



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Distr.: RESTRICTED

ECA/OPC/RCM.04/1
8 July 2004

Original: ENGLISH

Sixth Regional Consultations Meeting

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
9-10 July 2004**

**UN System Support to NEPAD
At the Regional Level**

1. Introduction

1. Following the adoption of the NEPAD Action Plan by the AU Summit in July 2002 in Durban and the independent evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990's (A/57/156), the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its 42nd session underscored the need for UN agencies and organizations to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Furthermore, the General Assembly in its resolution 57/7 endorsed NEPAD as the strategic framework for cooperation.

2. Against this backdrop, the fourth Regional Consultations of UN Agencies Working in Africa, which brought together more than 28 UN agencies, was held on 24 and 25 October 2002 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the chairmanship of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa. Mr. Wiseman Nkuhlu, Chairman of the NEPAD Steering Committee, also attended the meeting, as well as representatives from the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union (AU), and International Office of Migration (IOM) participating as observers. The meeting considered how the UN system would support the NEPAD Action Plans and decided that:

?? At the country level, existing coordinating mechanism of CCA/UNDAF, PRSPs and other national strategies, particularly the MDGs-related strategies, would continue to be used through the UN Coordinator system and the UN Country Teams;

?? At the regional level, the Regional Consultations of UN Agencies working in Africa established five thematic clusters around the priority areas of NEPAD, to serve as operational framework to support NEPAD and as reporting mechanism. The following were designated convening agencies: **Infrastructure Development** including Water and Sanitation, Energy, Transport, and ICTs, convened by ECA; **Governance, Peace and Security**, convened by UNDP; **Agriculture, Trade and Market Access**, convened by FAO; **Environment, Population and Urbanization**, convened by UN-Habitat; **Human Resource Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS**, convened by UNICEF. The Consultations agreed that the clusters would work closely with the RECs in the implementation of their sub-regional NEPAD activities.

3. The newly formed clusters identified some "quick-win" and fast track activities for collective action in support of NEPAD, and agreed that they would continue their interaction to further refine agreed areas of cooperation. This report provides an update on progress made by the clusters since October 2002, as reported by the clusters themselves.

2. Infrastructure Development

4. The cluster is convened by the Economic Commission for Africa and covers issues related to water and sanitation, energy, transport and ICTs.

2.1 Water and Sanitation

5. The sub-cluster identified the following collective activities: (i) to facilitate merging of the UNSIA water cluster with the Inter-Agency Group on Water in Africa that would be renamed the UN-Water/Africa, consistent with the global sub-committee on Water Resources (UN/ACC/SWR); (ii) to issue a brochure at Kyoto announcing the bi-annual Africa Water Development Report (AWDR) that was in progress; (iii) to establish the African Water Information Clearing House on water resources in Africa and to support the development of the AWDR; (iv) to organize in December 2003 a Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFPCOW) to mark the end of the International Year for Freshwater (IYFW); (v) to allocate responsibilities among participating agencies and to identify focal points in each to follow up on implementing the above plan using a Task Manager system; and (vi) to relaunch the UN Water-Africa on 22 March 2003 from Addis Ababa and Kyoto.

6. During the period under consideration, good progress has been made in this sub cluster. It was able to build on existing structures coordinating water activities in Africa, such as UN-Water Africa, the Africa Water Task Force, and the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW). Most of the above stated objectives of the sub-cluster were met including the merger of IGWA and UNSIA water; facilitating setting up of Water and Sanitation Trust Fund by UN-Habitat to support NEPAD in the area of water through its Water for African Cities programme Phase II; facilitating the setting up of an African Water facility at AFDB to assist member states in developing proposals to access financing for the sector; and organizing a Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFPCOW) in Addis Ababa from 8 - 13 December 2003. The discussions of the meeting centered on the following aspects:

- (a) The role of Africa's water resources in economic, social and environmental development, and the concept of the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).
- (b) Financing water sector development in Africa, possibly from savings realized under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries initiative; fixed percentages of national budgets (5%); private sector; traditional communal resources (harambees); and from bilateral and multilateral partners.

