



# UNITED NATIONS INTERAGENCY CONSULTATIONS ON NEPAD

## Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Cluster 4: Environment, Population and Urbanization

Held during the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Consultations  
of UN Agencies Working In Africa.  
8-10 July 2004. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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### **Attendance:**

8 Agencies were represented by 12 officers

1. Georgina Tackie – IMO
2. Stephen J.M. Njoroge - WMO
3. Alioune Badiane - UN- HABITAT (Chair)
4. Mariam Yunusa – UN-HABITAT
5. Tewodros Tigabu – UN-HABITAT( Addis Ababa)
6. Hassan M. Yousif - ECA-SDD (Coordinator)
7. Osmane Laye – ECA- SDD
8. Mwila Chikwekwe - ECA – OPC
9. Etta Tadesse – UNFPA
10. Strike Mkandla – UNEP
11. Hespina Rukato – NEPAD Secreatriat
12. Abdourahamane Diallo – UNESCO

### **1. Introduction**

This is a report of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the cluster which was held in 2 parts: i) on 8 July prior to the main consultations to review where the group was and up date on information gaps; and ii) during the breakout session that followed the plenary meetings of the six annual regional consultations of the UN agencies working in Africa. Both meetings dwelt on the substantive and coordination matters, as well as the issues and challenges faced by the member agencies in the implementation of the cluster's activities.

### **2. Overall Objectives of the Cluster:**

The overall objectives of the cluster are to:

- a. Address the challenges of population growth, movement and agglomerations

- b. A Address rapid and uncontrolled sprawl of human settlements: MDG Target 11
- c. Address environmental degradation, pollution and conserve environmental resources
- d. Provide relevant and updated demographic data and indicators for planning, progress monitoring and policy decision making

Twelve persons representing the agencies listed above and NEPAD secretariat attended the breakout session and discussed the following issues: the achievements made by the cluster on the programme components identified during the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional consultations; the challenges and issues it encountered during the process; the factors needed to make the cluster work better and improve on the delivery of its planned outputs; strengthening inter-cluster linkages; the modalities for implementation of the work at the country level, which is the main focus of concern for the NEPAD as well as the UN agencies; and the outputs committed for delivery before the seventh annual regional consultation.

### **3- Achievements**

Of the 3 areas sub-programs identified for collaborative and integrated work in context of the NEPAD initiatives, cluster four made achievements in: (a) development and implementation of the environment initiative, and (b) sustainable NEPAD cities, c) there was no reported progress made in the third sub-program, which is broadly defined as data and information systems for planning, monitoring and evaluation of progress in the achievements of the NEPAD goals in the areas of environment, population and urbanization.

#### ***a- NEPAD Environment Initiative(NEI)- Lead agency: UNEP***

An action plan for the implementation of the environmental initiative has been developed through a consultative process that involved 8 workshops held in 8 countries and attended by about 800 African experts. The action plan consists of 8 themes:

- Desertification (Algeria)
- Invasive species (South Africa)
- Poverty and environment (Mali)
- Forests (Cameroon)
- Wetlands (Kenya)
- Health and environment ((Senegal)
- Marine and coastal environment and freshwater resources (Nigeria)
- Climate change (Morocco)

The action plan of the NEI has been adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and endorsed by the African Union (AU) in their meetings in Maputo in June 9-10, 2003. Subsequently, a partner's/donor's conference on the action plan for the implementation of the environmental initiative was held in Algiers, Algeria, 15-16 of December 2003. Moreover, a work plan for 2004-2007 has been prepared and adopted by the AMCEN in its meeting in Tripoli. Most important for the cluster collaboration is the human settlements development and population issues were integrated in the work plan.

***b- Sustainable NEPAD Cities:- Lead Agency UN-HABITAT***

All of planned activities set under this sub-program have been achieved. At the inception of the activities a concept paper was prepared for NEPAD Secretariat, based on which a selection criteria was developed and seven cities were selected and endorsed by Heads of State and Governments Implementation Committee(Bamako, Douala, Durban, Lagos, Lusaka, Nairobi, Rabat). Subsequently, profiles of the seven cities were prepared through a consultative process at the city level. The first NEPAD cities Consultative Forum was held in Lagos in May 2004 and was opened by Governor Tinubu of Lagos and attended by all mayors of the cities and partners (280 participants). A roundtable on sustainable NEPAD Cities was held during the Africities 3 Conference in Yaounde in Dec 2003. Finally, a Committee of NEPAD Cities is already established chaired by Mayor of Durban. The next phase of the programme will focus on resource mobilisation and development of the work plans for implementation of the priority areas identified for poverty reduction in each city.

