPAD. The group cooperates with the African Ministerial bodies responsible for energy. The cooperation encompasses a number of areas which include: (a) strengthening capacities in decision making at national and sub-regional levels; (b) providing support to the AU Commission in developing an Africa Energy Vision 2030; and (c) developing tools to resolve institutional gaps in addressing the low level of access to and consumption of energy in rural areas. At the international level, UN-Energy/Africa contributes to the development of Africa's perspectives and/or positions on key issues. This was the case during the implementation and policy reviews by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development of the energy sector. Efforts are therefore being made to strengthen UNEA to enable it achieve its full potential.

ICT

10. In the absence of a formal inter-agency grouping, ECA in close cooperation with the relevant UN agencies, the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat and the AfDB, plays a lead role. Particular attention is accorded to enhancing Africa's participation in the global ICT policy and decision making forum; harmonizing ICT policy and regulatory framework at the regional level; improving availability and use of information for development of geo-spatial technologies. The main activities during 2007 emanated from the NEPAD Short Term Action Plan (STAP) on infrastructure. Other priority areas included the follow-up to the World Summit on Information Society and the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy, as well as the CONNECT Africa Summit held in Kigali, Rwanda, in October 2007.

Transport

11. Pending the establishment of a formal inter-agency grouping for transport-related issues, ECA, working in close collaboration with the AU Commission, assumes responsibility for the sub-cluster. The transport sub-cluster's collaboration with African institutions focused on the main decisions of the regional institutions. The Durban Declaration of the First AU Conference of Ministers responsible for Road Transport (South Africa, October 2007) provided a new impetus. The UN system supported the NEPAD programme on transport and actively participated in the Ministerial Round Table and Conference on Road Safety in Africa (Ghana, February 2007); and the Conference of African Ministers of Air Transport (May 2007).

2.1.2 Governance Cluster

12. The Governance cluster is convened by UNDP and is organized around two sub-themes: (i) Political Governance (UNDP) and (ii) Economic and Corporate Governance (ECA).

Political Governance

13. The main activities undertaken under this sub-theme were support to NEPAD, support to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and to the Seventh African Governance Forum (AGF-VII). UNDP worked very closely with ECA and the AfDB in providing advisory services at the highest level and has, together with other cluster members, consistently participated in the NEPAD Steering Committee meetings, the Heads of State and Government meetings and the Africa Partnership Forum. UNDP also worked very closely on two main initiatives; the Capacity Development Strategic Framework, and the Communication and Advocacy Strategy. UNDP, ECA and AfDB supported the APRM Secretariat and the process, both at the continental and country level. This included financial and institutional support and technical and advisory services.
14. Other agencies that provided support under the sub-theme included the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSSA) and the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). Support was provided to Parliaments in Africa, Ministries of Local Government, Ministries of Public Service, the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, the African Association for Public Administration and Management, and to African Management Development Institutes.

Economic Governance

15. Support provided under this sub-theme contributed to the objectives of creating a positive environment for investment and economic growth; enacting needed economic reforms; and restructuring international aid and reducing debt burden. Specifically, ECA contributed to improvements in macroeconomic policy through the Economic Report on Africa (ERA) of 2007, and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance and Planning and Economic Development. Various ECA publications that advocate for the promotion of sound economic policies are a major vehicle for transmitting ECA's policy recommendations to member States' officials. Another salient area that ECA worked on refers to the provision of public services, including infrastructure services, which are crucial elements of good economic governance. Furthermore, ECA has been a vocal proponent of increasing both the quantity and quality of aid to Africa. ECA continues to take a lead role in supporting African countries in the development and implementation of poverty reduction strategies.

2.1.3 Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development Cluster

16. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the convener of this cluster. From November 2006 to October 2007, various members of the cluster, especially the Rome-based UN agencies, implemented a number of collaborative activities in support of the AU/NEPAD agriculture, food security and rural development agenda.

