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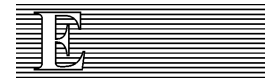


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*Fifth meeting of the Committee of Experts*

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**Report on United Nations System-wide Support to  
the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's  
Development (NEPAD) Programme in the context of the Regional  
Coordination Mechanism (RCM)**

## Contents

Section	Title	Page
	Abbreviations and Acronyms	ii
I.	Introduction	1
II.	Background of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)	2
III.	Strengthening the RCM and its Cluster System	4
IV.	Progress in Implementing the Recommendations of the 9th Meeting of the RCM	11
V.	Challenges and Constraints	13
VI.	Issues for Consideration and the Way Forward	14

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
APF	African Partnership Forum
APoA	Almaty Programme of Action
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CEB	Chief Executives Board
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DPA	Department for Political Affairs
DSG	Deputy Secretary General
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSSDD	Food Security and Sustainable Development Division
GA	General Assembly
HLCP	High-Level Committee on Programmes
HSGIC	Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee
ICES	Intergovernmental Committee of Experts
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MEAs	Multilateral Environment Agreements
MIP	Minimum Integration Programme
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OSAA	Office of the Special Advisor on Africa
PIDA	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
RCM	Regional Coordination Mechanism
RDTs	Regional Directors Teams
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SRCMs	Subregional Coordination Mechanisms
SRO	Subregional Office
SSATP	Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme
TYCBP-AU	Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU
UN	United Nations
UNCC	United Nations Conference Centre
UNCTs	United Nations Country Teams
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UN-OHRLS	United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
UNLO	United Nations Liaison Office
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
WHO	World Health Organization

## I. Introduction

1. Since its establishment, the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) has come a long way from an inter-agency consultative meeting to a mechanism for providing coherent and coordinated support to African regional and subregional organizations. Over the years, the RCM has waxed stronger through its Cluster system. The African Union Commission (AUC), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA)<sup>1</sup>, and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) – all of them beneficiaries - have now taken centre stage and become part and parcel of the mechanism, which initially started as a United Nations (UN) affair. Numerous reviews have moved the mechanism from its initial concentration on strengthening processes to focusing on results and actions of the RCM and its Clusters. The ‘delivering as one’ concept has gained increased acceptance with agencies rethinking their way of working to move towards a collective approach and to provide support in the context of the RCM. Clusters, to varying degrees, have aligned their activities with the priorities of the African Union (AU) and its NEPAD programme, and with the priorities of the AU sectoral ministerial bodies. Likewise, Clusters have intensified their efforts to interact more regularly and establish business plans to embark on interagency joint programming and joint implementation of specific projects. In this regard, the support of the UN to the AU and its NEPAD programme has increased significantly. This includes providing technical and capacity building support, undertaking advocacy, policy analysis, consensus building, and normative and analytical studies to assist with vision and policy setting - these being the areas of focus of the AU and its NEPAD programme.

2. The RCM secretariat is providing more strategic coordination and support to the mechanism. The coordination of Clusters has become stronger with an increasing number of jointly-implemented programmes leading to tangible results. In addition, steps are being taken to establish subregional coordination mechanisms in order to provide more coherent support to the RECs and to complete the missing link between the regional and country levels.

3. This report presents an update on RCM progress in general, and on the implementation of the recommendations of the 9th Meeting of the RCM in particular. It covers the period from November 2008 to December 2009. It is organized in six sections. Following the introduction, Section 2 provides a background of the RCM, while section 3 examines progress in enhancing coordination, coherence and cooperation among UN agencies and strengthening cooperation between the UN and Africa’s regional and subregional organizations. Section 4 highlights progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 9th Meeting of the RCM, including the specific recommendations on UN support to climate-related actions at the regional level. Section 5 draws attention to the challenges and constraints while the concluding section 6 tables a number of proposals on the way forward aimed at enhancing UN support to the AU and its NEPAD programme.

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<sup>1</sup> The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) was established by the Decision of the AU Assembly at its meeting of 1 and 2 February 2010 as a technical body of the African Union in replacement of the NEPAD Secretariat.

## **II. Background of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)**

4. United Nations General Assembly (GA) Resolution 1998/46 provided the imperative for holding regular inter-agency meetings in each region to improve coordination among UN system organizations.. Over the years, the consultative meetings gave way to the establishment of a formal, full-fledged mechanism. The Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) of UN system organizations working in Africa has become the mechanism for enhancing UN system-wide coherence, coordination and cooperation at the regional and subregional levels to ‘deliver as one’ in support of the AU and its NEPAD programme.

5. With the adoption of NEPAD by the UN General Assembly in 2001, each UN organization and agency was requested to examine how it should respond to the priorities of NEPAD, particularly in the context of the need to work with African countries and their regional organizations. Resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 called for UN system organizations to coordinate their activities in support of NEPAD to ensure maximum results and to align their activities in Africa with the priorities of NEPAD. Accordingly, the main objective of the RCM is to ensure coordination and coherence in the delivery of UN support for greater effectiveness and impact through increased joint programming and joint implementation of activities, operationalized in the context of a Cluster system. Another key objective of the RCM is to improve cooperation and collaboration between UN agencies, and African organizations such as the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

6. The annual meetings of the RCM provide a platform to review progress in inter-agency coordination efforts in the delivery of support to Africa’s development at the regional and subregional levels and to chart the way forward. Since the Clusters were created in October 2002, during the 4th Meeting of the RCM (which established five Clusters), the Clusters have increased in number and undergone continuous reconfiguration and refinement to effectively support the implementation of NEPAD. After the 6th meeting in July 2004, the annual consultations remained dormant until the 7th meeting in November 2006, during which Clusters were revived and their number increased to nine (as it has remained ever since), with Cluster meetings taking place regularly and the RCM meetings becoming important annual events.

