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*Subregional Office for Eastern Africa*

*Bureau Sous-Régional pour l'Afrique de l'Est*

**SRO-EA & SRO-SA**

**High-Level Meeting on Regional Integration and the  
Establishment of a Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism  
(SRCM) for the United Nations System-wide Support to the  
African Union and its NEPAD Programme**

**19-20 March 2010  
Kigali, Rwanda**

**AIDE MEMOIRE**

## Background

1. Through successive system-wide initiatives<sup>1</sup>, the United Nations has continuously demonstrated its commitment to support African countries, guided by and large by the development priorities of the continent. Thus following the launch of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) in 2001, the General Assembly, in resolution 57/7, welcomed it “as a programme of the African Union that embodies the vision and commitment of all African Governments..” The GA subsequently adopted it as the framework for Africa’s development and requested the UN system to intensify its efforts in developing and implementing joint programmes in support of its implementation at the regional level.

2. The UN system has developed a framework at the global, regional and country levels to support the implementation of NEPAD priorities. At the global level, the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA) at UN Headquarters is tasked with the role of global advocacy as well as reporting to the inter-governmental bodies on UN system-wide support to it. The Department of Public Information (DPI) carries out public information and awareness raising activities.

3. At the regional level, a Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)<sup>2</sup> has been established to improve inter-agency cooperation and coordination of UN support to NEPAD. The RCM is organized around thematic clusters that reflect the objectives and priority work areas of NEPAD, with each cluster led by a UN agency as convener. This is in line with resolution 57/7, in which the GA urged the United Nations system to “organize the activities of the United Nations system around thematic clusters based on NEPAD’s priority areas”. The current clusters are shown in Annex 2. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is the coordinator of the RCM. It is chaired by Dr. Asha Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (DSG).

4. In November 2006, the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) signed the Framework Agreement for the United Nations Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the AU. The Agreement serves as a basis for United Nations-African Union cooperation, taking into account the needs and strategic priorities of the AU. The implementation of the Agreement is coordinated through the RCM.

5. Similarly at the country level, the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), through the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), provide a mechanism for coordinating and integrating UN system-wide support thereby promoting the “One UN programme”. Like the RCM, the UNDAF focuses on thematic areas in which UN agencies have a collective comparative advantage and therefore existing synergies can enhance the impact of UNCT activities. Common thematic areas include food security, social services, governance, HIV/AIDS, and gender.

6. The sub regional level, however, does not have structures for coordinating UN system wide support to NEPAD. This weakness was recognised in the SG’s report to the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly<sup>3</sup> in which he requested the GA to strengthen the sub regional offices of ECA to enable them promote Africa’s regional integration agenda at the sub regional level and, together with other UN entities, develop a framework for coordinating programmes and activities of the United Nations agencies at this level.

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<sup>1</sup> The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD, 1986-1990), the United Nations New Agenda for Development of Africa (UN-NADAF, 1991-2000) and the United Nations system-wide Special Initiative on Africa (SIA, 1996-2005), among others.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 1998/46 of the Economic and Social Council called for the establishment of regular regional consultative meetings among United Nations agencies and organizations working in each of the five regions of the world to promote coordination among the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, so as to improve synergy and the collective response by the United Nations system in addressing priority needs of each region.

<sup>3</sup> A/61/471, “Enhancing the role of the sub regional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa”, 27 September, 2006.

7. In recognition of the above, the 7th RCM meeting recommended that ECA, in consultation with other UN agencies, the AUC and the NEPAD Secretariat, coordinate discussions on the needs of the RECs in order to improve the alignment and targeting of United Nations support to the AU-NEPAD priorities at sub-regional level. The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting reiterated this call and proposed the review of existing sub regional arrangements, with ECA and the RECs taking the lead. Specifically, the meeting identified ECA's multi year programmes with RECs as possible entry points for establishing SRCMs and requested that they be reviewed to provide opportunity for further consultation and consensus among UN agencies operating in Africa. Statutory meetings of the ECA Sub-regional Offices (SROs) such as the 13th Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) of UNECA's Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) held in Mahe, Seychelles have all underscored the importance of establishing a Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) to minimize fragmentation, reduce transaction costs, realize economies of scale, and ensure a more coordinated and coherent UN System-Wide (and other stakeholders) support to regional integration efforts and agenda.