17. The FAO/AU Technical and Ministerial Meeting was held in Libreville, Gabon, from 27 November to 1 December 2006 to deliberate and agree on concrete measures to accelerate the implementation of the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), focusing on water control and infrastructure development, as well as intra-African trade for food security. The cluster provided support to the convening of the Special Summit on Food Security in Africa (Abuja, Nigeria, 4-7 December 2006), to the implementation of past AU Summit Decisions related to food security and agriculture development, and agreed on concrete steps towards achieving the CAADP objectives and the UN Millennium Development Goals on food security.
18. The World Food Programme (WFP) and other partners supported the NEPAD Secretariat to launch the Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP) under Pillar Three of CAADP. FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WFP have been supporting the NEPAD Secretariat in the implementation of the programme. Furthermore, FAO, IFAD and WFP have been supporting the Community of Saharan and Sahelian States (CILSS) in the implementation of the Sahel Agricultural and Rural Development Initiative (SARDI). Several consultations, involving the major organizations in the region, trade unions, farmers' associations, government agencies and the donor community, aimed at accelerating the implementation process have been supported during 2007.
19. Cluster members have supported and participated in the CAADP-Sirte Partnership Platform meeting held in September 2007, the CAADP Pillar Three Reference Group meeting held in May 2007, and the Regional Food Insecurity - Horn of Africa consultations held in June 2007. Cluster members have continued to support activities such as the AU Commission-ECA-AfDB-led initiative on Climate Information for Development in Africa, the Africa Fertilizer Summit, Africa Land Policy and Land Reform and the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiatives.

2.1.4 Environment, Population and Urbanization Cluster

20. Focused on three thematic areas, UN-HABITAT is the convener of the cluster. Cluster activities are, namely: Sustainable NEPAD Cities, with UN-HABITAT as lead agency; Data Monitoring and evaluation of progress in the achievements of NEPAD goals in environment, population and urbanization with UNFPA and WMO as lead agencies; and Development and implementation of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD, with UNEP as lead agency. The cluster convened a meeting in April 2007, on the occasion of the 21st Session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT, held in Nairobi, Kenya. The main theme of the session was *sustainable urbanization: local action for urban poverty reduction with an emphasis on finance and planning*.

21. The African Ministerial Council on the Environment (AMCEN) emphasized the importance of capacity-building in implementing the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD and the need to develop subregional action plans. In this regard, UNEP, GEF and the NEPAD Secretariat provided financial and technical support to the RECs to develop Subregional Environmental Action Plans for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD for the five subregions of Africa. Furthermore, UNEP, in collaboration with the AfDB, is supporting a feasibility study for the establishment of the African Environment Facility as a financial mechanism for implementing the NEPAD Action Plan.

2.1.5 Human Resources Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS Cluster

22. UNICEF is the convener of the cluster, which comprises three sub-clusters, namely: Human Resources Development with UNESCO as convener (with support from UNICEF); Employment, with ILO as Convener; and HIV and AIDS, with UNAIDS as convener.

23. This cluster was revitalized during 2007, and some sub-clusters formed. Work plans were also developed, which benefited from the AU plans of action on HIV/AIDS, employment and human resources development. The cluster was guided by the principle that the UN should not create new agendas for Africa, but should buy-in into what the AU has already developed. The highly participatory approach of the consultations and meetings held by the cluster resulted in a joint AU/NEPAD-UN/UNICEF work plan, integrating specific deliverables aligned to AU/NEPAD priorities for 2007, and guided by the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU. In addition, cluster members have, in collaboration with the AU Commission, worked to support the development of indices and a compendium to measure progress and commitment on HIV declarations, as well as strengthen follow up on these commitments. The cluster also contributed to the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education for Africa.