7. The major achievements of the Conference are embodied in the overall commitment by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), and the follow up activities that include the following: development of the African Water Development Report (AWDR) with inputs from all UN agencies that contribute to the World Water Development Report (WWDR); creation of well-defined linkages with global and regional processes (Regional Consultations, AWTF, AMCOW, NEPAD/AU, UN Water); and the launching of *The African Water Journal* by ECA to disseminate information and knowledge and facilitate documentation and sharing of African experiences. These achievements could be seen as a direct support to the continent in attaining the MDG and WSSD goals in water and sanitation.

2.2 Transport

8. The main aim of this sub-cluster is to assist member States to achieve the objectives set for the transport sub sector through collaborative efforts and joint activities. During the first meetings the sub cluster identified the areas that could form the basis of joint activities as:

(i) Policy development and implementation through Sub Saharan Africa Transport Policy programme (SSATP); (ii) Yamoussoukro Decision related to air transport liberalization in Africa with a view to increase air passengers and freight linkages across the continent's sub regions; (iii) Facilitation measures - implementation of the suggested activities to reduce delay in the corridors and the ports.

9. In the area of Air Transport, the World Bank is providing support to the air transport liberalization programme in West and Central Africa through capacity building programme. In that regard, a grant of about US\$ 800, 000 has been provided to establish air transport liberalization secretariats at ECOWAS and CEMAC.

10. Feasibility studies of the Decision in ECOWAS and CEMAC sub regions have been conducted and will be considered during the Ministerial meeting scheduled to take place in Gabon before end November 2004.

11. The European Union also supports the liberalization programme through UEMOA activities. The work programme of UEMOA on air transport liberalization is available in the UEMOA website.

12. SADC, COMESA and EAC programmes on liberalization have also received support from donors and member States.

13. Projects on the upper space control centres have been identified and included in the NEPAD STAP of infrastructure.

14. In terms of Facilitation the Almaty Plan of Action and the African Action Plan of Landlocked Developing and Transit Countries are the basis for the joint action of all partners. In October 2003, as indicated above, US\$ 4.6 million was mobilized to fund SSATP activities, out of which US\$895,000 has been allocated to the RECs. Some of the transit transport facilitation activities promoted by SSATP include: establishing observatories of abnormal practices along transit corridors such as the Northern Corridor, Dar es Salaam-Lusaka corridor, Douala-Ndjamena-Bangui corridor, Lagos-Abidjan Corridor, etc; Port Security audits in Mombassa and Dar es Salaam; port facilitation in Douala; road safety along the Dar es Salaam-Lusaka corridor; legislation review for selected Corridors; axle load control implementation in the North-South Corridor (Zambia-Durban passing through Beit Bridge); harmonization of transit transport documents (CEMAC, ECOWAS, COMESA, UEMOA); and capacity building for transport planning specialists in ECCAS and CEMAC.

15. As part of its activities to facilitate transit transport in Africa, the ECA in collaboration with the RECs has organized, from 27 to 29 October 2003, an Ad-hoc expert group meeting on multimodal transport development in Africa. The objective of the meeting was to assist African countries in improving the quality and reducing the costs associated with international transport.

16. On the way forward the ADB has established the Infrastructure Technical Assistance Funds that will be used in speeding up project planning, preparation and implementation.

2.3. ICTs

17. This sub cluster agreed on the following group of activities as basis for cooperation: (i) Infrastructure projects; (ii) Enabling Environment; (iii) Sectoral applications and content.

18. Sub cluster also agreed to reorganize the Action Plan by region and sector, to organize regional and sub-regional meetings on the financing of the infrastructure programme, and to define the role of each partner involved in implementing NEPAD`s infrastructure programme. The sub clusters also noted that the UN system agencies should consult with the RECs and member States to develop future priority areas for cooperation and that the implementation benchmarks and targets for the infrastructure programme should be prepared with the assistance of ADB before the end of June 2003 and distributed to all agencies.