8. The "High-level Meeting on the Establishment of a Sub-regional Coordination Mechanism for the United Nations System-wide Support to the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development Programme" is therefore being organized within this context and will provide a forum for discussing the development of an SRCM.

9. As part of the new strategic orientation at the ECA, regional integration has emerged as a key pillar of support for Africa's development efforts. The SROs have been given a major role to partner the RECs in mainstreaming the work of ECA at sub-regional level. This is in response to the call by the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly which outlined the multiyear programme approach as the most suitable vehicle for swiftly building the regional integration capacities of Regional Economic Communities (RECs). That session also identified UNECA's SROs as the most suitable UN entities to play the leadership role, within the UN family, over regional integration processes at the sub regional level. In this context, the High level meeting will also review progress in regional integration focussing primarily on the East African sub region in a number of key areas including: food security; transport, ICT for development, science and technology, while drawing on the experience of Southern Africa in mining and mainstreaming regional integration in national development.

10. Within this context, the SROs are to provide technical support to the regional integration agenda of their respective RECs through a Multi-Year programme of Cooperation. SRO-EA has started discussing and formulating Multi-Year Programmes (MYPs) with all RECs and IGOs<sup>4</sup>. It has concluded MoUs with IGAD, ICGLR and IOC and expects to finalize and sign soon similar instruments with EAC, and CEPGL. As articulated in Mahe, Seychelles the SRCM should be responsive to sub-regional contexts and specificities and should be anchored on the priorities and programmes of RECs and IGOs as expressed in the MYPs. Following the Mahe recommendations, the Director of the SRO-EA undertook consultations with the Executive Secretaries of the RECs and IGOs in the Eastern Africa sub-region as well as other stakeholders to discuss the viability of an SRCM anchored around regional integration priorities for the sub region. The idea received overwhelming support from all parties consulted.

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<sup>4</sup> The SRO-SA already has a multi-year programme and MoU with SADC. The programme has been under implementation for the last two years.

## **Objectives of the Meeting**

11. The High level meeting will review progress in regional integration in Eastern Africa in a number of key areas of regional integration. This review is expected to contribute towards the development of multi year programmes with the RECs and IGOs operating in East Africa.

12. The meeting will also discuss the operational framework for the establishment and functioning of a Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism in eastern and southern Africa. The meeting will explore the operational modalities of such a framework, including the review of the multi year approach, as recommended by the 8<sup>th</sup> RCM, and directed by the GA of the UN. The high level meeting will seek to identify opportunities and strategies to enhance UN support to the AU and its NEPAD programmes in Eastern and Southern Africa, through improved alignment, coordination and harmonization of UN support with the programmes and priorities of RECs and IGOs operating in the two sub-regions.

## **Format and scope of the meeting**

13. The meeting will be divided into two concurrent segments. The first segment will be devoted to discussing the SRCM for Eastern and Southern Africa and how this might be used to promote efficiencies and synergy in the way the UN leverages its limited development assistance to reduce fragmentation in programme planning and delivery at the sub- regional level. Links between UN programmes at country, sub-regional and regional levels will be explored, including relationships to the RCM, RDT and UNDAFs to promote a coherent and seamless approach to UN programming at the three levels. The multi year, multi partner programming approach will also be explored for possible adaptation to SRCMs as recommended by the 8<sup>th</sup> RCM.

14. The second segment will discuss the status of regional integration in Eastern Africa. This session will be informed by presentations on regional integration and reports from prior meetings in two programmes namely, Food Security and ICT for Development. . The session will also receive reports on Mainstreaming Regional Integration in National Development and an example of a developed multi year programme from mining in Southern Africa.