24. Cluster members jointly participated in the AU/NEPAD strategic annual activities in support of Child Survival, Development and Protection. This included, attendance and networking with the AU Commission during the AU Health Ministers meeting (April 2007); Africa Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of Children on the 9th meeting (May 2007); The Day of the African Child Celebrations under the theme “Preventing and Responding to Trafficking of Children and Women” (June 2007); AU Population Council meeting (July); Africa Prosecutors Association Meeting (July 2007); and AU Education Ministers meeting (August 2007). Key results included the promotion and joint championship of an integrated rights based strategy focusing on Child Survival, Development, Protection and Participation of, and with children and young people at the heart of all programmes.

2.1.6 Science and Technology Cluster

25. UNESCO is the convener of the cluster and ECA is the designated vice convener. The cluster actively participated in the elaboration of the AU/NEPAD Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA), which was formally adopted by the AU Summit in Addis Ababa in January 2007. UNESCO's General Conference adopted in October 2007, a plan to contribute to the implementation of the CPA, which includes joint activities with other agencies. The Cluster was to meet during the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST) to be held in Mombassa, Kenya (12-16 November 2007).

2.1.7 Advocacy and Communications Cluster

26. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) is the convener of the cluster and ECA is the designated vice convener. The AfDB was invited to join the Cluster and has since done so. The cluster collaborated with the NEPAD Secretariat in preparing and presenting the report of the General Assembly on the implementation of NEPAD. Several cluster members were involved in the NEPAD-organized communications workshop held in Ghana from 12 to 14 April 2007, the follow-up meetings and related communications. This enabled cluster members to gain a better appreciation of the framework of the NEPAD communication strategy. The Cluster was also engaged in developing a media dialogue event for senior members of the African media. A project spearheaded by ECA is the development of an informative website, which would provide up-to-date project content at the national and regional levels.

2.1.8 Peace and Security Cluster

27. The Department of Political Affairs (DPA) is the convener of the cluster, which comprises three sub-clusters: Peace and Security Architecture of the AU, convened by the Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO); Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development convened by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR); and the Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation Sub-Cluster convened by the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR).

Peace and Security Architecture of the AU Sub-Cluster

28. The sub-cluster is mandated among other things, to provide support for capacity building in the following areas: Peacekeeping Operations; Early Warning Systems; Conflict Prevention – Panel of the Wise; and the African Standby Force (ASF). The reporting period coincided with the creation of the United Nations-Department of Peacekeeping Operations –African Union Peace Support Team (DPKO-AU PST) to deliver support as part of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme namely, 'The provision of capacity building expertise/support to the AU in the establishment of the African Standby Force and the planning, mounting and managing of peace support missions.'

29. DPKO–AU PST became functional in January 2007. Since becoming functional, the Sub-Cluster has been actively providing support to the AU-PSOD and the AU Commission in the areas of training, military, police, logistics, finance and communication.
30. *Training:* The team organized and delivered the first AU/UN Senior Mission Leadership workshop, which was held in Nairobi from 16 to 29 June 2007. The aim was to increase the number of trained leaders from the AU Commission and the RECs available for selection for senior management posts in AU/DPKO field missions. In addition, the team delivered the workshop on the ASF Civilian Dimension, Addis Ababa, March 2007.
31. *Police:* In collaboration with UNDP-Somalia and other stakeholders, the team was involved in the planning for the Police component for AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in Nairobi in March 2007. The outcome was the development of the Concept of Operations, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), job descriptions and Commissioner Directives. The team also developed the police component at the AU workshop on ASF Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) held in Addis Ababa in July 2007. It continues to provide support to the AU in the development of strategic policy on generic profiles and other documents for the police component of the ASF.
32. *Military:* The team among other things organized the joint AU-UN workshop on development of the Concept of Operation for the Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) of the ASF in Addis Ababa in July 2007. It followed up on the Workshop by developing working documents on the subject. It organized and coordinated joint workshops on training support to the ASF with other partners.
33. *Finance:* The team has been involved in various activities aimed at strengthening the AU's budget and financial management systems to enable the Union budget for the ASF and peacekeeping operations, manage the financial resources and provide proper, timely financial reports to its various contributors.
34. *Communication/IT:* The team assisted the AU PSOD with technical information related to the establishment of a Wide Area Network for ASF. It also assisted the AU Commission in the development of an Assets Management Tracking System and the strengthening of its Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Unit.

Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Sub-Cluster

35. The sub-cluster has established strong and very productive working relations with the Peace and Security Department of the AU Commission. The sub-cluster supported the AU to develop a comprehensive and strategic Policy on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development. The Policy is aimed at providing a blueprint that could be adopted by post conflict countries in planning and implementing their own recovery and reconstruction programmes, as well as in assisting the AU in coordinating such activities around the continent. The sub-cluster, both as a group and through the individual efforts of member agencies, has actively supported activities related to the implementation of the AU PCRDR policy.

36. As part of the capacity building support, members of the sub-cluster have provided the AU with financial, material and technical support. PCRD-related support provided during the reporting period included, information systems equipment, training, as well as expert support and advice. In addition to supporting AU's efforts to disseminate and implement the PCRD Policy, the sub-cluster has undertaken the preparation of country assessment reports to document the status of post conflict recovery and reconstruction in 12 countries. UNEP has conducted a comprehensive Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment in Sudan and published a detailed and analytical report in June 2007. The report includes key findings and recommendations to address the massive damage on the environment caused by decades of conflict and neglect in various parts of the country.

Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation Sub-Cluster

37. During the period under review, the sub-cluster held three meetings to examine the terms of reference, possible joint activities and modalities for implementing the human rights, justice and reconciliation components of the framework for the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU.

38. Between March and April 2007, OHCHR held a series of bilateral meetings with the AU Commission Department of Political Affairs and with the President of the Human Rights Court on the operationalization of the Ten-year Capacity Building Programme. In May OHCHR's representative at the 41st session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Accra held briefing sessions with members of the African Commission and stressed the importance of the Programme in his address on behalf of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. This resulted in the adoption, by the African Commission, of a resolution in support of the operationalization of the Programme. It was also agreed that the African Commission be closely involved with the work of the sub-cluster. During the same month, OHCHR held discussions with the Pan African Parliament to seek their involvement in the implementation of the Programme.

2.1.9 Industries, Trade and Market Access (ITMA) Cluster

39. UNIDO is the convener of the ITMA cluster. The inaugural session of the cluster was held at the headquarters of UNIDO in Vienna, Austria on the 3 and 4 May 2007. Cluster members undertook a variety of ITMA-related activities collaboratively, in support of AU and its NEPAD programme. Programmes implemented with UNIDO as lead agency, included an experts group meetings on Africa Quality Infrastructure Survey, and on Youth Employment. Programmes implemented with UNCTAD as lead agency, included the Regional Trade Programme for the East African Community and Capacity building for Africa-Caribbean and Pacific countries on Economic Partnership Agreements negotiations. The Trade Support Programme for COMESA was one of the activities in which the International Trade Center took the lead. Additionally, members of the cluster undertook numerous activities in 2007, but these were implemented individually.

