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**ECA Support to the New Partnership for Africa's
Development (NEPAD) over the Biennium
2008-2009 and planned activities
for the 2010-2011 Biennium**

I. Activities undertaken during the 2008-2009 biennium

Introduction

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) continues to provide significant institutional support to the NEPAD programme through a fully dedicated secretariat. The overall objective of ECA's support is to strengthen United Nations system-wide support for the implementation of NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels in Africa, by improving the processes, contents and outcomes of United Nations system action in support of the implementation of NEPAD. Activities in this regard are organized in four complementary areas.

1. Activities meant to enhance coherence, coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies in support of the implementation of NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels mainly aim to:

- Create awareness and bring United Nations programmes and activities into better alignment with NEPAD priorities;
- Improve the coherence and coordination of NEPAD-related support provided by the United Nations system; and
- Establish joint activities and programmes in support of NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels.

2. Activities meant to improve cooperation and coordination among United Nations agencies, African continental organizations like the African Union (AU), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the regional economic communities (RECs) for the effective implementation of NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels. These are basically jointly programmed and/or implemented activities in support of NEPAD at the subregional and regional levels.

3. Activities to strengthen capacities of regional and subregional organizations like the African Union Commission, the RECs and the NEPAD secretariat in support of NEPAD. These include support, including capacity enhancement activities, given to regional and subregional organizations in establishing and implementing programmes in support of NEPAD.).

4. Last but not least come activities meant to increase advocacy for NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels.

Collaboration with other United Nations agencies in Support of NEPAD

5. ECA's cooperation and collaboration with other United Nations agencies and organizations in support of NEPAD is carried out within the context of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM). ECA has put in place a Unit termed the RCM secretariat - dedicated to coordinate United Nations support to NEPAD. This Unit has been quite proactive in terms of follow-up on the implementation of RCM recommendations, facilitating networking and consultations. The overall coordination of United Nations support to the AU and its NEPAD programme has been enhanced and strengthened. The RCM process has gained significant

momentum having been transformed into a veritable “Regional Coordination Mechanism” at the Ninth meeting of the RCM that took place on 21 and 22 October 2008.

6. The Ninth meeting provided the opportunity to build on the achievements of previous RCM Meetings and to deepen partnership with the AU Commission, AfDB, the RECs and the NEPAD secretariat. The level of attendance at RCM meetings has increased over the years. The Ninth meeting attracted 197 participants, was chaired by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General and co-chaired by representatives of African regional organizations. United Nations agencies were represented at the level of the Deputy Secretary-General, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, regional directors/representatives, directors and other senior staff. That Meeting considered two important issues, namely the food crisis and climate change and agreed that a United Nations response to the related challenges should be coordinated and multisectoral and should be built around the African Union’s **Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)** and ECA’s ClimDev project, respectively.

7. The RCM has nine thematic clusters serving as its operational arms. The clusters identify and implement activities in support of the AU and its NEPAD programme. The RCM secretariat is closely involved in cluster activities. It participates in most of the cluster meetings, including those meetings held outside Addis Ababa; provides secretariat support to cluster meetings as well as updates and clarifications on the implementation of the recommendations of RCM meetings. It regularly shares the minutes of cluster meetings and other relevant information with all agencies and African regional and subregional organizations participating in the RCM process to keep them all at the same level of information and to encourage clusters to promote inter-cluster dialogue that could spur the implementation of joint activities. All clusters are increasingly looking at ways of undertaking joint activities and programmes within clusters and between clusters. They are preparing multiyear business plans to pave the way for clusters to work together around joint activities and programmes. Cluster meetings have become more structured and more regular and minutes of these meetings are widely circulated, enabling improved communication among United Nations agencies and between these agencies and African organizations and increased participation of these organizations in cluster meetings. Cluster activities are having a tangible impact on the implementation of key regional development agendas and on the institutional landscape to support the AU and its NEPAD programme.

8. Good examples of strong interactions, strengthened coordination and collaboration between RCM clusters on the one hand and between the latter and relevant Departments of the AUC on the other are: The Year of the African Youth; the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; the AU Summit on Water and Sanitation; activities on Internally Displaced Persons; interagency meetings on coordination and harmonization of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria policies and strategies; CAADP; Science and Technology policies, Joint Annual Meetings of the AU and ECA; the Sixth African Development Forum(ADF VI); and the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The current RCM focus on the emerging issues of food crisis and climate change will sharpen the focus of cluster activities, improve coordination and increase interaction within and among clusters.

9. ECA is the convener of the RCM cluster on Infrastructure. The membership of the cluster is composed of AfDB, AUC, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations(FAO), the International Atomic Energy Agency(IAEA), the International Maritime Organization(IMO), the International Telecommunications Union(ITU), the NEPAD secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development(UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme(UNDP), the United nations Environment Programme(UNEP), the United nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund(UNICEF), the United nations Centre for Human Settlements(UN-HABITAT), the Universal Postal Union(UPU), the World health Organization Office at AU and ECA(WHO/WAC), the World Intellectual Property Organization(WIPO), the World Meteorological Organization(WMO), the World Bank and ECA.