15. Annex 1 provides the agenda and draft programme of work for the meeting.

## **Expected outcomes**

16. The first segment of the meeting is expected to produce the following short term results:

- Consensus on the principles of a sub-regional coordination mechanism
- Convergence on the mode of working with the RECs and IGOs based on their programme priorities
- Recommendations on how best to coordinate the activities of the UN within an SRCM
- Concrete steps on the next steps to be taken towards developing the SRCM
- Economies of scale, efficiency gains, and reduction of duplication of efforts by UN agencies once the SRCM is developed and implemented
- Improved alignment of UN programmes to the priorities of RECs and the member States

17. The second segment of the High Level Meeting is expected to induce the following short-term results:

- Improved understanding of the status of regional integration in East Africa in several key areas of development for the sub-region
- Enhanced dialogue between the RECs, IGOs and the UN family on regional integration
- Improved alignment of the regional integration agenda in Eastern and Southern Africa between the RECs/IGOs and the UN family
- Strengthened process of developing and concluding more robust multi year, multi partner programmes between the UN and RECs.

## **Participants**

18. The High-level Meeting will be co-organized by the SRO-EA and SRO-SA, in collaboration with the government of Rwanda, RECs/IGOs in Eastern and Southern Africa, UN agencies operating in the two sub-regions and other stakeholders.

19. The meeting will be attended by high-level representatives of the RECs/IGOs of COMESA, EAC, IGAD, IOC, ICGLR, and CEPGL and SADC, the Ministers responsible for regional cooperation and integration in the member States served by the SRO-EA, Heads of Agency and high-level representatives of UN agencies operating in Eastern and Southern Africa, the Executive Secretaries of transport corridors in Eastern and Southern Africa, representatives of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and other international partners operating in the sub-region, including the AfDB. The AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat will also be represented at a high level.

## **Dates and venue**

20. The meeting will be held at the Serena Hotel in Kigali from 19 to 20 March 2010.

## **ANNEX 1: DRAFT AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK**

### **Friday, 19 March 2010**

8.00 – 09.00 : Registration of Participants

09.00 – 10.00 : Opening Ceremony

- Welcome Remarks, by H.E. Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda
- H.E. Bernard Kamilius Membe (MP), Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Tanzania, representing the East African Community
- Statement by H.E. Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary of ECA
- Opening Speech by the Guest of Honor

10.00 – 10.15 : Coffee Break

#### **Part One: Establishment of the Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism**

10.15 – 10.45: Report of the Outcomes of the 10th Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM): Challenges and Opportunities, *by Mr Emmanuel Nnadozie, Director of the Economic Development and NEPAD Division (EDND), ECA, and Coordinator of the RCM Secretariat.*

10.45 – 11.15: The SRCM: A Possible Configuration, *by Ms Jennifer Karbgo, Director of SRO-SA, ECA*

11.15 – 11.45: Presentation on Regional Directors Team: Lessons from the UNDAF Process and the Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism, *by Ms Elizabeth Fong, Regional Directors Team, Johannesburg*

11.45 – 12.15: Multi-Year Programmes: A Compact with Regional Economic Communities, *by Mr Antonio Pedro, Director of SRO-EA, ECA*

12.15 – 13.15: Building Partnerships for Regional Integration in Eastern and Southern Africa: Some Experiences from the RECs

- Dr. Tomaz Salomao, Executive Secretary of SADC
- Ambassador Eng. Mahboub M. Maalim, Executive Secretary of IGAD
- Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, Executive Secretary of ICGLR
- Ambassador Gabriel Toyi, Executive Secretary of CEPGL
- Ambassador Juma Mwapachu, Secretary General of EAC
- Mr Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General of COMESA
- Mr Rajendranath Mohabeer, Charge de Mission at IOC

