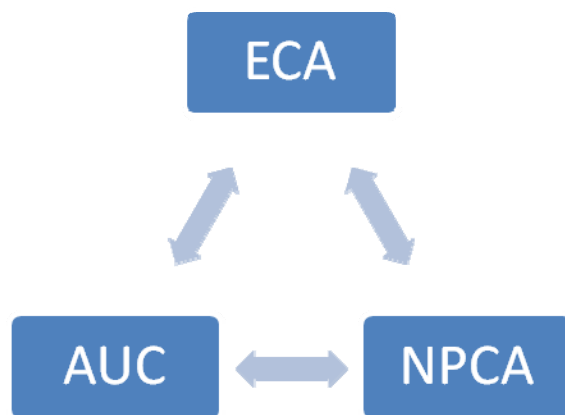# 16th Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa
28 and 29 March 2015, Addis Ababa

I. The Energy Sub-Cluster

1. **Accountability/Structural/Systemic**
   The sub-cluster's work and emphasis over the last three years has been on clean energy development, particularly on renewable energy. One of the highlights of this work has been publication of the bioenergy framework and policy guidelines. This framework was endorsed by African ministers in charge of energy at the end of 2012 and adopted by the AU Assembly in 2013. Since then, the sub-cluster has embarked on activities to mainstream the Framework, targeting RECs and African member states. The latest activity was the gender mainstreaming in the bioenergy development.

   The structure of the sub-cluster is as follow:

   The meetings are often organized based on the implementation of the activities of the cluster. In 2015, two meetings have taken place in February and March. The February meeting was discussing the implementation of joint project on developing the biofuels sector for transport and household use. This project, which contains several outputs, is implemented in the 2015. The second meeting focused on the preparation of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) 2nd Forum that will take place in New York in May 2015. The cluster, with assistance from the SE4ALL African hub, hosted by the African Development Bank, will organize a high level roundtable of eminent African leaders to deliberate on innovative ideas of financing clean energy development in Africa.

2. **Coordination/Collaboration**
   All the activities of the cluster are implemented jointly by cluster members:
   a) Gender mainstreaming of bioenergy in Africa – this is led by the AUC and NPCA and ECA provides technical support

b) Biofuel development for transport and household sectors – this is a Development Account led by the ECA. NPCA and AUC assist in the implementation
c) High level roundtable on financing SE4ALL – this is led by the ECA and supported by the AUC and AfDB

3. **Resources and CapacityBuilding Support (human, technical, financial and material) to:**
   3.1 The AU Commission
   3.2 The NEPAD Agency
   3.3 The RECs

4. **Monitoring and Evaluation**
   Each activity of the cluster has its own monitoring and evaluation mechanism built in its implementation. The outcomes of these activities as well as achievements will be reported to the RCM Secretariat as soon as they are achieved.

5. **Communication/Outreach/Advocacy**
   Information on these activities are communicated through meetings organized during the implementation, as well as though publication and webpage of the RITD and AUC.

II. Achievements, results and impacts

The cluster has recorded the following achievements in the last three years:

a) ***Publication of the African Bioenergy Framework and Policy Guidelines***: This document, which was adopted/ratified by the AU Assembly in 2012, has become the official document, and a benchmark for bioenergy mainstreaming in policies of AU Member states. It is now becoming a reference point for policy formulation, and is widely cited.

b) ***Gender mainstreaming in bioenergy development***: A publication is underway, which will provide a textbook and how to address gender dimensions in the process of bioenergy development, particularly focusing on women (and children) empowerment). The activity's starting point is that women, especially in rural areas, are managers of energy at the household level. Therefore, in addressing the energy needs there, women's perspectives have to be taken into account.

Currently, the cluster has begun a programme that will ensure modern biofuel development in Africa. The expected accomplishment are (a) Enhanced knowledge & understanding of stakeholders in select African countries to develop viable and sustainable biofuel strategies, (b) Strengthened capacity of policy makers in selected African countries to design and implement gender sensitive policies and

programmes on biofuel development, and Improved capacity of African countries to package biofuels programmes for investments.