19. Over the period covered by this report, this sub-cluster has achieved progress in some of its initially planned actions including organizing and participating in several forums in preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) which was held in Geneva in December 2003, and discussing the involvement of the UN Agencies Working in Africa relative to the implementation of the Short-Term Action Plan (STAP) on Infrastructure Development.

20. In regard to the achievements mentioned above, it appears that a large part of the initial planned actions of this sub-cluster hasn't been realized. The coordinator of the sub-cluster activities mentioned the lack of budget allocation for the activities of NEPAD as one of the main constraints at the origin of the poor performance of the sub-cluster.

2.4. Energy

21. Unlike the other three sub-clusters, however, the energy sub-cluster had never convened. As a first step towards making it operational, the UN agencies sub-cluster in energy was convened on May 27, 2004 in Addis Ababa to elaborate the terms of reference, the functioning modalities and the work programme for an African System-wide collaborative arrangement.

22. In terms of outcomes, the meeting took note of the lessons learnt from the experience of UN-Water/Africa with emphasis on the need for a shared vision, concrete activities, strong commitment to collaborate, and the necessity to avoid overlap of UN system activities. The meeting emphasized the need to work in close collaboration with the African Union (AU) and NEPAD programme, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), as well as other African organizations. The challenges of the energy sector in Africa were reviewed and the meeting agreed that issues related to poverty reduction and sustainable development as outlined in the WSSD/JPOI, and the NEPAD energy initiatives were pertinent. These constitute the substantive mandate of UN Energy/Africa. Consequently, the meeting agreed to the creation of UN-Energy/Africa and elaborated its terms of reference. It requested UNIDO to chair UN-Energy/Africa and invited UNEP to serve as Vice-Chair. UNECA was requested to serve as secretariat. It was also agreed that UN Energy/Africa will serve as the UN sub-cluster on energy within the NEPAD Infrastructure Cluster.

23. On the way forward, the sub-cluster agreed that its first task would be to develop a work programme which would be guided by the following principles:

- (a) It would center around globally and regionally consensual goals established in the WSSD/JPOI and NEPAD energy initiatives.
- (b) It would build on on-going and planned work of the participating UN agencies and strengthen synergies among them.
- (c) It would include identification of linkages and areas of collaboration based on an inventory of relevant on-going and near-term activities of the UN and non-UN entities on energy.
- (d) The secretariat of UN-Energy/Africa was tasked with elaborating further the work programme through consultations with the participating organizations and to present the proposed work programme during their next meeting, tentatively planned for 8 July 2004.

3. Governance, Peace and Security

24. This cluster agreed to develop joint programmes to support the African Peer Review Mechanism and the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa. Furthermore, it was agreed that the report of AU/NEPAD consultations on peace and security would form the basis for identification of additional areas for joint action by respective agencies in the cluster. The agreed areas of joint action by the UN, AU and NEPAD were as follows:

- (i) Deepening institutional interaction with the AU /NEPAD Secretariats through periodic consultations and support to technical meetings and workshops.
- (ii) As an instrument for promoting good governance in Africa, UNDP, NEPAD and other UN agencies were tasked to prepare strategy documents, convene high-level workshop and organize the sixth African Governance Forum by December 2003.
- (iii) Enhancing institutional support to NEPAD secretariat through funding and expertise to the UNDP/NEPAD Support Programme.
- (iv) Country level promotion of NEPAD-MDGs, including population and gender.
- (v) Building capacity for the AU/NEPAD peace and security agenda in AU regional consultations.

25. In the subsequent report the cluster organized its priorities around five sub clusters namely: (i) Humanitarian response and post conflict recovery (ii); rights based approach to development; (iii) peace and security; (iv) political governance (v); economic and corporate governance. However, it was also agreed to focus on three broad objectives within the above-mentioned sub clusters. This cluster is under the leadership of UNDP

3.1 Post conflict and humanitarian response

26. The objective of this sub cluster is to develop integrated projects to respond to humanitarian crises and to promote post-conflict recovery for countries in transition and those which have emerged from conflict situations. The projects will be based on the findings of an Inter-Agency Assessment Team which will undertake missions to such countries, in cooperation with UN Country Teams and under the leadership of the respective governments,

to determine the status of key issues, such as: level of need, post-conflict activities currently being implemented to respond to such needs, capacity of those actors present on the ground and to formulate projects to meet the gaps identified by the assessment.

