



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
SUBREGIONAL OFFICE FOR EASTERN AFRICA

ECA/SRO-EA/ICE/AEGM-MYPs/2009/01  
Original: English

## SRO-EA

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### 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) Mahe, Seychelles, 27-29 April 2009

## Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting : "Assessing the Subregional Office for East Africa and Regional Economic Communities Multi-Year Programmes"



## AIDE-MEMOIRE OF THE AEGM ON MYPs



## Background and Context

The ECA work undertaken under the ECA Subregional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) subprogramme since the beginning of the 2008-2009 biennium has emphasized the formulation and implementation of harmonized macroeconomic and sectoral policies and programmes as the basis for ECA support to the efforts to achieve the development objectives of regional integration in Eastern Africa. This work was, in turn, focussed on strengthening collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). In line with this major thrust, ECA pursued the implementation of the Business Plan 2007-2009 where the Sub regional office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) supported various capacity building programmes within East African RECs by providing technical and advisory services.

The process was kick-started in November 2007 when ECA/SRO-EA organized a subregional workshop involving all RECs and other subregional organisations: East African Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), Communauté Economique des Pays des Grands Lacs (CEPGL), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to formulate a partnership programme. The meeting adopted draft harmonized multi-year programmes (MYPs) to be jointly implemented by ECA/SRO-EA and five (5) RECs. Experts also formulated Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) charting out the modalities for collaboration on the multi-year programmes with each REC.

As part of the multi-year programmes agreed with RECs, ECA/SRO-EA undertook a number of technical assistance programmes with RECs. Broadly, these included the policy research studies aimed at developing sectoral priorities; formulations of comprehensive development strategy and action plan; joint implementation of activities and programmes on regional conferences, workshops and expert meetings. Presently, the SRO-EA has agreed on MYPs and signed MoUs with three RECs.

In addition, the meeting of November 2007 emphasized that ECA and the RECs should put in place credible and appropriate mechanism for periodic review on the implementation of the multi-year programmes and reporting to their respective constituencies and governing bodies on the implementation of agreed plan of action and other agreements. As a result, each year, during the ICE, the different RECs have made presentations on their work and the MYPs. It is within this context that, in 2009, an Ad-Hoc Expert Meeting on ***Assessing the ECA Subregional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Multi-year Programmes*** is planned to review progress and map out a way forward.

## Objectives and Outcomes of the Meeting

Within the overarching objective of facilitating the implementation of the multi-year programmes so far agreed with RECs, the objectives of the meeting are: (1) review and assess progress made on the implementation of multiyear programmes agreed since November 2007; (2) conduct in-depth review on activities and programmes already agreed under these MYPs and if necessary refocus them on a few selected specific development priorities of each REC; (3) agree MYPs with other RECs that have not yet concluded MYPs and MoUs with ECA; and (4) make recommendation for the way forward on the implementation of the MYPs.

Under these objectives the following outcomes will be pursued:

- Revised MYP adopted for IGAD and CEPGL;
- Activities and programmes are more focused on specific new priorities of each REC;
- MYPs and/or MoUs concluded with IOC, EAC, and other intergovernmental organizations including CEPL, ICGLR;
- Specific guidelines provided on the modalities for the implementation of the MYPs including the modalities for cooperation between ECA and RECs.

The meeting will also offer an opportunity to sharpen the focus of the MYPs on:

- Priority Areas for cooperation;
- Activities to be undertaken with indicator performance;
- Key role players and stakeholders;
- Estimate of budgetary requirement and mechanisms for resources mobilization;
- Proposals for an appropriate coordination and reporting mechanism

## **Methodology**

The meeting will examine in plenary sessions issues indicated under the objectives of the meeting. This should allow extensive discussions of specific issues and come out with relevant and clearly defined action –oriented recommendations. To address the above issues, ECA will present a progress report on the implementation of MYPs. The report will examine the major accomplishments and results achieved; identify major challenges, as well as lessons learned on the execution of the MYPs. Each REC and IGO is expected to make a presentation on providing an evaluation of its MYP with ECA/SRO-EA, detailed scope of activities for joint undertaking under the MYP and appropriate guidelines for the way forward. Discussions in plenary sessions will also allow experts to harmonize their respective MYPs and share information on developing multi-year programmes with the other RECs that have not yet started the process. In addition, parallel discussions of SRO-EA and individual RECs will enable the tailoring of each REC's specific needs to its MYP.

The meeting will produce a report on major conclusions and recommendations that will be presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the ECA Subregional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA).

## **Performance Indicators**

- Meeting held successfully with the participation of all invited RECs in the Eastern Africa Subregion with proposal for action.
- Multi-year Programmes for technical cooperation with all RECs and IGOs reviewed/or formulated
- MoUs concluded with other RECs and IGOs initiated.

## **Participants**

The AEGM will gather country representatives and experts officers handling regional integration matters from the East African Subregion. The following RECs and IGOs will all be represented: the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); Communauté Economique des Pays des Grands Lacs (CEPGL); East African Community (EAC); Permanent Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes (ICGLR); Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); and Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). Participants will also include regional organisations such as Nile Basin Initiative, Port Management Authority of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA), Northern and Central Transport Corridors.

## **Working Languages**

The sessions will be conducted in English only and the outcome document will also be in English.

## **Date and Venue**

The meeting will be held in Mahe, Seychelles from 27 to 29 April 2007.

## **8. Contacts**

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