

## **NEPAD and Regional Integration Division (NRID)**

### **Report on United Nations System-wide Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)**

*2006-2007*

This report seeks to inform United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA) constituency in general and particularly those attending the annual session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of ECA's Sub-regional Office in West Africa (SRO-WA) of the United Nations system-wide support for NEPAD.

## **1. Introduction**

1. The United Nations General Assembly has adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the framework within which the international community, including the UN system, would channel its support to Africa's development. Launched one year after the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000, NEPAD was developed by the African leaders as a mechanism for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). 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 (GA resolution 57/7). Accordingly, the regular work programme of ECA has been aligned with NEPAD priorities.

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

3. At the regional level, a Regional Consultation Mechanism (RCM) has been established for cooperation and coordination of support to NEPAD by all United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has been designated coordinator of the RCM.

4. At the national level the UN system supports implementation of NEPAD through its existing mechanisms such as the Common Country Assessment (CCA), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and PRSPs processes.

5. This report reviews progress in the UN system-wide support to the implementation of NEPAD at the regional and sub-regional levels for the period 2006-2007, with special focus on ECA's contributions. The overall aim of the report is to inform ECA's constituency in general and particularly those attending the thirteenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) of ECA's Sub-regional Office in West Africa (SRO-WA), of the recent developments and actions taken by the UN system alongside key African regional institutions – the African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union Commission (AUC) and NEPAD Secretariat - to improve coherence in support of NEPAD.

## **2. NEPAD-related activities in West Africa**

6. A major infrastructure project of the NEPAD in West Africa is the West African Power Pool (WAPP). Developed under the auspices of the ECOWAS, the WAPP is set up for sub regional electricity exchanges and marketing. It is aimed at integrating national power grids of five coastal countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo) and three landlocked countries (Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger). It also provides a framework for promoting the realization of regional investment, in terms of both energy production and interconnection and grid systems, and for setting a general regulatory framework for regional energy exchanges. The

major actors participating in the project are the World Bank, USAID and the AfDB. Based on the consultations at the RECs, the total cost of the WAPP project has been estimated at US\$ 13 billion. Of this amount, the World Bank is expected to provide US\$ 151 million including 15 per cent contingencies.

7. The Yamoussoukro Declaration on the Liberalization of Access to Air Transport Market in Africa is also a major platform for air transport under the STAP projects for the NEPAD. In this context, West and Central African countries - 23 in all - decided to collaborate to implement the Declaration. This is being coordinated from the ECOWAS secretariat in Abuja. It is the second flagship project of the NEPAD in West Africa, after the WAPP projects, especially as the World Bank indicated interest in its development.

8. The ICT sub cluster also continues to implement e-school projects; where Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Mali, and Burkina Faso have signed MoUs in 2006; and are all being sponsored by the ORACLE consortium and a number of other private companies in the implementation of e-school projects.

### **3. United Nations system-wide support to NEPAD**

#### ***3.1. Activities at cluster and sub-cluster levels***

9. Following are highlights of major activities undertaken by the various thematic clusters and sub clusters of the United Nations (UN) agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of NEPAD, as reported by the cluster conveners during the 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Consultation Meeting (RCM). Because the two new clusters, Peace and Security and Industry, Trade and Market Access clusters were formed after the cluster reporting, this section provides highlights from the original seven clusters.

##### ***3.1.1. Infrastructure Development cluster***

10. The second meeting of the Infrastructure Development cluster, which took place in May 2006 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, took stock of various activities undertaken during 2005 and 2006. The programme on infrastructure continues to be pursued on two tracks, namely, the implementation of the NEPAD's Short Term Action Plan (STAP) for infrastructure development and development of the Medium to Long Term Strategic Framework (MLTSF).

11. Regarding STAP, a total number of one hundred and twenty projects/programmes have been selected by the RECs based on pre-determined criteria approved by the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC). These include; capacity building projects, facilitation, investment, and studies for a total estimated cost of about US\$ 8.1 billion, half of which would be covered by private sector financing. The multi-donor NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility at AfDB has provided funding for preparation of 6 regional projects, namely: Kenya-Uganda Oil Pipeline; Benin-Togo-Ghana Power Inter connection Project; Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya Electricity Interconnection Project; COMTEL Project; East African Submarine Fiber Optic Cable System (EASSY) and Organization pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Gambie (OMVG) Electricity Interconnection Project.