2.2 ECA's support

2.2.1 General support

40. Based on its mandate, ECA supports the priorities of the AU and NEPAD. In line with the new developmental landscape that calls for measures, steps and actions towards the effective implementation of the AU integration agenda and NEPAD sectoral programmes, ECA has adopted the promotion of regional integration as a key area of intervention and aligned its priorities with the AU agenda, including NEPAD. ECA's biennial programmes reflect the nature and scope of the AU and its NEPAD programme. Activities in support of AU and its NEPAD programme include analytical studies, advisory services, policy advocacy and capacity building. ECA has also provided technical support to the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, the RECs, as well as to other implementing organs at the subregional and national levels.
41. ECA provides tangible support to the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat on the basis of the UN-AU Cooperation Programme and the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat. Under the Ten year Capacity Building Programme for the AU, ECA is providing support to the AU and RECs in two areas namely: Health and Infrastructure. In the area of health, alongside its partners, ECA is providing technical assistance to the RECs in setting up of mechanisms for regional bulk purchasing and local production of generic AIDS-related medicines and commodities. Within the framework of UN-Energy Africa, ECA has supported the AU Commission to develop an African Energy Vision and Policy. ECA is also supporting the Commission to develop a transport master plan.
42. ECA has provided support to the implementation of NEPAD initiatives, such as the Infrastructure Short-term Action Plan (STAP) and the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Plan (CAADP). ECA continues to provide assistance in many other areas, including ICT, water resources development, trade and regional integration, and gender. In addition, ECA participates actively in AU Summits and the NEPAD Steering Committee meetings. The Commission provides technical advice and inputs, particularly in the discussions on the integration of NEPAD into AU structures and processes.
43. The NEPAD Support Section created in the NEPAD and Regional Integration Division of ECA has implemented key activities to enhance UN system support to the process. These include substantive servicing of the RCM; functional support to the nine thematic UN Clusters of the RCM; and preparation of substantive publications. The Section's weekly newsletter, *NEPAD Briefs*, is an important promotional material that advocates for NEPAD, as well as informs the public on NEPAD related activities. The Section is in the process of organizing a training workshop for journalists in an effort to increase media coverage and reporting of NEPAD.
44. With increased emphasis on strengthening collaboration with RECs towards achieving regional integration and addressing the Africa's special needs, ECA's Sub Regional Offices (SROs) are in the process of developing multi-year programmes with the RECs.

Memoranda of Understanding detailing modalities for implementing the multiyear programmes would be signed with the RECs. This would enable ECA and the REC's to leverage their collective resources for the implementation of the regional integration programme and in the process ensure synergy and enhance delivery capacity. SRO's are also working to bring UN agencies together in support of AU/NEPAD at the sub-regional level. These include developing issue papers and undertaking discussions with UN agencies in their respective subregions, particularly those with subregional presence.

45. In addition, SROs continue to facilitate capacity building activities for RECs and the implementation of infrastructure projects. In the area of institutional support to NEPAD, the SRO's continue to provide assistance to NEPAD national and subregional coordination offices and to their respective regional NEPAD taskforces, through the provision of advisory services and the servicing of meetings. In order to mainstream NEPAD priorities for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a number of SRO's have assisted member countries in the preparation and dissemination of technical papers on progress and prospects in the implementation of NEPAD and the attainment of the MDGs. These papers propose a strategic framework towards achieving the MDGs in the respective subregions through NEPAD.

2.2.2 Support to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Process

46. Since its establishment, ECA has made tremendous contributions and participated actively in the entire APRM process. During the period under review, ECA made significant contributions towards the successful implementation of the APRM process, particularly in the four areas indicated below.

Advisory Services

47. ECA rendered substantial advisory services to APRM participating member States for their review process through: (i) APR Country Support missions (Mali); (ii) Follow-up support missions (Mozambique and Benin); and (iii) Country Review Missions (Benin, Uganda, Nigeria and Burkina Faso). During the period under review, Algeria, South Africa (July 2007) and Benin (January 2008) have been peer reviewed by the APRM Heads of States Forum.
48. During these missions, ECA assessed the independence of the process, the suitability of the institutional arrangements and mechanisms put by the country to undertake the self assessment exercise, reviewed the countries' self assessment, which requires extensive consultations and interactions with national stakeholders and drafting of Country Review reports and National Programme of Action.

Training Workshops

49. ECA initiated a peer-learning exercise. In June 2007, it organized one training workshop on “Participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the APRM”, held in Cameroon, which brought together francophone representatives of CSOs. Participants learnt about best practices and pitfalls to avoid, from APRM pioneer countries (Algeria, Benin, Mauritius, Ghana, Kenya and Rwanda). The workshop allowed CSO representatives to apply strategic tools and methods for participating effectively and efficiently in the APRM process and enabled them to create networks among themselves for their future engagement in national governance systems. In this exercise, ECA developed a Training Manual for CSOs (in French). The draft of the Manual is available.