III. Challenges and constraints

Coordination of the sub-cluster seems to be a recurring challenge. There is a need for strong management of activities and a robust timetable for implementation of the cluster activities. Currently, meetings being held are not necessarily organised according to the cluster objectives, but based on the specific project-based activities.

IV. Lessons learned and the way forward

The activities are very loose and not tied together to fit the cluster objectives. Therefore, it is proposed that the cluster coordinator should organise meetings of all the sub clusters so that a common approach can be devised.

The Transport Sub-Cluster

The objective of the sub-cluster is to harness the transport sector tostimulate the economic integration of Africa. The focus of transport activities in the period under consideration was on the implementation of the Trans-African Highway (TAH); road safety, and the development of the Regulatory Framework for the Yamoussoukro Decision, and trade facilitation.

I.   Technical Support to AUC

1.1 Development of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-African Highway Network

Lack of harmonized norms and standards constitutes a barrier to trade and transport in Africa. In order to overcome this problem, ECA and AUCin collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN OHRLLS) collaborated in developing an intergovernmental agreement aimed at fostering the development of TAH.

Achievements

The 3rd session of the African Conference of Ministers of Transport took place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 7-11 April 2014 under the theme "Speeding-up transport programme delivery for facilitating Africa's economic growth" and adopted the Malabo Declaration which includes the following transport instruments:

- The Intergovernmental Agreement onTAH;
- The African Road Safety Charter which will serve as a policy framework for the improvement of road safety in Africa as well as for facilitating the implementation of the UN Decade for action for road safety 2011-2020;
- The vision 2040 for Railways Revitalisation in Africa; and

- Plans of Action for air, maritime, road and rail transport.

The TAH Agreement was also endorsed at the 23rdAU Summit of Heads of State and Government held in June 2014, in Malabo. The objective of the Agreement is to:

a) Contribute to the physical, political, economic and social integration and cohesion of Africa;
b) Contribute to the facilitation of safe movement of goods and persons and reduction of transport cost on the Continent;
c) Ensure road transport facilities between important areas of production and consumption on the Continent; and
d) Set-up common minimum norms and standards for design and maintenance of the TAH network with all-weather roads of good quality.

The Inter-governmental Agreement on TAH hasthe following annexes:

Annex I: TAH Network;
Annex II: Basic guidelines for road classification and standards;
Annex IIIA: Guidelines for signals, markings, equipment, facilities and installations;
Annex IIIB: Guidelines for Road Safety management;
Annex IV: Harmonisation of social norms and standards; and
Annex V: Guidelines on environmental norms.

UN contribution

- Financed the preliminary study on the harmonization of the regional norms for highways;
- Assisted AUC to mobilize resources to finance the preparation of Agreement and its annexes; and
- Active participation in the Working Group that prepared the terms of reference and supervised the consultants that prepared the Agreement and its annexes;

1.2   Road safety

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 andthe 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.

Achievements

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, Ethiopia.

1.3   *Transport facilitation*

The UN system supported AUC and RECs in the facilitation of trade in African in the period under consideration. For instance, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) implemented a project titled "Capacity Building for Control Authorities and Transport operators to improve Efficiency of Cross-border Transport in Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries" in a period of 36 months, between 2012 and 2014. The objectives of the project were to provide stakeholders in landlocked and transit developing countries with sustainable capacity to improve cross-border and transit transport operations; and to develop corridor-based institutional and technological solutions enabling the identification of transit transport operational barriers, design and implementation of readily applicable solutions; and the formulation of national and corridor action plans for transport facilitation.

The project achieved these objectives by applying a toolkit which includes two methodologies – the Cluster Development (CD) Methodology and the Time/Cost Distance (TCD) Methodology in the Central Corridor that links the Port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania with the country's landlocked neighbours of Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The project was implemented in collaboration with the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency (CC-TTFA), which is a body of the East African Community (EAC). The methodologies were applied in Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania while DRC and Uganda participated in the project as observers. The Northern Corridor Transit Transport Authority also participated as an observer.

