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**FIFTH REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS OF UN AGENCIES
WORKING IN AFRICA**

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE CLUSTER
ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

I. Introduction

1. The Cluster on Infrastructure Development covers four sectors (sub-clusters): (i) Energy; (ii) ICTs; (iii) Transport; and (iv) Water and Sanitation. The cluster meeting was chaired by the ECA as Convener of the group. It should, however, be recalled that when the Cluster was established last October during the Forth Annual Regional Consultations, its preliminary meeting was held under the chairmanship of the World Bank. But, subsequent consultations on the functioning of the group concluded on the need to entrust ECA with the convening role for ease of coordination. In attendance were representatives from UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, the World Bank, ITU, WMO and the NEPAD Secretariat.

2. In the particular case of this Cluster on Infrastructure Development, mention should be made of the fact that, in spite of significant progress made by each sub-cluster in advancing the NEPAD initial action plans in their respective areas, the group has not been able to meet since the October 2002 Annual Regional Consultations under the agreed upon single-cluster framework. The present meeting therefore constituted the second true cluster meeting bringing all four sub-clusters together. As a result of this, it was felt that the information flow within the sub-clusters and amongst the sub-clusters was limited. For that reason, it was suggested to establish a list serve (dedicated mailing system) to enhance the flow of information.

II. Consideration of the proposed steps for enhance coordination

3. The review of the steps included in the guidelines provided at the plenary meeting in order to enhance programming in support of NEPAD revealed the following:

1. ICTs

4. The ICT sub-cluster organizes its collaborative work around the ICT segment of the NEPAD Short-Term Action Plan, which can be grouped as follows:

Infrastructure projects
Enabling environment
Sectoral applications and content

5. The sub-cluster reported its work according to the above-mentioned grouping as follows

In making Africa's voice more audible in the global arena, the sub-cluster organized the African Regional Preparatory Conference for World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which involved all the UN agencies working in Africa and led to the Bamako Declaration that was presented to the First Prepcom of the WSIS. This was followed by advice to member States, the private sector and the civil society to prepare

Africa's contribution to the WSIS Draft Action Plan and Draft Declaration during Prepcom 2. The African contribution is being finalized for presentation to Prepcom 3, which will be held in Geneva in September 2003.

Related achievements of the sub-cluster include the Declaration on e-Governance adopted during the Third meeting of the Committee on Development and Information (CODI III), which ended on 15 May 2003. The Declaration will be presented to the African Bureau of the WSIS, which will meet before the end of May 2003.

Also, the African node of the Global ePolicy Resource Network (ePol-net) was launched on 13 May 2003, as a response to the G8 Africa Action Plan unveiled at the Kananaski Summit in June 2002 and supported by Canada.

The UN ICT Task Force African Stakeholders Network (ASN) was launched and will promote major ICT initiatives in the continent.

The INDAFTEL project on manufacturing equipment has started its activities with the recruitment of a coordinator, organization of consultations and needs assessment missions in the continent.

Several activities on multilinguism aspects and content development have been organized at continental and national levels.

Other activities of the sub-cluster include coordination at country level to prepare e-strategies and sectoral applications for the benefit of member States.

6. The NEPAD Secretariat informed the meeting of the existence of the e-Africa Commission which the NEPAD Steering Committee endorsed in March 2003 to facilitate ICT coordination. For smooth and efficient coordination of the activities, the meeting requested the NEPAD Secretariat to organize a meeting between the ICT sub-cluster, the e-Africa Commission and Senegal (which is in charge of the ICT component of NEPAD) to discuss coordination and implementation strategies of the short-term action plan.

7. Lack of sustained communications was raised during the meeting and it was decided to set up an online discussion list for members of the sub cluster to enable them exchange information on planning, implementation and follow up issues. It was also agreed that all the agencies should inform, in time, each other using the discussion list, on any activity, which is planned in the framework of the short-term action plan.