Advocacy

50. As a lead strategic partner of the process, ECA advocated for international community understanding of the APRM concept and the peer review process by (i) providing guidance for the review of the APRM methodology and instruments, (ii) integrating the APRM National Plans of Action (NPoA), with existing national development strategies and providing a strategic financing framework for the PoA by devising a costing methodology (one out of the three-country case studies has now been completed for Ghana); and (iii) making presentations at many forums, such as the OECD-NEPAD roundtable on “Strengthening the Investment Assessment and Reform in NEPAD Countries”, as well as serving as an expert resource to the High Level Task Force on the Right to Development for the UN Human Rights Council, etc.

Database of independent African Experts

51. As a follow up to the ECA's mandate in contributing towards the institutionalization and mainstreaming of ECA support to APRM process, ECA has developed a Database of African experts and the Diaspora on governance, to help the APRM continental Secretariat in identifying competent independent African experts in all areas of governance for the Country Review Missions. Data is provided to the APRM Secretariat upon request and this has contributed a lot in greatly making the APRM process technically efficient and effective in terms of African experts participation. As of today, ECA database, which is a continuous work, contains 170 profiles.

3. THE EIGHTH REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING

52. The Eighth Regional Consultative Meeting of UN agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the AU and its NEPAD Programme was held on 5 and 6 November 2007 to build on the achievements of the Seventh RCM and to deepen partnership with the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat. The meeting was graced by the presence of Dr. Asha Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. There was high-level representation from the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat and most UN agencies. Also represented were the RECs, the AfDB and other multilateral agencies.

The meeting provided the opportunity to share information and lessons learned, as well as concrete and actionable recommendations on: ways to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the cluster system; the accelerated implementation of the UN Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU; and on furthering the regional agenda on post-conflict reconstruction and inter-agency peace-building efforts. The meeting also endorsed recommendations on subregional coordination of UN support to the AU and its NEPAD Programme.

3.1 The Cluster system

53. The meeting agreed 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. It reiterated the need for: stronger commitment and leadership; addressing structural and systemic issues; increased accountability; enhanced coordination and collaboration; increased resource mobilization and capacity building; more systematic monitoring and evaluation; and increased communication, outreach and advocacy. In this context the RCM called for improved leadership, the establishment of a steering committee and the further alignment of the activities of the cluster system with AU and NEPAD priorities within the framework of the UN Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU. The RCM also called for the development by the clusters, of three-year business plans and the mainstreaming of cross cutting issues such as gender, health and culture.

3.2 Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union

54. The RCM reiterated its commitment to the effective implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity- Building Programme for the AU. It recognized the need to: address priority needs of the AU Commission within the AU-UN cooperation framework; enhance AU internal capacity to coordinate support being provided under the programme; and involve the AfDB in the programme. In this regard, the RCM recommended the further development of the Framework to accommodate existing cooperation and bilateral agreements between UN agencies and the AU, and to form the basis for UN assistance to AU capacity building. It called for stronger leadership on the part of the AU Commission and for the participation of the AfDB in the implementation of the Programme.

3.3 Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development

55. The RCM acknowledged that Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), which was the theme of the meeting, is a complex, multidimensional issue, involving many actors and interventions at the global, regional, subregional and national levels. It emphasized the need to increase coordination of efforts and to adequately reflect gender, women's empowerment, youth unemployment, socio-cultural, environmental and other sectoral issues in PCRD interventions. It also recognized the need to provide adequate resources to support reconstruction and development efforts of post-conflict countries and to increase awareness of the AU PCRD Policy at the global level. In this context, the RCM recommended the coordination of efforts at various levels to ensure coherence and effectiveness in the delivery of support for post-conflict reconstruction and development.