**4- Challenges and Issues**

The cluster raised several concerns in relation to the coordination and implementation of activities, and the inter-linkages within cluster. They did not meet for quite some time, and as a result, they lost momentum in coordination and follow up. Information was not regularly shared with the cluster convener thus resulting in incomplete reports. The cluster was concerned with the initial failure to integrate population and urbanization issues in the environmental action plan. There is lack of reporting to each other, and to the convener. But this was remedied in the work plan adopted at Tripoli. These concerns are probably due to the lack of cluster consciousness, and to the predominance of sector driven supply approach rather than a demand driven approach. However, on the latter one the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), which are expected to be the main implementers of the NEPAD initiatives, have so far not responded to the several correspondences that were sent to them by UN-HABITAT especially with regards to the NEPAD Cities Programme. Therefore, there is difficulty in getting the RECs to work with the cluster agencies.

## **5- Factors needed to make the cluster work better**

The following factors are needed to improve on the work of the cluster as per its mandate and objectives.

- i. There is need to secure agencies' commitment to coordinated and consolidated reporting. Towards this end, the cluster chair will send reports on cluster activities directly to the heads of the agencies with a copy to the focal officers. This reporting is to ensure appropriate direction of action and follow up
- ii. To improve on the delivery of outputs a task force of few persons drawn from the agencies should be to deliver and follow up specific components of the programme output and report to the cluster.
- iii. There is need to build cluster consciousness through improving on information and communication with each other about on-going activities, and through joint representation of missions, conferences, etc, and sharing of mission reports.
- iv. The cluster will engage with the RECs on a representational manner, i.e. agencies will inform each other of missions with dates for information sharing and coordinated discussion of cluster programs with the RECs

## **6- Strengthening inter-cluster linkages**

The following have been agreed upon as important factors for strengthening inter-cluster linkages:

- i. Regularly review the progress with the last set of activities and draw lessons of experience from what worked and why some did not work.
- ii. Identify relevant components of other clusters' activities congruent to the sub-programs of cluster 4 and establish the required linkages.
- iii. NEPAD needs to strengthen its capacity to guide and advise with policy direction and programming, especially in view of the evolving integration with the AU.
- iv. As overall coordinator, ECA needs to assign a stronger managerial capacity to ensure close coordination, consolidation and timely circulation of reports.

## **7- Implementation at the country level**

The cluster discussed the modalities needed for implementation at the country level. The following have emerged as the main points of consensus on this matter: -

- i. Use existing agency officers in the country to report on cluster activities.
- ii. Ensure that NEPAD is included in the work plan of the UN country teams and to form part of the UN Resident Coordinator system.
- iii. Agencies working at country level should assist as much as possible to bridge the information gap between line ministries and national focal points on NEPAD.

## **8- Planned Outputs by Next Regional Meeting**

The following is a list of outputs that cluster agreed to deliver before the 7<sup>th</sup> annual regional consultation: -

- i. Produce an action plan for the African Monitoring Environment for Sustainable Development (climate) WMO.
- ii. Design of sub-regional environmental plans with the RECs (UNEP).
- iii. Produce an action plan on the environment and migration in collaboration with the IOM and AU ( UNEP)
- iv. Assist AU to establish an African Information System. A preliminary assessment of the data needs of the AU, NEPAD and the RECs would first be made.
- v. The City of Addis Ababa to join the Sustainable NEPAD Cities, and the city profiling underway through several stakeholder consultations to agree on how to demonstrate the ideals of the program.
- vi. Support the execution committee of mayors to establish the NEPAD cities award program as an important input to the APRM.

## **9- Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the cluster was proposed to hold in February in Nairobi in the wings of the Governing Council of UNEP.