12. The water sub cluster activities concentrated on the formulation of concept notes for joint actions. The sub cluster met in November 2006 to get the joint programming adopted based on the UN Water Global's choice of Africa as its only geographical area of focus. In line with this decision at the Global level, a matrix of joint programs was adopted in four thematic areas: water scarcity, (transboundary) water management, water and sanitation, water for food and ecosystems. Decisions were also reached on partners, areas of concentration, activities to be conducted and time frame for conducting these activities.

13. The ICT sub cluster performed various studies, which include the elaboration of Regional ICT Strategies and the elaboration of an e-Government Frameworks for the RECs. The sub cluster also continues to implement e-school projects. So far, and since January 2005, ten African countries have signed the MoU, including: Mozambique in January 2006; Egypt and Mauritius in February 2006; Nigeria and Mali in March 2006, and Burkina Faso in May 2006.

**14. The Energy sub cluster** provided support to the servicing of two important meetings, namely, the joint ministerial conference of energy and water ministers on hydropower, which took place in Johannesburg, March 6-9, 2006 and the first AU conference of ministers in charge of electricity, which took place in March 2006. During this conference, UNECA made a presentation on its activities, on details of the conference action plan and on a draft of 2025 African vision in energy development.

**15. The transport sub-cluster** continues to be actively involved in the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Agreement: It provided support and participated in several meetings, including the second ministerial conference on transport, which took place from 13 to 19 May in Libreville, Gabon; and the high level meeting of the Chief Executives of African Airlines in Tunis, 29-30 May 2006. The sub cluster provided technical assistance to the RECs and the AU for (i) the organization of the African Ministerial conference on railways development in Africa, held in Brazzaville from 10 to 14 April 2006 and (ii) the Ministerial Round Table and two High Level Seminars on infrastructure development and regional integration on 16 May 2006 in Ouagadougou, chaired by the prime minister of Cote d'Ivoire.

### ***3.1.2. Governance, Peace and Security cluster***

16. The Sixth African Governance Forum (AGF-VI) held in May 2006 in Kigali, Rwanda provided an opportunity to take stock of the progress made by the cluster and to strengthen the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) instruments to ensure implementation effectiveness and the promotion of good governance in Africa. Key messages that emerged from the Forum included the need for constant adjustment of instruments and institutional arrangements of APRM, the need for APRM commitments to be mainstreamed into African countries' development plans and strategies; and the centrality of mutual learning through advocacy and awareness-building to the successful implementation of APRM.

### ***3.1.3. Agriculture, Trade and Market Access cluster***

17. The Implementation of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) framework at both country and regional economic community levels is making good progress. The focus has been on promoting food security and enhancing agriculture production

through sustainable land management, increasing food supply, improving and enhancing nutrition and enhancing research and flow of technologies in Africa.

18. The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the coordinator for research and technology activities of CDAAP has, in consultation with stakeholders, developed the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP). The FAAP and related research and technology programs led by FARA have mobilized US\$13 million in 2006. At the regional and country levels, US\$50 million have been mobilized for the SADC region and a process is ongoing to prepare a similar program for West and Central Africa.

19. Discussions are in progress with leading chambers of commerce and industry in Africa and global agribusiness organizations to initiate complementary efforts to facilitate business alliances and public-private sector partnerships. Similar contacts are being initiated with leading regional agribusiness associations and regional farmers' organizations across Africa. ECOWAS and COMESA are in the middle of the process of finalizing the implementation of the action plan of the Regional CAADP Compacts, including a set of regional early action programmes; and mechanisms for coordination and peer review.

**20. The Africa Fertilizer high-level Summit held in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 2006** produced a 12-point resolution, defining plans and strategies for promoting an increased and effective use of fertilizers in Africa. One of the recommendations was that the level of use of fertilizer should be increased from the current average of 8 kilograms per hectare to an average of, at least, 50 kilograms per hectare by 2015.

