



Industry, trade and market access

This cluster was established following the reconfiguration of the agriculture and market access cluster, at the Seventh Regional Coordination Mechanism meeting. Its objective is to direct the work of United Nations agencies. It is intended to spur economic growth, reduce poverty and help achieve the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the least developed countries. More specifically, the cluster supports the African Union Commission Department of Trade and Industry in implementing the Union's and NEPAD strategies for Africa.

Cluster members:

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank

Cluster governance:

The coordinators are Jean Bakole of the United Nations Industrial Development (UNIDO) and Treasure Thembisile Maphanga of the African Union Commission.

Cluster priorities:

- Industrial policy development
- Upgrading production and trade capacities
- Infrastructure development and energy for industrial uses
- Industrial skills development
- Research and development and innovation promotion
- Financing and resource mobilization
- Sustainable industrial development

Key achievements:

- UNIDO continues to work with the African Union, the regional economic communities and member States to implement the Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa through a number of programme instruments, including the African Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative (and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa. Various elements of the above plans have been strongly advocated in ongoing negotiations over a common African position on the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.
- UNIDO provided technical assistance to the African Union in the preparation of a framework for the implementation of the Lisbon Summit (2007) resolution, which had been approved by African Union and European Union Heads of State. A food safety authority and a rapid alert system for food and feed were then established at the African Union .
- AUC, through the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources, held two continental workshops for food safety experts. The first was held in Kigali, from 29 to 30 October 2012, and the second in Addis Ababa, from 5 to 7 November 2013. The workshop

participants were drawn from AUC, African Union member States, the regional economic communities, United Nations agencies (FAO, UNIDO and the World Health Organization) and the European Union. An Africa-wide African Union food safety management coordination mechanism will be set up with the following objectives:

- (a) Protect public health by reducing the risk of food-borne diseases, taking into account relevant animal and plant health issues and the environment
- (b) Protect consumers from unsanitary, unwholesome, mislabelled or adulterated food
- (c) Increase market access and competitiveness in food trade, including raising production levels
- (d) Promote inter-African food trade and exchange between member States
- (e) Contribute to economic development by maintaining consumer confidence in the food system and providing a sound regulatory foundation for trade in food

For further information, please contact the coordinators at: [j.bakole @unido.org](mailto:j.bakole@unido.org) and MaphangaT@africa-union.org

References: <http://www.uneca.org/rcm>