



Economic Commission for Africa

A service of the UN system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme

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UN agencies discuss strengthening ties with the AU



A meeting of about 40 representatives from the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities UN agencies met in Addis Ababa from 2-3 November to discuss how well the UN has performed in providing support to the African Union within the framework of the ten year capacity building programme signed in November 2006 by

Secretary General Kofi Annan and Alpha Konare, the AUC Chairperson.

The meeting reviewed a 53-page independent report commissioned by ECA which assessed the extent to which the objectives of the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme (TYCBP) benefitting the AUC and the RECs are being met.

The report says that while the TYCBP was a high level framework that was aimed at capacity building of the AU, there were a lot of variations on what “capacity building” really means amongst stakeholder institutions. Representatives from the AUC, ECA, UNHCR, UNAIDS, ILO, UNIFEM, UNIDO, UNICEF, IOM, FAO, UNDP, OCHA, UNOAU, UNEP, UNESCO as well as COMESA, IGAD, CEN-SAD and SADC attended the meeting.

For full story: www.uneca.org

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New report calls for stronger RCM-Africa

A new review report on the ten year capacity building programme (TYCBP) signed in November 2006 by Secretary-General Kofi Annan and AUC Chairperson, Alpha Konare, to assist the African Union and the RECs in meeting the challenges of human security, has called for an urgent strengthening of the Regional Coordination Mechanism-Africa Secretariat (RCM-Africa).

“Such a strengthened secretariat would help overcome the problems of coordi-

nation, information, communications, monitoring, follow-up and reporting that currently afflict the RCM system,” says the report which covers the period 2006-2009.

Citing reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Joint Inspection Unit, the report says “the total budget available for backstopping support to the RCM is equivalent to 0.03% of total UN system expenditure in Africa.

To receive a copy of the report, contact ecanepad@uneca.org

Africa not serious on trade integration - Kuffor

Former President of Ghana John Kuffor, has said that African leaders have been paying lip service to trade integration.

Speaking in Abuja at the NEPAD Africa trade fair on indigenous products and services, the former Ghanaian president said that, in reality, African leaders have given primacy to political union on the continent.

He said: "I believe this has been the main cause of Africa not making any head way for the call for unification whether continentally or regionally. I believe that we must go back to the drawing board and get ourselves sincerely committed to seeing how we can use trade as the first step towards integration."

He said that African leaders should understand that trade is a vehicle through which they can attain the African Union they have been canvassing for the past 20 to 30 years.

"If you take West Africa alone, we will find a quarter of a billion people, which means that we will be engendering wealth that will facilitate the laying of infrastructure in terms of education, transportation, power, telecommunication which are the necessary underpinning for real unity."

He called for the West African sub-region to remove the colonial barriers that are preventing her from having a common market or allowing people to move freely across borders and from facilitating the private sector to produce and supply everywhere. Unless this is done, he said, the region cannot be integrated to get the benefit of trade.

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201010290343.html>

Implementation of CAADP key to African food basket initiative

Ministers, experts and development partners who attended the conference of African Ministers of Agriculture (CAMA) in Lilongwe, from 26-29 October 2010, have reaffirmed the vital role of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Programme (CAADP) in realizing the Africa Food Basket Initiative within five years.

The meeting highlighted that the progress so far in the implementation of CAADP is demonstrated by 22 countries signing compacts and out of which 18 countries have had their agriculture and investment plans developed and independently reviewed based on the vision and principles outlined in the compacts.

Source: <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/Air-carriers-in-dire-straits-in-Africa-20101015>

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