**21. The summit on food security that took place in Abuja on the first week of December 2006** reviewed (i) progress in complying with the AU/NEPAD 2003 Maputo Declaration to allocate 10% of the budget to agriculture, (ii) progress to enhance African agriculture trade within the RECs and across the continent and (iii) selected national programs and projects that are making significant progress in contributing to attainment of national food and nutrition security.

**22. With regards to deepening African integration** through enhanced multilateral, as well as intra-African trade; a number of agencies including ECA, WTO and UNCTAD, are implementing various programmes to enhance member-states' capacities for effective participation in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations as well as to promote intra-African trade. Working closely with the African Union, these institutions continue to hold training workshops and High-Level Brainstorming Sessions that bring together experts and negotiators to build common positions and strengthen the negotiating position of African countries. The work of ECA in the area of trade and market access has been feeding directly to the positions that African countries have been taking at the on-going Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

#### ***3.1.4. Environment, Population and Urbanization cluster***

23. This cluster organized one important meeting in 2006; namely the Second Meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on housing and Urban development (AMCHUD) which took place in April 2006 under the theme "achieving the MDGs: strategies for the realization of the

millennium review summit commitment on slums". The major outcome of that meeting is the increasing political commitment in Africa to address the slums challenges as one of the world's greatest shelter problems. In sub Saharan Africa, 72 % of urban dwellers (187 million people) live in slums, constituting 20 % of the global slum population.

24. Various projects were carried out at the global context on the implementation of MDGs, while addressing the NEPAD objectives, including the new initiatives such as the NEPAD City Programme (NCP), which continues to be a major component of UN habitat efforts to address the NEPAD objectives. With very limited resources, the cluster has managed to undertake various activities including (i) the development of a concept paper and a proposal for selection of seven pilot cities, endorsed by the HSGIC at their 8<sup>th</sup> meeting in Maputo, and (ii) the preparation of focused city profiles of the pilot cities. NCP's phase one was concluded and the global report was launched successfully at the World Urban Forum in June 2006 in Canada.

25. One major achievement in the environment sub cluster has been the identification of sub-regional priority projects (three per sub-region) during the eleventh session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo in May 2006. The NEPAD secretariat and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) are finalizing an agreement on the development of a joint capacity building programme to accelerate the implementation of those projects in five sub-regional African economic communities.

#### ***3.1.5. Human Resources Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS cluster***

26. The past year has witnessed continuation of the efforts aimed at strengthening Health **Systems** in Africa and in particular addressing the Human Resources for Health crisis. This effort has benefited from collaboration between NEPAD and the World Health Organization.

27. In the area of Education, the focus has been on "Distance Education and Teacher Training and Development" project, with the collaboration of University of South Africa, African Virtual University, Commonwealth of Learning, and National Open University of Nigeria. NEPAD secretariat has finalized reports of baseline studies in Angola and Mozambique. Five member countries of the Economic Community of West African States, namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal are expected to participate in the project. Following the AU declaration on the need to address employment issues in Africa, ECA Conference of Ministers which took place in May 2006, under the theme 'Meeting the challenge of employment in Africa', declared that Africa must urgently implement comprehensive national, regional and continental strategies to tackle the challenges of poverty eradication and job creation. The ministers urged the meeting to consider ways of establishing a "regional employment forum" of technical experts and policy facilitators, drawn from the AU, AfDB, International Labor Organization (ILO), the RECs and ECA to "assist member states to develop capacity and to facilitate learning and sharing of country-specific experiences".