10. The cluster has four sub-clusters dealing with water, energy, transport and ICT and is strongly engaged in the activities of the AUC and its relevant African Ministerial Conferences and institutions. The sub-cluster on water has developed a strategic partnership with the African Ministers' Council on Water, the Water Units of the RECs, the Water and Sanitation Department of AfDB and the Water and Energy Section of the NEPAD secretariat. It has fully aligned its activities with the water and sanitation agenda set by the continent's lending institutions in the areas of water and sanitation. In energy, the sub-cluster activities are informed by AU and NEPAD priorities. It includes direct assistance to these two bodies as happened with the formulation of the Africa Energy Vision 2030 (which the AUC leads) and provision of capacity building for regional integration (proposed by the NEPAD secretariat). In ICT, the sub-Cluster played an important role in the adoption by the AU of the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE) as its ICT Action plan for the next 10 years. ARAPKE, which is part of the Ten Year AU Capacity Building Programme was developed by ECA with the full support of all sub-cluster members and was endorsed by the European Commission as its cooperation framework with Africa and subsequently approved funding of three of the ARAPKE projects in the amount of US\$ 9,912,270.00. Other major actions by the sub-cluster are the implementation of the Connect Africa Summit Goals led by ITU with involvement of all sub-cluster members and the international private sector; and the development of harmonized regulatory frameworks and e-strategies for RECs to enable their respective countries to enter the Knowledge Economy smoothly with compatible standards and guidelines. In terms of tangible results, model bills and guidelines on ICT have been adopted at REC level, hence eliminating country duplication of activities and saving both resources and time. In the context of ARAPKE, templates for project design and project selection criteria were approved at the regional level, thus facilitating submission of ICT projects to partners worldwide. The transport sub-cluster continuously supported the AUC in developing a consolidated plan of action for the transport sector in its various modes by making substantive contributions at the concept and formulation stages.

Institutional Support by ECA to the NEPAD Secretariat

11. ECA enjoys a close working relationship with the NEPAD secretariat on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Commission and the NEPAD secretariat on 1 September 2006. ECA's programmes reflect the nature and scope of its support to the NEPAD programme, including analytical studies, advisory services, policy advocacy and capacity building. ECA, through its RCM secretariat, participates actively in meetings organized by the NEPAD secretariat and provides technical advice and inputs. It regularly holds consultations with and attends meetings of the NEPAD secretariat and vice versa. Within this framework, ECA plans to support the NEPAD secretariat with technical expertise.

Advocacy work by ECA in support of the development vision of NEPAD

12. As part of its biennial programme of work, ECA carried out a number of activities supporting Africa's development. These activities ranging from intergovernmental to expert meetings, from flagship publications to promotional materials, from technical cooperation to joint

activities carried out in collaboration with African organizations play a major advocacy role by deliberating on and recommending solutions to key development challenges in Africa, in line with the development vision of NEPAD.

13. Technical cooperation activities such as workshops, seminars and training courses were carried out to enhance awareness on the many sectoral issues under the focus of NEPAD. Advisory missions were also carried out to raise awareness, build capacity and garner support for the implementation of NEPAD-related programmes and activities at national, regional and sub regional levels.

14. As a strategic partner of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) process, ECA promoted international understanding of the APRM concept and the peer review process by (i) providing guidance for the review of the APRM methodology and instruments, (ii) advocating for the integration of APRM National Plans of Action (NPOAs), with existing national development strategies, and providing a strategic financing framework for the PoA by devising a costing; (iii) making presentations at many forums; and (iv) actively participating in country review missions.

15. In the context of its NEPAD Support Unit, ECA established the knowledge-networking platform in July 2008 and enabled e-discussion around the RCM thematic areas for increased coordination and collaboration. The platform was also used to facilitate and enhance knowledge sharing and collaboration among and between clusters.

II. Priorities for the 2010-2011 biennium

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB):

Substantive servicing of meetings

- Annual session of the RCM of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the implementation of NEPAD
- Functional support to enhanced cooperation among United Nations agencies at the sub-regional level

Parliamentary documentation

- Report to the annual session of the RCM of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of African Union and its NEPAD programme
- Report to the annual meetings of the ministerial session of ECA sub-regional offices on United Nations system-wide support to AU and for the implementation of NEPAD at the sub-regional level

Ad hoc expert group meetings on:

- Strengthening the United Nations regional coordination mechanism and its cluster system for effective United Nations support to the vision and priorities of the African Union and its NEPAD programmes

- Enhancing the APRM process

Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings

- Functional support for meetings of the nine United Nations thematic clusters of the RCM in support of NEPAD
- Functional support for meetings organized within the context of enhancing the United Nations-African Union cooperation: framework for the ten-year capacity-building programme of the African Union

(b) Other substantive activities (RB/XB):

Non-recurrent publications

- Enhancing coherence and coordination among United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the implementation of the United Nations/African Union cooperation programme and NEPAD
- Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits: booklets and other promotional materials highlighting best practices as well as effective joint projects and programmes in support of the African Union and the implementation of NEPAD

Technical material

- Development and maintenance of e-discussions among United Nations thematic clusters on NEPAD in order to improve intra-cluster dialogue and facilitate cross-sectoral programming and implementation within clusters
- Maintenance of a website on United Nations system-wide support to AU and NEPAD by: United Nations agencies working in Africa

(c) Technical cooperation

Advisory services

- Advancing the NEPAD programme and action plans
- Implementation of United Nations/African Union cooperation within the framework of the 10 year capacity-building programme of the African Union
- Support to APRM-participating countries in the implementation of their national programme of action

Training courses, seminars and workshops

- Advocacy and outreach activities for NEPAD in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Development Programme, the NEPAD secretariat and the RECs