It called for expediting the implementation of the AU PCRD Policy in order to positively impact the situation on the ground in countries emerging from conflict and those in post-conflict. The meeting made several other recommendations related to cooperation and collaboration, the enhancement of participation by all stakeholders and the financing of programmes.

4 TOWARD A MECHANISM FOR SUBREGIONAL COORDINATION OF UN SUPPORT TO AU AND NEPAD

56. The Seventh RCM emphasized the importance of developing a mechanism for subregional coordination of UN support to AU and NEPAD. In this regard, during an ad hoc expert group meeting held in October 2007 to review a report on assessment of the cluster system of the regional consultations, the opportunity was taken to discuss issues pertaining to subregional coordination. The following are highlights of the main issues arising, and the recommendations, which were endorsed by the Eighth RCM.

Main issues

- There is a gap between regional-level and national-level development interventions, and coordination at sub-regional level is virtually absent.
- The current regional coordination mechanism does not address the practical dimension of UN coordination with RECs at the sub-regional level.
- There is inadequate knowledge of the work of UN agencies at the sub regional level, particularly regarding their presence at that level, areas of focus, operation modalities and coordination mechanisms.
- Sub-regional coordination may be difficult if regional integration issues are not clearly factored into the cluster system.
- The multiplicity of RECs and overlapping membership may render coordination at sub regional level problematic.
- Capacity constraints encountered by RECs limit their ability to attend all meetings.

Recommendations

- There is need to take stock of the agencies that have sub regional presence and programmes, their different areas of focus, as well as the existing coordination mechanisms, in order to identify gaps and short comings, taking into account RECs capacity constraints. This would better inform actions aimed at realigning programmes and putting in place an appropriate coordination mechanism.
- In order to appropriately respond to the challenges of sub regional coordination, there is need for a common understanding of the issues. This could be achieved through inter alia, information dissemination and exchange.

- To enhance coordination at the subregional level, it is necessary to address regional integration in the cluster system. This could be done by either having a distinct cluster on regional integration, or by mainstreaming regional integration in all relevant clusters. The best modality for achieving this would continue to be explored.
- RECs have important coordinating/ facilitating roles in ensuring that regional level initiatives are effectively translated into national level actions. They are also directly involved in implementing NEPAD programmes, which foster regional integration. In this regard, their capacities should be strengthened to ensure their active engagement in NEPAD planning and programming processes. UN Agencies should consider taking concrete actions to address the capacity needs of the RECs.
- RECs should be provided with timely information about NEPAD activities and the outcomes of meetings and other consultations, since they are not in a position to attend all activities, given other engagements and capacity constraints. The NEPAD framework document should also be provided to ensure a better understanding of the Initiative.
- ECA and other UN agencies should intensify efforts to fully implement the recommendation of the seventh RCM on subregional coordination. RECs should be fully involved in consultations to be undertaken in this regard.

5 RESULTS, LESSONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

5.1 Overall Results and Achievements

57. An important accomplishment during 2007 was the strengthening of coordination of UN support for AU and NEPAD, including the repositioning of the RCM Secretariat at ECA, as a strategic coordinator. ECA now participates more in, and provides secretariat support to clusters. RCMs are now convened regularly -once a year in Addis Ababa to facilitate attendance and participation. The participation of the Deputy Secretary General in the last RCM, attests to the importance attached to consultation process. These accomplishments have resulted in enhanced leadership of the RCM, improved coordination of the clusters, increased interaction within and among clusters and sharpened focus of cluster activities for greater relevance and effectiveness.
58. The increased participation of the AU Commission and RECs in the RCM is another major accomplishment. Clusters are increasingly involving the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat in their meetings and activities. The AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat now co-chair meetings of the RCM and clusters. As a result, there is enhanced communication between ECA, the NEPAD Secretariat, the AU Commission, as well as some cluster conveners, continuous communication and advocacy for NEPAD and increased support for NEPAD at the national, regional and global level. The implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU has commenced and UN Agencies are working together with the AU Commission and NEPAD to ensure that the Programme embodies all priority needs of the Commission.

