

## **DRAFT**

# **Framework for collaboration between ECA and the NEPAD Secretariat**

Following various high level consultations between ECA as the UN regional arm in Africa and the NEPAD Secretariat, the need for strengthening and deepening collaboration has been emphasized as a priority between the two organizations. The present framework, therefore, is developed to guide the future collaboration in a more structured and systematic manner.

### **Principles**

This framework will be guided by the following principles:

- The pursuit of a common African vision through the implementation of the NEPAD agenda.
- Both organizations shall pursue the African agenda on the basis of complementarity.
- The recognition of each organization's comparative advantage in advancing the NEPAD agenda.

### **Modalities for collaboration:**

Both organizations agree that the modalities for collaboration should be structured on three levels. These are:

#### **1. UN system-wide support to NEPAD**

The UN General Assembly passed a resolution mandating the UN system to structure its work programme in line with the NEPAD agenda. The regional consultation meeting of UN agencies working in Africa, convened by ECA, is the mechanism for providing UN system-wide support to NEPAD. Accordingly, UN organizations are clustered around the following thematic areas: Infrastructure development; Governance, Peace and Security; Agriculture, Trade and market Access; Environment, Population and Urbanization; Human Resources Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS; Science and Technology and Advocacy, Communications and Outreach. However, there is a need to ensure that the UN support for NEPAD is consistent with the immediate objectives and priorities of NEPAD programmes.

Accordingly, both organizations agree as follows:

- The cluster system has been a positive development in strengthening and channeling the UN support for NEPAD and its vision.
- The cluster system has not functioned optimally as initially envisioned.

- There is a need to examine ways and means of revamping the clustering arrangements, including their mandates, TOR, work plans and activities.

## **2. ECA as a strategic partner in the implementation of the NEPAD vision**

In accordance with the GA resolution 57/7, the regular work programme of the ECA has been aligned with NEPAD priorities, especially in the following areas: Advocacy and Policy Analysis; Consensus building; Technical cooperation and capacity building; and Enhancement of the role of the UN in Africa. Over the years, ECA's activities have been delivered through the following sub-programmes:

- Facilitating Economic and Social Policy Analysis;
- Fostering Sustainable Development
- Strengthening Development Management
- Harnessing Information for Development -
- Promoting Trade and Regional Integration
- Promoting the Advancement of Women -
- Supporting Sub-regional Activities for Development
- Gender Mainstreaming

However, ECA's on-going repositioning exercise will ensure greater relevance to advancing the NEPAD agenda. Accordingly, ECA's new work programme has been organized around two main pillars: *Regional integration* and a *Comprehensive support to NEPAD programme implementation*.

## **3. NEPAD Secretariat**

Both organizations agree that more could be done in supporting the NEPAD Secretariat in carrying out its mandate through enhanced collaboration around the following strategic areas:

- Joint strategic policy and research
- Resource mobilization
- Capacity building, especially at the level of the NEPAD Secretariat, the RECs and member States
- Integration of NEPAD into national development plans
- Mutual Review process
- Communication, outreach and advocacy
- Consensus building on emerging developmental challenges facing African countries
- Gender Mainstreaming

This framework shall be supported by a detailed Memorandum of Understanding establishing formal mechanisms for coordination of the collaboration between the NEPAD Secretariat and ECA.

## **Next steps**

- 1. At the corporate level:** The designated official focal point within each organization shall be Dr Hesphina Rukato, Deputy Chief Executive Office on behalf of the NEPAD Secretariat and Ms. Josephine Ouedraogo, Acting Deputy Executive Secretary for the Economic Commission for Africa. The designated official focal points within the two organizations shall meet twice a year to review implementation plans and evaluate impact, based on pre-defined indicators of achievement (see point 3). The designated official focal points agreed during the meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2006, that the approved draft framework for collaboration was comprehensive and provided the basic elements of the development of the necessary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). They, therefore, requested that a draft MOU be prepared by ECA and sent to the NEPAD Secretariat within one week.
- 2. Bilateral engagements:** Each official focal point shall instruct their respective Directors of Division/Programme to start bilateral consultations on possible areas of collaboration. It is expected that by 31 October 2006, Directors of Division/Programme within each organization would have submitted to the official focal point a draft copy of work plans, with selected, concrete measurable activities, including tentative chronogram of implementation. ECA and the NEPAD Secretariat shall organize at their respective duty stations a technical meeting/workshop to review and finalize their proposals.
- 3. Preparation and holding of technical meetings:** Both designated official focal points must ensure that a technical meeting takes place in their respective organization. In the spirit of collaboration and information sharing, each organization must communicate date and venue of its workshop. The objective of the workshop being to review submissions, harmonize views and ensure that all strategic areas as stipulated in the draft framework for collaboration are covered. For each strategic area, submissions should include measurable and well-defined set of activities together with a timetable for implementation and indicators of achievement so as to ensure proper monitoring and evaluation thereafter.
- 4. Final MOU:** It is expected that input from the technical meetings will help refine the draft MOU and produce a final MOU.
- 5. Ceremony of signature:** A meeting will be scheduled at the leadership level of the two organizations to adopt and sign the MOU.