13.15 – 14.30: Lunch Break

14.30 – 16.30: Working Group on the SRCM Framework

16.30 – 16.45: Coffee Break

16:45-18:30: Report of the Working Group and Discussions

18:30 – 19:00: Way Forward and Next Steps

19:30 – 21:00: Reception

## **Saturday, 20 March 2010**

### **Part Two: Forum on Regional Integration**

09:00 –09:30: Presentation on the Overview of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Report on Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA IV) on Intra African Trade, *by Mr Joseph Atta-Mensah, Officer-in-Charge of the Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Division (RIITD), ECA*

09:30 – 10:00: Presentation of the Report on the Regional Integration Landscape in Eastern Africa, *by Mr Birane Cisse, Economic Affairs Officer, SRO-EA, ECA*

10:00 – 10:30: Mainstreaming Regional Integration in National Development Policies: An Example of Southern Africa, *by Ms Jennifer Kargbo, Director of SRO-SA, ECA*

10:30 – 10:45: Coffee Break

10:45– 11:15: Report of the Partners' Workshop on the Food Security Programme for Eastern Africa (ICGLR, IGAD, EAC, CEPGL), *by Ms Daya Bragante, Economic Affairs Officer, SRO-EA, ECA*

11:15 – 12:15: Towards a Framework for Collaboration Between Development Corridors Within Eastern and Southern Africa, *by Mr Godfrey Matata Onyango, Executive Secretary of TTCA*

12:15 – 12:45: Report of the Workshop on Building a Comprehensive Policy and Regulatory ICT Infrastructure and Implementation in Eastern and Southern Africa, *by Mr Mactar Seck, Economic Affairs Officer, SRO-EA, ECA*

12:45 – 14.30: Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:30: Public Debate on Regional Integration in Eastern Africa

#### **Participants:**

- H.E. Louise Mushikiwabo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rwanda
- H.E. Monique Mukaluriza, Minister in charge of EAC, Rwanda
- H.E. Bernard Kamilius Membe (MP), Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Tanzania, representing the East African Community
- Mr Antonio Pedro, Director of SRO-EA, ECA
- Ambassador Juma Mwapachu, Secretary General of EAC
- Ambassador Eng. Mahboub M. Maalim, Secretary General of IGAD
- Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, Executive Secretary of ICGLR

- Ambassador Gabriel Toyi, Executive Secretary of CEPGL

16:30 – 17:00: Coffee Break

17:00 – 17:30: Conclusions and Recommendations

17:30– 18:00: Closing of the Meeting

## **Annex 2: The Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)**

The RCM is the mechanism for enhancing cooperation and coordination among the agencies and organizations of the UN system in support of NEPAD. The aim of the RCM is also to generate improved cooperation and coordination between UN agencies and African continental organizations such as the African Union (AU), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the RECs. The regional consultations of UN agencies working in Africa have established the following nine thematic clusters around the priority areas of NEPAD:

- Infrastructure Development (convened by the ECA). Four Sub-clusters: 1) water, 2) energy, 3) information and communication technology (ICT) and 4) transport
- Governance (convened by UNDP);
- Peace and Security (convened by UNDP). Three Sub-clusters: 1) Peace and Security architecture of the AU (by DPKO); 2) Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (by UNHCR); 3) Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation (by OHCHR)
- Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development (convened by FAO);
- Industry, Trade and Market Access (convened by UNIDO);
- Environment, Population and Urbanization (convened by UN-Habitat);
- Human Resource Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS (convened by UNICEF);
- Science and Technology (convened by UNESCO, with ECA as vice-convenor);
- Advocacy and Communications (convened by OSAA)

The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the RCM recommended that ECA should move from a convener to a Strategic Coordinator of UN support to AU and NEPAD and thus, that ECA should provide secretariat functions to coordinate the activities of all clusters. Consequently, the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting decided that the RCM should change from Regional Consultation meetings to the Regional Coordination mechanism