#### ***3.1.6. Science and Technology (S&T)***

28. The last meeting of the cluster held in Paris in June 2006 provided a forum to exchange information on what each agency is doing in the area of S&T in Africa within the framework of

the NEPAD consolidated plan of action, which was approved during the Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST) held in Dakar, Senegal in September 2005. Three programmes were identified for immediate cooperation, namely, the development of an African system for S&T indicators; Energy, water and desertification and development of S&T parks. The meeting also agreed that the cluster's activities in 2006 and agenda would include all planned programmes and events leading to the AU Summit in January 2007. Key among the activities and events leading up to the Summit, were the preparation and holding of (i) the Ministerial Bureau meeting which took place, 15-16 June 2006 in Dakar in preparation for the African Ministerial Council Meeting on Science and Technology (AMCOST) which took place in November 2006, (ii) the Conference of Scientists and Policy Makers which took place in October 2006, as well as (iii) the high-level AU/NEPAD/UNESCO panel on centres of excellence which took place in August 2006.

29. NEPAD Secretariat prepared a consolidated 5 years Plan of Actions and programmes for the AUC in the area of S&T, which is cast within the context of S&T contributing to sustainable development and the Millennium Development. The plan address issues related to the empowerment of universities and their orientation to applied research; popularising science through the educational system in particular with respect to youth and women; promoting industrial development through science; and harnessing the skills and knowledge of the African scientific Diaspora.

### ***3.1.7. Advocacy and Communications cluster***

30. Individual agencies are making progress to improve advocacy, communication and outreach, particularly in the field of publishing outputs, and improving quality of outputs. At the level of outreach and public information, a lot of effort is being made to improve dissemination lists, to encourage electronic uses, such as Internet, e-discussions and information sharing.

31. ECA has developed and reconfigured its website on NEPAD, including the e-discussion list for each of the seven thematic clusters with the objective to improve intra-cluster dialogue and facilitate cross sectoral programming and implementation within clusters. Collaboration with other agencies from the inception of the Advocacy and Communication Cluster will be strengthened. The Commission will continue to serve on the NEPAD Steering Committee and consistently take part in all cluster activities. Key among ECA advocacy work is the undertaking of a major NEPAD advocacy initiative together with UN agencies working in Africa, which focuses on communication and advocacy activities. The key recommendations from the report will also be used to address various requests from NEPAD Secretariat.

## **4. The Regional Consultation Meeting (RCM)**

32. 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) the RECs. The regional consultations of UN agencies working in Africa have established the following nine thematic clusters (from the original seven) around the priority areas of NEPAD:

- Infrastructure Development convened by ECA;
- Governance convened by UNDP;
- Peace and Security, convened by UNDP (created in November 2006);
- Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development convened by FAO;
- Industry, Trade and Market Access convened by UNIDO (created in November 2006);
- 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; and
- Advocacy and Communications convened by OSAA.

33. Progress has been made through the existing framework based on current programming and coordination mechanisms to support the implementation of NEPAD at the regional level. ECA has already convened seven RCMs. The seventh RCM held on 14-15 November 2006 provided a basis for moving the agenda for coordinating UN support to NEPAD from debate, assessments and recommendations to tangible actions. It was a bold attempt to resuscitate the UN cluster system, to give direction to the joint work of the agencies with regard to NEPAD, as well as to better streamline joint programming in accordance with AU priorities. After reviewing the various submissions and exchanges of views, the Seventh RCM adopted a set of recommendations and modalities for implementing them. The recommendations are organized around the following 5 key themes and policy issues crucial to strengthening the UN system support for the implementation of NEPAD: Strengthening coordination and revitalizing the cluster system, fostering subregional coordination, improving coordination between the UN and African regional organizations, monitoring and evaluation of actions and outcomes and mobilizing resources and enhancing capacity<sup>1</sup>:

#### ***4.1.1. Strengthening coordination and revitalizing the cluster system***

34. One of the most significant recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> RCM was on ECA's role as a convener of the RCM. The meeting recommended that ECA should move from a convener of the Regional Consultation Meetings (RCM) to a Strategic Coordinator of UN support to AU and NEPAD and thus, ECA should provide secretariat functions to coordinate the activities of all clusters.

35. It has also been decided that all RCMs should be held in Addis Ababa at the ECA and that the meetings should be held at least once a year but not back to back with the AU Summits, while each cluster should meet at least twice a year with AUC participation at both cluster and RCM levels. It has also been agreed that the role of the AUC should not be limited to presenting opening statements, but also to include participation at the technical level.