2. Transport

8. The AfDB, the ECA and the World Bank are spearheading the implementation of the NEPAD Initial Action Plan on Transport with the AfDB playing the central role. The activities of the sub-cluster are essentially build around supporting the attainment of the SSATP objectives and facilitating the liberalization of air transport in Africa as stipulated in the Yamoussoukro Decision.

9. The sub-cluster has gone through all the steps included in the proposed guidelines for enhance programming. The strategy of the group included the development of a programme of work with the RECs, member States and partners. Involvement of each player from the inception

stage ensured the commitment of all the institutions to the programme and brought about the required transparency, especially in the identification of donors to support the action plan.

10. Regarding the SSATP, the sub-cluster has prepared a long-term programme (2007 horizon) together with clearly defined benchmarks, measurable indicators of achievement and assignment of task. The subsequent plan of action will be presented before the end of May 2003 to all the stakeholders (member States, RECs, private sector, etc.) in Kigali, Rwanda for adoption. The sub-cluster has already approached some potential donors to support the programme. As regard the air transport liberalization, the sub-cluster has closely worked with the RECs in promoting and disseminating the concept. An action plan has been prepared for ECOWAS and CEMAC, which is now being submitted to partners for assistance.

11. The members of the sub-cluster use virtual means provided by ICTs such as videoconference, e-discussion, etc, to organize their meetings.

12. Given that facilitation and policy implementation are areas not requiring important investments from African countries, the major challenge of the sub-cluster still remains in actually bringing NEPAD to advocate at the political level for the removal of physical and non-physical barriers hampering for example the free movement of persons and goods on the continent and to ensure the commitment of the countries to liberalize the air transport industry as indicated in the Yamoussoukro Decision. In this regard, the role of political and economic governance coupled with the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) will be key to the successful implementation of the Transport action plan.

3. Energy

13. The challenge of the NEPAD Energy Infrastructure Initiative is to develop the abundant energy resources of the continent through regional cooperation in order to deliver reliable and affordable energy services to the economic and social sectors. The proposed Short Term Action Plan (STAP) includes:

- (i) Power systems development projects (inter-country transmission lines);**
- (ii) Gas/Oil transmission projects (cross-border oil and gas pipelines);**
- (iii) Studies for physical energy infrastructure projects; and**
- (iv) Capacity Building and Facilitation Projects, including the operationalization of the African Energy Commission (AFREC).**

14. The Energy sub-cluster aims at operationalizing AFREC in order to enable it assist in the implementation of the capacity building and facilitation projects identified in the STAP. The sub-cluster would also be involved in activities related to monitoring implementation of physical energy infrastructure projects included in the STAP.

15. With regard to the operationalization of AFREC, a seminar on "Information Energy System for Africa" was organized by AFREC in close cooperation with the host country in Algiers, Algeria, from 23 to 24 April 2003. The objective of the seminar was to exchange information and views on the best ways and means of elaborating a comprehensive energy information system and establish an Energy Database for Africa.

16. With regard to the monitoring implementation of physical energy infrastructure projects, significant developments have been noted since the last regional consultations, including the following:

- (i) The Heads of State of Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo signed the Treaty on the development of the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) project during the 26th ECOWAS Ordinary Summit in Dakar at the end of January 2003. It establishes a comprehensive and harmonized legal, fiscal and regulatory framework for the project.
- (ii) A new power company, named the Western Corridor (Westcor), was created in February 2003 as a South Africa's Eskom-led joint venture of power utilities from Angola (ENE), Botswana (BPC), the Democratic Republic of Congo (SNEL), Namibia (NamPower) and other members of the Southern African Power Pool to manage and operate the transmission infrastructure that will supply power from Inga Dam Complex in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to South Africa through Angola and Namibia.
- (iii) The Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC) signed on 03 March 2003 the Contract for the Consultant's services for the one-year EAC Power Master Plan Study.

4. Water

17. The Water Sub-cluster has made good progress since last year. This has mainly been due to the fact that it was able to build on existing structures coordinating water activities in Africa, UN-WATER Africa chapter and the Africa Water Task Force, as well as the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW), which provides policy guidance.

