



Science and technology

The science and technology cluster of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) supports the implementation of Africa's science and technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA). Three inter-linked pillars make up the CPA for science and technology: capacity building, knowledge production and technological innovation.

Cluster members

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Cluster governance

The cluster Chair is Mahama Ouedraogo of the African Union Commission (AUC) Human Resources Science and Technology Department. The co-coordinators are Benno Boer and Masami Nakata of UNESCO and Kasirim Nwuke of ECA.

Cluster priorities

The cluster members, within their respective mandates, are supporting the efforts of African member States to transform their economies into knowledge and innovation-based economies. The cluster is also helping countries to establish policies and develop programmes and partnerships that will optimize economic opportunities while sustaining the environmental and social fabric.

The cluster engages in a mix of two sets of activities:

- Focus on the African Union Science Consolidated Plan of Action aimed at the explicit application of science and technology for industrialization, social and economic growth;
- Mainstreaming science and technology in other science CPA initiatives by defining issues, which require science and technology research, analysis and capacity-building.

Key achievements:

- The AUC department of human resources, science and technology, UNESCO and ECA organized the ninth meeting of the science and technology cluster on

2 August 2012 in Addis Ababa. The cluster's business plan, which was initially drawn up in 2011, was unanimously endorsed as an evolving document. It was officially handed over to a representative of the AUC Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology, who welcomed the eight activities, set out in the plan and called for the commitment of all cluster members in implementing them. A framework was also developed by the cluster on AUC institutional and human capacity-building, for which the AUC Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology is expected to develop an implementation road map.

- As a potential contributor to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme, the cluster has highlighted areas such as capacity-building in results-based management, knowledge management. It has also called for the organization of a joint meeting of experts to promote policy dialogue on science, education and youth. Other areas include training the staff of the AUC Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology in research policy and strategic analyses; and assessing the relevance of existing intergovernmental science, education and youth mechanisms such as the African Cluster of Technology, the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology, the Conference of Ministers of Education and the Conference of African Union Ministers in charge of Youth. Support is also needed to organize awareness campaigns and training for ambassadors for science, education and youth programmes, and to revamp the web portal of the AUC Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology.

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