36. On inter-agency collaboration, it was agreed that efforts should be made by all to improve inter-agency collaboration through the revitalization of the cluster system for greater efficiency and effectiveness. Furthermore, the meeting has also agreed that the existing clusters

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<sup>1</sup> Only selected recommendations are reviewed in this section. For a comprehensive review of the recommendations, see the 7<sup>th</sup> RCM report.

be refined to have sub-clusters with each cluster having a Chair (Convener) and a Vice Chair (Vice Convener).

37. To improve on participation, efficiency and effectiveness of the clusters, the RCM agreed to increase the number of clusters from 7 to 9 through dividing up the Governance, Peace and Security Cluster into two (Governance cluster and Peace and Security Cluster) while the Agriculture, Trade and Market Access cluster was also divided into two, namely, Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development cluster and Industry, Trade and Market Access Cluster.

#### ***4.1.2. Fostering sub-regional coordination and integration***

38. On the issue of fostering coordination at the sub-regional level in support of the AU and NEPAD the RCM recognized the critical challenge posed by the multiplicity of sub regional organizations and the non-existence of a coordinating mechanism akin to the RCM. The meeting agreed ECA's sub-regional offices (SROs) should play a role in bringing other UN agencies together in support of NEPAD at the sub-regional level. The meeting also recommended that the UN activities at the sub-regional level should mainly be targeted at capacity building—human resource development, organizational development and institutional and legal framework development—for RECs and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) in order to enhance their ability to own and manage the implementation of NEPAD priorities.

39. Furthermore, it has also been recommended that an appropriate mechanism for sub-regional coordination of UN support to NEPAD should be formulated and that ECA, in consultation with other UN agencies, the AUC and NEPAD Secretariat, coordinate discussions on the needs of RECs to facilitate a better alignment and better targeting of UN support to NEPAD at the sub-regional level. In this regard it has been decided that the RECs should be invited to participate in the Regional Consultation Meetings.

#### ***4.1.3. Improving cooperation and coordination between the UN and AU, NEPAD, AfDB and the RECs***

40. In a strong demonstration of a renewed spirit of partnership and willingness to enhance harmonization of efforts in support of Africa's development the 7<sup>th</sup> RCM called for improving cooperation and coordination between the UN, AUC, the NEPAD Secretariat, the AfDB and the RECs. In this regard, the meeting was of the view that support for NEPAD would yield the desired results only if there is effective implementation of NEPAD programmes, strong regional consensus for such programmes and a clear definition of responsibility between the AUC and NEPAD secretariat in the formulation and implementation of programmes.

41. It has also been recommended that the UN system should maintain regular consultations with the AU Commission through the Secretary General of the UN or the Executive Secretary of ECA, in consultation with the UN agencies and organizations with a view to deepening coordination and collaboration between the United Nations system and the African Union including appropriate participation in each others meeting so that they can contribute to policy formulation. It was also agreed that as a key player in Africa's development landscape, the AfDB should be more involved in the RCM.

#### ***4.1.4. Monitoring and evaluation of actions and outcomes***

42. On monitoring and evaluation the meeting recommended that ECA, through its NEPAD Support Unit, should monitor processes, outputs and resources. This Unit is expected to establish a database for both quantitative and qualitative information on processes and activities, outputs and resources relating to the UN agencies support to the NEPAD priorities and the AU vision and strategic framework. As the cluster is the unit for monitoring the activities and measuring the effectiveness of interventions each cluster should develop a monitoring framework based on the clear work program activities to be achieved during a specific period, as well as the identification of the priorities, and of their linkages to the NEPAD priorities and to the AU vision and strategic framework.

43. Reporting is an important indicator for monitoring the effectiveness of cluster system and the regional consultation mechanism. At the cluster level, reports on activities should be shared, as much as possible, with other agencies, and with the NEPAD Secretariat and the AU Commission. Reporting should also be managed and shared at the Heads of States level. In this regard reports on the UN support to the NEPAD priorities and to the vision and mission of the AU be delivered by the Executive Secretary of the ECA to the Heads of States and Governments at their annual summits, as well as shared with relevant meetings held at the ministerial level.