18. The Short Term Action Plan is based on the Africa Water Vision developed at the 2nd World Water Forum in The Hague in 2001. WMO has several programmes and projects that support the Water Sub-cluster. There are six Hydrological Cycle Observing System (HYCOS) Projects in Africa. The ongoing projects are: Med-HYCOS (Mediterranean), SADC-HYCOS (Southern Africa) and AOC-HYCOS (West and Central Africa). Projects which funding is required are: Nile-HYCOS, IGAD-HYCOS and Niger-HYCOS. These projects will contribute towards providing data for monitoring and managing the water resources in Africa.

19. For the next twelve-month period it was proposed that the Water Sub-cluster should identify and highlight activities at the normative level and increasingly also at the operational level.

20. At the operational level it was felt that a concrete output, which can be attributed to NEPAD should be highlighted. Such a concrete output would be to increase the coverage of people with access to water and sanitation in Africa. This achievement would be seen as a direct support of the Continent in attaining the MDG and WSSD goals in water and sanitation. In this context it is important to link water governance, capacity-building, advocacy and awareness creation with urgently required capital investments in the sector. In this vein, close relationship will have to be further enhanced between UN agencies and financing institutions, such as AfDB and the World Bank. In support of this the GA in resolution 57/175 has mandated UN-HABITAT to support NEPAD in the water sector through its Water for African Cities programme Phase II. A Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, which has been fully capitalized, has been set up by UN-

HABITAT for this purpose. In addition an African Water Facility is being set up at AfDB to assist member states in developing proposals to access financing for the sector. Close collaboration is also required with the EU Africa Water Fund and the World Bank Africa Fund, just to mention a few.

21. At the normative level an African Information Water Clearing House has been set up under the leadership of UN-ECA. Another highlight will be a Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water to be held in Addis Ababa in December 2003. The Conference will be platform for all actors in the water sector in Africa, UN agencies, financing institutions, AMCOW, AWTF, NGOs etc. While UN-HABITAT will join the core group and make contribution to the Conference, participation of the AU in the Local Organizing Committee should provide an opportunity for NEPAD to make good use of their presence in that group. In addition, an African Water Development Report (AWDR) will be developed over the next months, which will follow the challenge areas identified by UN-WATER for the World Water Development Report (WWDR) launched in March 2003. The AWDR is being developed with inputs from all UN agencies, which contributed to the WWDR.

22. The Water Sub-cluster will build on the good progress made, by continuing to build on the existing coordinating mechanisms, as well as ongoing normative and operational activities in the water and sanitation sector in Africa. It will also strive to expand its inclusiveness and enhance its exchange with the NEPAD Secretariat.

III. Recommendations

23 In concluding its work, the Cluster made the following observations/recommendations

- (i) Since NEPAD initial actions plans was developed drawing heavily on plans of action already under implementation by most the sub-clusters of the group - Transport (former UNTACDA II + SSATP), Water (Former UNSIA cluster on Water + Africa Water Vision) and ICTs (AISI + PICTA) - each sub-cluster was credited with a high level of programme implementation.
- (ii) Although, progress is slow in developing a genuine cross-fertilization process within the cluster, it was however deemed necessary to maintain the current clustering format and to improve rather on communication/information flow within the group and amongst the sub-clusters. It was therefore decided that the Convener of the cluster should coordinate the group in a decentralized way until a common platform is developed. This common platform could take the form of a coordinated technical assistance from participating agencies of the cluster to RECs so as to capacitate the latter in project development and implementation along with member States. In doing so, there will be a need for the cluster to make an inventory of available in-cluster resources (both human and financial).

With regard to reporting requirements, each sub-cluster was encouraged to establish direct links with the NEPAD Secretariat being manned at a satisfactory level as well as with the RECs. These links should not, however, preclude the sub-clusters from reporting to the Convener of the group for the preparation through OSAA of the SG Report on Africa.

The Cluster decided to meet at least once before the Sixth Meeting of the Regional Consultations scheduled to take place in October 2003.