The national transit transport Clusters established in Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania as part of the UN project all achieved positive results within a few months of their creation. 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 also 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 Computerised 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.

1.4 Air transport

ECA has been involved in developing the Regulatory Framework for the Yamoussoukro Decision. In this regard, it reviewed the draft report of the study on competition rules, dispute settlement mechanism and consumer protection that was presented at the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in April 2014. ECA has also taken part in other meetings to review and improve the regulatory framework for the Yamoussoukro Decision.

II. Lessons learned

UN agencies mostly support AUC and RECs on transport issues on a bilateral basis. This could be explained by the fact these agencies are not necessarily engaged in the same aspects of transport. For instance, the International Maritime Organisation focuses on Maritime issues while ECA has been more active land and air transport – although current interest in the Blue Economy has provided an avenue for the Commission to engage more in maritime transport.

III. Challenges and recommendations

- Lack of adequate financial resources and insufficient manpower to fully accommodate all requests from AUC, the NEPAD Agency and RECs;

- Most of the international institutions dealing with transport issues are based outside Africa;

- UN system support to AUC in the area of infrastructure has mainly been provided by individual agencies or organisations such as ECA. Although ECA has worked jointly with OHRLLS to support projects such as the development of the Intergovernmental Agreement on TAH, with the active participation of AUC and RECs, other UN agencies have not been fully involved in the process. There is therefore a need for members of the Infrastructure Cluster to meet and agree on how best to work with AUC.

The ICT Sub-Cluster

The ICT sub-cluster is composed of all UN Agencies working in Africa and has established an inter-agency coordination mechanism that allows UN-Agencies to deliver as one through the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) and the United Nations Geospatial Information Working Group (UNGIWG). The sub-Cluster works closely in joint activities with the AU Commission, NPCA, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in another African coordination framework to support member States and RECs as well as AU ministerial conferences. This has an impact on the extent to which recommendations of the RCM meetings are being implemented.

This report focuses on the activities of ICT sub-cluster to support the African Union and RECs, also contributing to the meetings of the thematic clusters of the UN regional coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa).

1. Major Achievements

1.1 Tackling the challenges of cybersecurity in Africa

Cybercrime was growing at such an alarming rate that countries needed to act and implement cyberlegislation. ECA and AUC had been mandated by the Conference of Ministers in charge of ICTs and had been working since 2011 on the development of the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection. The Convention had been adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Justice in May 2014 and endorsed by the Head of States during the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Summit of the African Union (AU) which concluded in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on 27 June 2014. African states are invited therefore to take immediate steps to adopt data protection laws and transpose their cybersecurity laws in the framework of the Convention

1.2 The African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF)

Launched in September 2011, at a workshop organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union Commission (AUC) held during the 6th IGF in Nairobi, the African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) aims to act as a platform for an inclusive multilateral, multi-stakeholder and multilingual discussion on issues pertinent to the Internet in Africa in general and Internet Governance issues in particular. The Forum has been approved by the African Council of Ministers in charge of ICT, in their deliberation in Khartoum, from 2-4 September 2012. The first African Internet Governance Forum conference was organized in Cairo from 2-4 October 2012.

The 3rd Africa Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) conference was organized in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria from 10 to12 July 2014. The theme of the meeting was *"Connecting Africa for Enhanced Multi-stakeholder Internet Governance"*.

With the objective of enhancing debate among African IG stakeholders on the core issues, ECA commissioned a research study/issue paper which was presented at the Forum as the main background paper guiding the discussions. The issue paper reviewed the sets of challenges facing

Africa in terms of Internet Governance including the proper pace, and sometimes struggles, of the continent in developing its segments and edges of this global network of networks; and the development of the Internet, its governance and the evolution of the ecosystem of that governance. The paper further pointed out into the direction of a number of issues which might be emerging, as we stand at a crossroads in the evolution of the Internet governance ecosystem. The issue paper has also provided a number of policy propositions that were further examined for policy recommendations and actions.