27. In developing these projects the team will mainly focus on support to government for training law enforcement personnel, reforming justice systems, disarmament and reintegration of ex-combatants (including child soldiers), skills training for ex combatants, support to government on reconstruction of basic infrastructure, legal structures, mechanism to enhance self reliance and sustainable interventions.

28. As a way forward, it was agreed that: concrete programmes such as close collaboration between UNDGO and OCHA should streamline a framework to utilize as a tool in the selection process of the countries in transition. In order to effectively facilitate the formulation and implementation phase, it was recommended to create a technical team that would enhance capacity. UNHCR is in the process of bringing a full time senior employee on board and the government of Japan has offered to provide a consultant. OSAA would assist with other activities such as programmes on causes of conflict.

3.2 Political Governance/Peace and Security

29. It was agreed that these two clusters would develop joint programmes to support the APRM and CSSDCA, with the AU/NEPAD Consultation meeting report as basis for identifying additional areas. The agreed upon activities for the joint action by UN, AU and NEPAD secretariats were as follows: (i) Deepening institutional interaction with the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat through periodic consultations and support to technical meetings and workshops (ii) as an instrument for promoting good governance in Africa, UNDP in collaboration with NEPAD and other UN Agencies, would prepare strategy documents, convene a high level workshop in May, 2003 and organize the African Governance Forum (AGF IV) by December 2003. (iii) Enhancing institutional support to the NEPAD Secretariat through funding and expertise to the UNDP/NEPAD support programme. (iv) Country-level promotion of NEPAD/MDG goals including population and gender. (v) Building capacity for the AU/NEPAD peace and security agenda in AU regional organizations.

30. UNDP reported that some of the activities were not implemented as planned but some of the recorded achievements include:

- ?? Advocacy for inclusion of national organs into the African Peer Review Mechanism Secretariat.
- ?? Official set up of the APRM Panel of Eminent Personalities and the ARR Secretariat
- ?? Endorsement of the work programme for the APRM panel at the First APR Forum attended by some Heads of states of countries acceded to APRM.
- ?? UNDP approved a preparatory assistance of US\$750,000 to start the process of setting up a Trust Fund for APRM.
- ?? NEPAD support programme approved US \$3.5 million (UNDP/Bilateral donors) for Technical Support Facility, national promotion of NEPAD/MDGs and also Democracy/Governance programme has been approved.
- ?? UNDP support project of US\$1.5 million toward AU transition and the alignment of AU/NEPAD. Another major UNDP and other donors support programme is for US\$6.4 million

?? On peace and security, five areas were identified as key areas of UN Support to the AU at the NEPAD Forum in Maputo. These are capacity building, early warning signs, peace support operations, post conflict and human security agendas.

3.3 Rights based approach

31. It was agreed in October 2002 that since this is an approach and not an area where specific programmes in support of AU/NEPAD could be developed, some activities were identified instead. Building capacities for RECs, the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights and the NEPAD Secretariat.

32. The cluster noted that although activities such as building capacities of the RECs were identified, progress has been minimal, due to lack of engagement with NEPAD/APRM Secretariats. Although a draft outline of the booklet on Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) has been distributed by OHCHR the sub cluster noted, however, that vigorous training and advocacy are vital to enhance the understanding of this approach.

4. Agriculture, Trade and Market Access

33. Under the leadership of the FAO acting as the convener, this cluster held its first meeting in Rome in February 2003, and agreed on the focus activities in support of NEPAD. The NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the NEPAD Market Access Initiative, which includes a strategic plan and an action programme on market access, formed the basis for the cluster support to NEPAD. The cluster planned on working with different partners, NEPAD and respective RECS in the following areas: (i) Formulation of specific regional projects; (ii) Advocacy and resource mobilization; (iii) Identification and development of new avenues for partnership, including public-private sector partnership, and (iv) improving and optimizing synergy within the UN system and between the UN system and other partners. It should be noted that the Rome-based agencies have formal working arrangements with the other United Nations agencies organized under the umbrella of the Programme Support Group, the agencies and programmes include mainly the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). It should be noted that there is an overlap between the membership of the Programme Support Group, which is chaired by the NEPAD Secretariat, and that of this cluster. The cluster had planned to undertake the following activities:

34. Capacity-building assistance will concentrate on helping African countries to develop and implement forward-looking trade policy within a coherent macroeconomic framework. To this end, a joint-effort is envisaged by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, UNCTAD, WTO, ECA and FAO, among others. Regarding markets access strategies, UNCTAD, ECA, WTO and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) will take the lead in assisting NEPAD. With respect to trade negotiations, assistance would focus on improving trade negotiations skills of African trade negotiators: enlarging the cadre of African negotiators and increasing interaction among them. ITC, UNCTAD, WTO and ECA will lead the technical assistance work with the participation of FAO and IFAD. Agencies, including the World Bank, ICT, UNIDO, FAO, WTO and UNCTAD, would assist in the

development of an export-oriented private sector to generate sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty.

35. With regard to strengthening the compliance capacity of African countries, ITC, UNCTAD, WTO and FAO would assist African countries to manage trade policies and institutions in order to comply with various arrangements, conventions and treaties.

36. Concerning supply-capacity and competitiveness, agencies would assist African countries to expand, diversify and enhance the technological content of the export supply base in commodities and goods and services where these countries have long-term comparative advantage in regional and global markets.

37. The following activities are planned: NEPAD, in cooperation with United Nations agencies, is developing an agriculture action plan. Following its preparation, the cluster on agriculture, trade and market access will collaborate to support the formulation of programmes and projects at the national and regional level for funding by Africa and its partners. The Government of Senegal is hosting an African ministerial conference on commodities at Dakar in June/July 2003. UNCTAD and the Common Fund for Commodities are assisting in the organization of the conference. The cluster agencies are expected to participate. UNIDO and UNCTAD are organizing two regional seminars for East and West Africa in April and June 2003 on the integration of least developed countries in global trade: challenges and opportunities from the Doha Development Agenda (see A/C.25/6/7, annex). Case studies on good practices for market access will be identified.

38. With regard to Market Access, the strategic plan is based on three broad pillars: (a) building and strengthening the capacity to negotiate trade agreements; (b) Strengthening the compliance capacity of African countries; and (c) supply capacity and competitiveness of African States and their enterprises.

39. During the period under consideration, several agencies and programmes of the United Nations have been involved in the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, organized under the umbrella of the Programme's Support Group, the agencies and programmes include mainly the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The group also includes the African Development Bank.

5. Environment, Population and Urbanization

40. This cluster reviewed the Environment component of NEPAD and its framework Action Plan, which focuses on the following thematic areas:(i) combating land degradation, drought and desertification (ii) conserving Africa's wetlands (iii) preventing and controlling invasive species (iv) conserving and sustaining coastal and marine resources (v) combating climate change and (vi) tackling cross boarder conservation and natural resource management issues as they relate to freshwater, biodiversity, forest and plant genetic resources. (vii) Crosscutting issues such as health and environment, poverty and environment, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and assessment and early warning for natural disasters.

41. Subsequently, this cluster agreed to narrow down their activities to three thematic areas (i) sustainable NEPAD Cities, with UN-HABITAT as lead agency (ii) Data Monitoring and evaluation of progress in the achievements of NEPAD goals in environment, population and urbanization, UNFPA and WMO as lead agencies. (iii) Development and implementation of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD, with UNEP as lead agency.

42. The cluster's activities have focused on shaping the sustainable NEPAD cities programme. These are being led by UN-HABITAT, in collaboration and consultations with other UN agencies who are operating in the same cities, the RECs', (ECOWAS, ECCAS, EAC, IGAD, COMESA and CEN-SAD) and the national governments of Cameroun, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia, and the NEPAD secretariat. In this regard, civil society is actively participating in shaping the programme of action and in identifying priorities. Progress in this area includes introducing the programme to all national ministries of Housing and Urban Development; Local Government; Foreign Affairs; and National Planning and Finance; drafting city profiles for six out of seven cities; developing a coordinating framework for collaboration with other agencies and for resource mobilization; and undertaking rigorous preparations for the consultative forum of the first seven cities to be held in Lagos from 20 – 23 April 2004.