#### ***4.1.5. Mobilizing resources and enhancing capacity***

44. The meeting recommended that the issue of mobilizing resources be dealt with at three levels, namely, central coordination or the RCM, cluster and sub-cluster.

**45. On capacity development** each agency and organization is requested to develop minimum level of institutional capacity at all levels from RCM to cluster level and that at least one dedicated staff member should be designated for this purpose.

**46. Role of African organizations:** Within the context of the AU/ECA/AfDB joint secretariat the three institutions should assist in programme alignment, coordination, advocacy and outreach. AU should set the Africa vision, policies and priorities and programmes. ECA should convene UN system around technical and advisory support to AU/NEPAD while AfDB should anchor resource mobilization.

### **5. Enhancing partnership to fast track NEPAD implementation**

47. ECA's levels of commitment and engagement in NEPAD has increased over the years in line with increase in the numbers of actors supporting the implementation of NEPAD. The most notable development in this respect was the repositioning of ECA whereby the Commission's new work programme has been organized around two main pillars: *Regional integration in support of the African Union vision and priorities* and *helping meet Africa's special needs and global challenges in support of NEPAD implementation*. To ensure greater relevance to advancing the NEPAD agenda, a full-fledged Division of NEPAD and Regional Integration (NRID) with a NEPAD Support Unit has been created. Because partnership based on comparative advantage and pooling of resources is critical for advancing the NEPAD implementation, ECA started to progressively strengthen its partnership agenda with a wide

spectrum of constituencies, particularly the AU Commission, NEPAD Secretariat, AfDB, and the RECs.

48. Following ECA's repositioning exercise, the UN system including ECA continued to scale up its engagement in NEPAD through numerous activities aimed at strengthening collaboration among UN agencies, the AUC, AfDB, the RECs and other implementing agencies. In this regard, ECA and NEPAD Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in September 2006 to enhance collaboration between the two organisations. The MoU represents a framework for collaboration between NEPAD and ECA, drawing on each institution's comparative advantage in the implementation of the NEPAD agenda. This includes supporting the NEPAD Secretariat in carrying out its mandate through enhanced collaboration around a number of strategic areas including, among others, capacity development at the level of NEPAD Secretariat as well as at the level of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and member states and integration of NEPAD into national development plans. Part of the efforts to operationalise the MoU between ECA and NEPAD Secretariat was the collaboration of both institutions in organising a workshop on capacity building on 5-7 February 2007 in Addis Ababa as a follow-up to the Johannesburg workshop held in November 2006 which reached a common understanding on capacity development and on the challenges that hinder development of Africa. The aim of the follow-up workshop was to develop a strategy for capacity and skills development to implement NEPAD priorities at all levels.

49. In addition to that the AU-AfDB-ECA Joint Secretariat has been reactivated and strengthened to enhance consultation and exchange of information among the three institutions. The Joint Secretariat will also act as a strategic think-tank and will, among other tasks, be responsible for preparing future meetings of the three chief executives, and ensuring that decisions taken are implemented. Furthermore, during a retreat held in Tunis in September 2006 the Executive Secretary of ECA, and the President of AfDB signed an aide memoire in which they agreed on areas of strategic collaboration between the two institutions. The aide memoire established the modalities for collaboration between the two institutions.

## **6. Conclusions**

50. An assessment of the activities over the past year shows progress in the UN system wide support to NEPAD. Depending on the nature of the support required, the UN agencies and organizations have acted individually in some instances and worked collectively in others, providing different forms of support in the implementation of NEPAD. The period 2006-2007 witnessed the successful convening of the 7<sup>th</sup> RCM, which produced far-reaching recommendations in five key areas: strengthening coordination and revitalizing the cluster system, fostering subregional coordination and integration, improving coordination between UN and African regional organizations, monitoring and evaluation of actions and outcomes and mobilizing resources and enhancing capacity. The progress has been underpinned by increasing partnership among the regional organisations.