The Conference adopted a series of recommendations focusing on policies enabling access; content creation, dissemination and use; Internet as engine of growth and development; IGF and the future of the Internet ecosystem; enhancing digital trust; Internet and human rights; critical Internet resources; emerging issues; and enhancing multi-stakeholder cooperation: the AfIGF – issues and statutory matters.

ECA and AU coordinated the participation of the African continent at the 9th global IGF held in Istanbul, Turkey from 1-5 September 2014. UNECA organized two sessions during the event; one was on "Internet as an engine of growth and development" and one session on AIGF Meeting: Future of Internet & Perspective for Africa. These sessions provided opportunity to deepen the understanding of the elements of the areas of focus, expected results and corresponding vital activities that will need to be put in place to achieve the expected outcomes.The African IGF's work was also reported which helped to identify the common views across the different regions.

1.3 Promoting and creating awareness on the "Policy, legal & technical requirements for Open Government in Africa"

ECA, has organised an Expert Group Meeting from 5-6 June 2014 in Pretoria, South Africa. Representatives from African Government, RECs, AUC, ATU, UNDP, private sector and academia attended. The overall objective of the meeting was to bring together open government data experts and policy makers together to review the analytical study on policy, legal and regulatory environments favourable for Open Government implementation in Africa. The meeting also aimed to discuss the policy issues related to the implementation of open government data programmes in Africa as well as lessons learnt in African countries and elsewhere.

1.4 Assessing the contribution of ICTs to recent economic growth performance in Africa"

ECA has organised an EGM from 23 to 24 September 2014. in Addis Ababa. Representatives from African Government, RECs, AUC, ATU, UNDP, private sector and academia attended. The meeting presented an opportunity for the participants to review the country studies (namely, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal). The analytical country studies focused on "Assessing the contribution of ICTs to Africa's recent growth performance". The participants also explored ways through which the contribution of ICTs to Africa's structural transformation can be enhanced. They provided comments and inputs into the several studies and highlighted several issues

including: the need to look at incentives to attract foreign companies, adequate economic models to measure the ICT impact on the economic growth, etc.

1.5 Promoting policies and creating awareness on broadband issues in Africa

ECA has organised an EGM from 18-19 December 2014 in Addis Ababa. Representatives from African Government, RECs, AUC, ATU, UNDP, private sector and academia attended. Experts attending the meeting reviewed the draft report prepared by ECA/NTIS on "Innovation and Knowledge Trends in National Development Policy and Implementation: Towards Improved Access to Broadband in Africa". Experts discussed on the key issues relating to the trends in Africa of innovation and knowledge generation with a focus on the state of broadband infrastructure and services in the continent Participants learned and shared country experiences in the deployment of broadband infrastructure and services, business models, policies and strategies and sub-regional initiatives by AUC and RECs in promoting the deployment of broadband access and services across the continent. It was clear among all participants of the importance of broadband as a driving force for Africa's improved competitiveness at the global stage.

1.6 Follow up of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

ECA is leading the coordination of preparing for the ten-year review of WSIS outcomes in Africa which is scheduled for 2014/15. In preparation for this review, ECA, pursuant to its mandate to promote the economic and social development of its member States is organizing an Africa Regional Consultation on the Review of WSIS entitled "WSIS+10 and beyond" . This regional review will provide an opportunity to assess progress made in the region and to identify challenges and opportunities going forward especially in the context of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the UN post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. The "Africa Regional Consultation Meeting on the WSIS+10 and beyond" will be held from 14 to 16 April 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In this regard, ECA is preparing a synthesis background report on 'WSIS+10 implementation in Africa'. The report presents the review of the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines in African countries over the past ten years and chart the way forward in defining Africa's position on post-2015 agenda for the development of the Information Society. ECA is also invited to present the outcomes of this regional consultation as a building block for the open consultation on WSIS beyond 2015 to be held on 29 May 2015 in Geneva.

2. Challenges

Challenges can be summarized as follows:

- lack of adequate Intra-cluster coordination with absence of information on some of the joint activities;

- inter cluster collaboration is not adequate;
- need for mobilizing resource to undertake planning and implementation of joint cluster activities; and
- need for key indicators of success and targets to be achieved against each areas for the RCM.