



Infrastructure development cluster

The infrastructure development cluster comprises four subclusters as follows:

- The water and sanitation subcluster, also known as UN-Water Africa, coordinates all inter-agency activities on water and sanitation. The subcluster operates under the auspices of UN-Water/Africa. It supports the integrated water resource management principles of the Africa Water Vision 2025 and assists river basin development initiatives.

Subcluster priorities:

- Sustaining institutional support to the African Ministerial Council on Water
- Developing a common position and perspectives on water
- Producing publications of key policy documents on water and establishing financing mechanisms
- The energy subcluster, also known as UN-Energy Africa, coordinates all inter-agency activities on energy. The subcluster supports the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; and those of the ninth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. It also helps to make the African Energy Commission operational and assists member States in providing an enabling environment for investors, within the framework of the NEPAD energy infrastructure.

Subcluster priorities are grouped into three thematic areas: energy access; energy efficiency; and renewable energy, and are designed to:

- Strengthen capacity in decision-making at the national and subregional levels
- Provide support to the African Union Commission (AUC) in developing the Africa Energy Vision 2030
- Develop tools to resolve institutional gaps in addressing the low levels of access to and consumption of energy in rural areas
- The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) subcluster, which includes the United Nations Group on the Information Society and the United Nations Geospatial Information Working Group, coordinates all inter-agency activities on ICT. The subcluster aims at narrowing the digital divide by helping implement the ICT sector of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

Subcluster priorities:

- Enhance Africa's participation in a global ICT policy
- Follow up on the World Summit on Information Society
- Follow up on the African Regional Action Plan on Knowledge Economy, as well as the CONNECT Africa Summit held in Kigali, in 2007

- Provide support to harmonize policy and regulatory frameworks at the regional level and ensure improved availability and use of information for development of geospatial technologies
- Facilitate knowledge sharing on socioeconomic development through the solution exchange initiative, discussion forums and online knowledge management platforms
- Transport, which implements the Trans-African Highways network (TAH), African Road Safety Action Plan (2011-2020), African Transport Policy Programme (SSATP), the Yamoussoukro decision for the liberalization of air transport market in Africa, Transport corridor programmes, and the Vienna Programme of Action. The work of the subcluster is within the framework of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and the NEPAD Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICCI).

Subcluster priorities:

- Support the African Union PIDA and the regional economic communities, with regard to transport corridors
- Support ad hoc programmes such as SSATP, in collaboration with the World Bank
- Sustain road safety, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Almaty Programme of Action and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

All subclusters have a stake in climate change and work closely with AUC, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and related sectoral ministerial conferences.

Cluster members: The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), AUC, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Education and Scientific Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), WHO, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the World Maritime Organization (WMO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Office for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and UNOHRLLS

Cluster governance

The cluster coordinators are Soteri Gatera of ECA and Aboubakari Baba Moussa of AUC.

Key achievements:

- The energy subcluster focused on developing and mainstreaming a gender-sensitive bioenergy framework and policy guidelines for Africa, to promote decent local employment in bioenergy. The Africa bioenergy policy framework and guidelines, a product of the collaborative efforts of AUC and ECA, was initiated in 2010 to enhance

energy security and access, and rural development in Africa. It is designed to provide principles for the regional economic communities and African countries to guide policies and regulations and promote a viable sustainable bioenergy sector. It integrates previous efforts by NPCA, various United Nations agencies and the regional economic communities in bioenergy development in Africa.

- ECA and AUC had been working with UN-OHRLLS to formulate an intergovernmental agreement that will foster the development of the Trans-African Highway network. The TAH Agreement was endorsed at the 23rd AU Summit of Heads of State and Government held in June 2014, in Malabo.
- The African Road Safety Action Plan for the period 2011-2020, developed in the context of the UN Global Road Safety Decade, provides a framework to address road safety challenges on the continent. The UN system, through ECA and ECE, has worked closely with AUC to support the implementation of the Action plan by member States. ECA and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in collaboration with AUC and the International Centre for Alcohol Policies – ICAP (now the International Alliance for Responsible Drinking - IARD) organized a workshop on road safety for English-speaking African countries on 12 and 13 November 2014. The workshop discussed progress in the implementation of the African Road Safety Action Plan; provided a platform to increase the awareness of government officials about the UN road safety legal instruments; and to promote and discuss effective approaches to preventing drink driving.
- As a result of the collaboration between the UN, particularly ECA, and AUC, there is better understanding by all stakeholders of the status of implementation of the African Road Safety Action Plan in member States. There is also a better understanding of the gap between member States in the implementation of the Action Plan as well as the strategic issues that need urgent intervention, notably the lack of updated and accurate data. The development of a comprehensive status report on the implementation of the Action Plan is ongoing and will be presented at a mid-term review of the Action Plan that will take place in July 2015 in Addis Ababa.
- ECA, UNCTAD and ESCAP assisted Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania to establish national transit transport Clusters to improve the effectiveness of the Central Corridor linking the landlocked countries of Burundi and Rwanda to the Port of Dar es Salaam. The Clusters now constitute an integral part of the institutional arrangement of the Central Corridor and their recommendations feed into the work of the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency. All the Clusters have developed action plans based on results of the application of the Time/Cost-Distance methodology and are implementing activities in these plans.
- The UN system has supported AUC in articulating a continental policy for the development of Single Windows in Africa in the context of the Continental Free Trade Area and the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade. ECA, for instance, prepared an issues paper on “Interconnectivity of Computerized Customs Information Systems and Trade Facilitation in Africa” which was the main background document for the 6th Ordinary Session of the AU Sub-Committee of Directors General of Customs, held in Brazzaville, Congo, on 25 and 26 September 2014. ECA, UNCTAD and the World Customs Organisation generally provide technical support to the meetings of the Sub-Committee. They also provide technical support at experts’ workshops on thematic issues to be discussed by the Directors General of Customs. For example, such support

was provided at the 1st African Union Customs Experts Meeting on the Implementation of Single Windows in Africa that was held from 4-6 March in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

- In terms of strengthening transport corridors, ECA is spearheading the establishment of the Africa Corridor Management Alliance, the statute of which is being finalized. The alliance brings together major corridor management organizations in Africa, including the Northern Corridor, Walvis Bay Corridor, Maputo Corridor, Abidjan-Lagos Corridor and the Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa.

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Reference: <http://www.uneca.org/nepad/pages/regional-coordination-mechanism>