The AfDB and RECs now participate regularly in the RCMs. It is noteworthy that the AfDB, during the 8th RCM expressed interest in contributing to the implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU. ECA's SROs have initiated discussions with RECs regarding the implementation of NEPAD at the subregional level.

59. The continued commitment of substantial amounts of material and financial resources in support of AU and NEPAD remains a significant achievement. This has resulted in enhanced capacities in both the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat and the implementation of a growing number of programmes and projects.
60. Regarding support to the APRM process, ECA's advisory services, technical support, including training workshops, have contributed significantly to advancing the implementation of the APRM process in the participating countries. Generally, APRM participating countries have become more effective in addressing the challenges of good governance, leading to the adoption of best practices in codes and standards. The APRM training workshops have resulted in technically competent and efficient APRM processes in member States, through greater stakeholder participation, as well as through ensuring that the process is more credible, transparent and less amenable to political manipulation. It is hoped that the enhanced profile of civil society organizations in the APRM process, would improve the state of governance and socio-economic development in participating countries. In conclusion, the overall impact of outputs and activities in APRM participating countries has been substantial and practical.

5.2 *Lessons Learned and the Way Forward*

61. Overall, the Seventh RCM generated important momentum for UN support to NEPAD, including the strengthening of partnerships with African regional and subregional organizations. This momentum was enhanced during the Eighth RCM, which outcomes have provided the basis for the way forward. However, in spite of the achievements, many challenges remain. There is need to improve the performance of the different clusters, as well as the participation in the RCM, of regional and subregional bodies. Furthermore, subregional coordination is yet to be institutionalized.
62. The effective implementation of the recommendations is a must, if the momentum is to be sustained, support to the AU and its NEPAD Programme enhanced, and the desired impacts made. This calls for increased commitment and institutional leadership, as well as concerted efforts on the part of all concerned; UN agencies and organizations on the one hand, and the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat and RECs, on the other. Cooperation among the participating agencies is also essential.
63. Communication with the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat and RECs should be enhanced to provide an effective link between UN agencies and organizations and these regional and subregional bodies. Effective communication between the different clusters and sub-clusters should be instituted to ensure a holistic and integrated approach to the support being provided. Subregional coordination is essential for linking regional-level agreements with national-level priorities and actions.

64. Confidence building between the UN agencies and AU Commission, NEPAD Secretariat and RECs, and among UN Agencies should continue to be strengthened. Capacity building of the AU Commission, NEPAD Secretariat, the RECs and participating Agencies is crucial to ensuring optimal delivery, and should therefore be enhanced. This will facilitate joint programming and implementation of activities in support of AU and its NEPAD Programme. The development and implementation, by the various clusters, of business plans that are aligned to the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU and to the Strategic Plans of the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat and the RECs should be accorded priority.
65. Institutional capacity (human, financial and material) must be increased to strengthen UN system-wide to the AU, NEPAD and the RECs. This calls for stronger commitment, leadership and institutional support on the part of all concerned- UN agencies on the one hand, and African regional and subregional organizations, on the other. In view of the expanded mandate of the RCM Secretariat (repositioned from a convener to a strategic coordinator), it must be adequately resourced to enable it effectively carry out its strategic coordinating role, and meet expectations. ECA and UN agencies and organizations participating in the RCM, must act on this.
66. In relation to the APRM, while the process offers a unique opportunity to monitor and promote good governance in Africa, ECA's participation in its implementation has not been without challenges. First, the APRM Secretariat lacks the requisite capacities, in particular, human and research capacities, to effectively manage, and provide leadership to the process- ECA has had to constantly fill these capacity gaps. Secondly, the exercise consumes considerable human and financial resources, with ad-hoc and prolonged review missions. In this regard, APRM review missions need to be better planned taking into account the availability of experts. Additionally, ECA needs to be provided with adequate resources to effectively meet the increasing demand on its technical expertise.

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

=====