43. The cluster made significant contributions in the area of environment, with UNEP leading the efforts, through convening thematic workshops that resulted in project proposals that were incorporated in the NEPAD Environment Initiative Action Plan. The Action Plan was prepared under the auspices of AMCEN with UNEP support, in close collaboration with the NEPAD secretariat and the AU, endorsed by a Special Session of AMCEN held in Maputo, Mozambique on 9 and 10 June 2003, and subsequently adopted by the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Maputo in July 2003. Follow up activities included servicing the 5th Steering Committee meeting of UNEP/GEF Medium-sized Projects on the Environment Initiative of NEPAD held in Cairo, Egypt on 21 and 22 October 2003. Another notable achievement was the holding of a Partners' Conference in Algiers, Algeria on 15-16 December 2003, to engage the development partners in a policy dialogue to consider the implementation of the Action Plan. The meeting endorsed the Capacity Building Programme for the implementation of the Action Plan, and urged its implementation as a matter of high priority.

44. In addition, UNEP, upon the request from the government of Senegal, provided institutional support for the establishment of the Interim Secretariat of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD.

45. Related achievements include: drafting of six profiles out of the seven cities that were selected for the first phase of the sustainable NEPAD Cities initiative.

46. On the way forward, although relatively good progress has been attained, there is need to enhance advocacy as regards sustainable development of coastal and marine environment in Africa

6. Human Resources Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS

47. Under the leadership of UNICEF, this cluster's main objectives are to enhance the implementation of NEPAD within the Millennium Development Goals, resolution of UNGASS on HIV/AIDS and the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. In the interim report of 2003, this cluster identified two priority areas as HIV/AIDS and education. It was agreed that employment issues were to be tackled within the NEPAD Action Plan. Subsequently, the cluster re-organized its priority areas around four sub clusters, namely: (i) Education, (ii) Employment (iii). HIV/AIDS and the newly established sub cluster on (iv) health, aimed at promoting the NEPAD health strategy.

6.1 HIV/AIDS

48. This Sub cluster agreed to (i) intensify advocacy for inclusion of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in the development agenda for African states (ii). Integrate HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases within bilateral and donor programmes. (iii) Mainstream HIV/AIDS into all sectoral programmes. (iv) Support for countries to integrate HIV/AIDS in sector policies and programs. (v) Support for NEPAD Secretariat to establish a monitoring and evaluation system capable of tracking progress and measuring the performance of its HIV/AIDS related programmes. (vi) NEPAD's health strategy paper, drafted with the assistance of WHO. (vii) Facilitation of NEPAD's interface with the RECs, through the establishment of health desks within the RECs.

49. During the period under review, the sub cluster attained significant achievements through "checks and balances" for HIV/AIDS related commitments agreed upon by all countries at UNGASS, MDGs and the Abuja Declaration. Significant achievements for this cluster include:

- ?? Interagency collaboration, by which RIACSO was created by UN agencies resident in Southern Africa to jointly tackle HIV/AIDS and its related complexes like food security.
- ?? Intensified advocacy on the linkage between HIV/AIDS and governance, which led to the establishment of the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance (CHGA) supported by Secretary General and ECA
- ?? Advocacy on how NEPAD would benefit from the HLPC decision, in terms of harmonizing work amongst UN agencies.
- ?? Reached consensus on monitoring and evaluation of national performance of HIV/AIDS through NEPAD APRM mechanism in order to identify best practices as basis for strategic information and policy.
- ?? Strategy document developed and technical review of clusters on how best to mainstream HIV/AIDS into NEPAD programmes.
- ?? Lesson learnt on VCT and PMTCT documented and also established the database of NEPAD Secretariat.

