

**United Nations Economic
Commission for Africa**



**Report of Meeting of the Social and Human Development Cluster with
UNAIDS Executive Director**

**29 January 2011
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

RCM-Africa Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. A breakfast meeting of the Social and Human Development Cluster of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for UN system support to the African Union (AU) and its NEPAD Programme (RCM-Africa) was held on Saturday 29 January 2011 at the Intercontinental Hotel, in Addis Ababa. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum for the Cluster to meet with Mr. Michel Sidibe, the UNAIDS Executive Director and Under-Secretary General of the UN. The meeting was jointly organized by UNAIDS, the UN Country Team, and the Cluster.

2. Over 20 participants, representing various UN agencies, AUC, and the press attended the meeting.

II. Issues Discussed

3. Cluster members commended Mr. Sidibe for his visionary leadership of UNAIDS and for the strong advocacy role he is playing in the fight against HIV/AIDS. They also shared information on their various activities as well as on planned events.

4. On his part, Mr. Sidibe shared his views on health issues and Africa's development in general. He expressed satisfaction with the coordination of UN system support in Africa, especially in the framework of RCM-Africa. He stressed that various Clusters could help in identifying gaps and providing different perspectives on HIV/AIDS. He also noted, with satisfaction, that HIV/AIDS was now on the AU agenda at a high level.

5. Mr. Sidibe reminded participants that their work was to influence policy making in Africa with the view to enabling the continent to better address its challenges, including emerging ones and those with global dimension. He urged UN system agencies to shift from short term planning – which he referred to as crisis management, to a long term approach. He stressed the importance of promoting innovations and underscored the need for transfer of technology and creation of a pool of excellence within the continent on health issues as well as on economic and social development in general on the continent.

III. Conclusions and Recommendations

6. The following conclusions emerged from the meeting:

1. The AU Conference of Heads of State provides good opportunities for Clusters to meet in the presence of top level UN Officials from New York. This is because Heads of UN agencies (Under-Secretary Generals) usually accompany the SG to AU Summits. Meetings between Clusters and top officials from New York provide platforms for discussing synergies between UN support at global and regional levels.
2. It is therefore recommended that Clusters should explore the possibility of organizing meetings on the side lines of AU Summits.