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NEPAD TODAY

Every Wednesday

Cluster on Environment, Population and Urbanization revises business plan and charts way forward in Tunis

At a retreat, hosted by the African Development Bank, and well attended by UN agencies, (including the RCM-Africa Secretariat) in Tunis on 11-12 May 2010, the RCM Cluster 4 (on Environment, Population and Urbanization) met to revise its business plan and identify joint activities for 2010 -2012 in line with AU/NEPAD Action Plan. The retreat also agreed on priorities, joint resource mobilization initiatives and concrete modalities for implementation of joint activities.

The revised business plan was built on

Ban urges stronger efforts to help Africa consolidate peace and development

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 25 May, urged the international community to step up efforts to help Africa attain its potential for peace and sustainable development, saying the continent continued to influence the global agenda by reminding the world of its responsibility to the most vulnerable.

In his message to mark Africa Day, which commemorates the founding, in 1963, of the Organization of African Uni-

the need to heighten awareness and understanding of the linkages in environment-population-urbanization challenges and responses; develop models of joint action to address environment-population-urbanization challenges and provide appropriate policy and programme support to the AUC, NPCA & RECs and African countries on climate change.

Other objectives included addressing the inter-linkages between health and environment and the enhancement of AU's leadership in promoting the linkages between population, urbanization and environment challenges and their implications

Continued on page 2

ty, now known as the African Union (AU), Mr. Ban said the United Nations was a key partner of Africa, supporting the continent's efforts in various fields, including peace and security, social and economic development and regional integration.

"The independence movement that swept Africa five decades ago brought many new members to the United Nations, resulting in a new focus on the continent's development needs and heightened emphasis on greater democracy in the management of international relations," the Secretary-General said.

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Continued from page 1

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for development.

The Cluster agreed to incorporate risks, assumptions and inputs into the business plan within one week and circulated a further revised draft for members to provide inputs/comments within two weeks of circulation. UNEP is to lead a task team including AUC, ECA and COMESA to finalize the revised business plan while African Development Bank (AfDB) and the AUC are to lead the resource mobilization efforts. The Cluster also agreed to develop a communication strategy in support of its work and requested ECA to provide guidance on a Monitoring and Evaluation system for clusters.

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Special to ECA

Africa's special needs remain a UN priority, says Migiro

Excerpts from a statement by the Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro on 21 May 2010 at the meeting on continental integration of Africa

“The Secretary-General has always emphasized that meeting the special needs of Africa is among his top priorities.

As you all know, the majority of our peacekeeping operations are in Africa; the biggest portion of our development work is done there; and our efforts to promote human rights for the people of Africa also occupy a large share of our attention. The United Nations General Assembly has recognized the special needs of Africa on many occasions, and accorded the region

priority attention in the mandates and activities of the United Nations system. The Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document and the final documents of many other landmark global gatherings all stress the continent's needs and aspirations.

In our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it is widely recognized that of all other regions, Africa, and particularly sub-Saharan Africa, still faces many challenges in attaining the Goals by the agreed target year of 2015. To galvanize the multilateral system and boost Africa's own efforts, the MDG Africa Task Force, established by the Secretary-General, has put forward a full slate of recommendations. This September in New York, the Secretary-General will convene an MDG Summit aimed at accelerating progress and giving the goals an all-important political push.

While this is what is taking place at the global level, it is also clearly understood that Africa's future is first and foremost for Africans themselves to determine.

This is why we have welcomed the Constitutive Act of the African Union and its clear commitment to the upholding of basic human rights, the empowerment of women, and the promotion of democracy and the rule of law. This is why we have welcomed the new and emerging African architecture of institutions such as the AU Peace and Security Council, the Panel of the Wise, the Early Warning System, the Pan-African Parliament and the African Standby Force, as well as AU peacekeeping efforts in Somalia and the UN-AU joint hybrid operation in Darfur.

This is also why we have welcomed NEPAD - Africa's own blueprint for economic and social progress.

For full text: Targeted News Service, May 21 2010