50. While most of the targets within the sub clusters were met, more collective effort is required to fully achieve and sustain the set objectives. As a way forward, the following course of action is recommended: (i) More aggressive advocacy is needed in order to enhance the mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS into all NEPAD sectors. (ii) Follow up on the agreed consensus on the monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the HIV/AIDS national performance.

(iii) Establishment of a joint AU/NEPAD information system in order to effectively plan, monitor and for follow-up purposes. (iv) Further, enhancement of networking between governments and other informal partners is vital to speed up information sharing.

6.2 Education

51. This sub cluster's main task is to assist in facilitating the monitoring of Millennium Development Goals on education and to document best practices amongst countries, by vigorously advocating for education for all.

52. Related achievements of this Sub Cluster include:

- ?? The recommendations for the NEPAD Action Plan on human resource development that came out of the Experts meeting in Paris in December 2003 under the theme of "Female Participation in Education".
- ?? UNESCO seconded an Expert to the NEPAD Secretariat to provide technical assistance in the revision and finalization of the Education Action Plan, and also provided financial support towards the Task Team meeting that was held in Johannesburg in March 2004.
- ?? In making Africa's voice more audible on the negative impact of brain drain in Africa, this sub cluster has been instrumental in exploring creation of an African database in collaboration with IOM, of African professionals working abroad.
- ?? Capacity Building Initiatives in Africa led by IMF have begun to yield positive results with the West African Center that consists of ten countries being fully operational.

53. Looking ahead the cluster notes that there is need to intensify its advocacy work around the education segment of NEPAD; and that to create database to monitor the MDGs targets in the education sector and urgent need to develop an effective strategy and a plan of action in order to reverse the current brain drain.

6.3 Employment

54. The sub cluster agreed on the following activities: (i) advocacy in formulating a social policy and plan of action for employment; (ii) development of social policy Framework for NEPAD; and (iii) Assistance to NEPAD to develop a plan of action on employment in Africa; (iv) Establish database on best practices for employment promotion and participation of social Internet partners in PRSP

55. Activities of this sub cluster are currently focused on the drafting of the Social Policy Framework for Africa, which is being spearheaded by ILO in collaboration with NEPAD and the AU. The Framework will serve as a core document at the upcoming Employment Summit scheduled for this year. Summit on Poverty and Employment in Africa to be held in Burkina Faso in September 2004.

6.4 Health

56. At the operational level, it was felt that a concrete output in the health sector, which can be attributed to NEPAD, should be highlighted. Such a concrete output saw the establishment of this new sub cluster on health. This a newly created cluster has been tasked

to create health desks at the RECs, in order to enhance awareness of the NEPAD health Strategy and thereby attract investment to further improve the sector.

57. Achievements include the following:

- ?? WHO played a pivotal role in the actual formulation of the health strategy in conjunction with NEPAD and has continued to do so by coordinating the inclusion of the health strategy into national health policies.
- ?? Consensus on TORs for IGAD and ECOWAS.

7. Science and Technology

58. As mentioned earlier the fifth Regional Consultations considered the establishment of a new cluster on Science and Technology to support the work of NEPAD in this important area. Although the cluster is yet to be convened, it is already working closely with the NEPAD secretariat and other regional organizations on policy and other implementation issues relating to NEPAD. Such involvement includes: (i) participation in the First African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology, in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 3-7 November 2003. (ii) Assistance in the development of TORs and identification of experts using its extensive knowledge of the African scientific community. (iii) Follow-up actions of the Action Plan, particularly on the African Green Revolution Initiative (Strategic Agricultural Commodities), the NEPAD Centres of Excellence Initiative (Africa Biosciences Facility Consultative Meeting, 28 –31 January 2004).

59. The cluster has also been actively involved in the work on African Brain Drain, in collaboration with IOM and NEPAD secretariat.

60. Looking ahead, the cluster envisages: participating in follow-up activities of the NEPAD Plan of Action as approved by the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST), and linking the NEPAD Science and Technology Plan of Action with the UN Science and Technology cluster, in support of NEPAD.

61. It is envisaged that the Science and Technology Cluster will have their first meeting in conjunction with the present Regional Consultations meeting.