7. The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RCM generated the necessary momentum for UN support to the AU and its NEPAD programme to strengthen coordination and revitalize the Cluster system as well as strengthen partnerships with African regional and subregional organizations. Following the signing of the Declaration on the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU (TYCBP-AU) in November 2006 to enhance UN-AU cooperation, UN support has been extended to the AU in the context of the RCM and its Clusters. The meeting also emphasized the importance of developing a subregional coordination mechanism to strengthen support to the RECs and to bridge the gap between existing regional and national coordination mechanisms.

8. The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RCM built on the momentum generated at the 7th Meeting of the RCM, with H.E. Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, chairing the

meeting. Partnership with the AU Commission and the former NEPAD secretariat became solidified and deepened, and the centrality of the effective functioning of the Cluster system was emphasized in enhancing efficiency and coherence in the delivery of support to the AU and its NEPAD programme. In Africa, the meeting emphasized that Clusters should increase focus on, and align activities with the TYCBP-AU. It also agreed that Cluster activities should take into consideration, the programmes and strategic plans of the AU Commission and the former NEPAD secretariat, relevant decisions of the AU and the RECs, as well as outcomes of AU sectoral ministerial bodies. Furthermore, the meeting called for the evaluation of existing arrangements at the subregional level, with a view to putting in place a mechanism for collaboration in support of the RECs.

9. The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RCM focused on the topical theme “Coordinated Multisectoral Response to the Challenges of Food Crisis and Climate Change in Africa”. The meeting discussed and agreed that coordinated UN support to climate-related actions and to the food crisis was necessary to effectively sustain the efforts of African countries and African regional and subregional organizations. Important recommendations were also made to strengthen the RCM through:

- (a) Alignment of its activities with the priorities of the AU and its NEPAD programme;
- (b) A financing mechanism for the RCM similar to that at the country level with UNDAF where UN agencies and organizations contribute and commit resources for joint activities; and
- (c) Establishment of a subregional coordination mechanism with the active involvement of the RECs.

10. The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RCM deepened further the partnership between UN System organizations and AU regional and subregional organizations. It decided that the RCM secretariat should be transformed into a joint Secretariat with ownership between AU and UN organizations in order to promote greater synergy and coherence between the two parties. In this regard, it agreed that the meetings of the RCM should be jointly organized by the UN and AU. Similarly, there should be joint reporting on the activities of the Clusters, and that such Cluster reports should reflect the collective interventions and actions of all the partner agencies and organizations involved. Reporting on Cluster activities should be standardized and reflect the collective interventions and actions of all the UN partners involved in the operations and functioning of the Cluster, rather than highlighting individual agency activities. The reports needed to reflect this joint nature of Cluster activities and be shared with members of the AUC to obtain their views and inputs before finalization. RCM and Cluster activities should be closely aligned to AU/NEPAD strategic plans and priorities and be results-oriented, leading to tangible impacts in the long term.

11. The 10<sup>th</sup> RCM further recommended that:

(a) Clusters should make greater efforts to undertake joint planning and programming of activities, and resource mobilization.

(b) UN agencies and organizations needed to improve inter-Cluster coordination and information sharing within and across Clusters.

(c) The RCM should consider mainstreaming the following issues into Cluster activities:

- Employment and Decent work (as endorsed by the Chief Executives Board (CEB) in the Global Jobs Pact), particularly for youth, being one of Africa's expressed priorities;
- Gender;
- Capacity building; and
- Communication and advocacy.

(d) The AfDB should continue its participation in Cluster activities and in supporting the development and implementation of business plans, in relation to the AUC strategic Plan 2009-2012, NEPAD Business Plan 2009-2010 and the AU/NEPAD African Action Plan 2010 - 2015, particularly in the areas of infrastructure (PIDA), agriculture, food security and rural development (CAADP), the AU/NEPAD Environment Action Plan, Governance, Minimum Integration Programme (MIP), and Mining.

(e) The AfDB should provide financial support to the RCM secretariat and Clusters to enhance coordination and foster cooperation between the UN System organizations and African regional and subregional organizations. The AfDB should also provide support to the AUC and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to build the capacity of their Cluster focal points.

(f) UN Agencies should also provide human and financial support to the work of the RCM and its Clusters and promote joint mobilization of resources for Cluster activities.

(g) The CEB should be informed of the work of the RCM. The RCM's work should also be a part of the agenda and dialogue within the CEB.

### **III. Strengthening the RCM and its Cluster System**

12. Since their establishment, RCM Clusters have carried out numerous activities in support of the implementation of NEPAD. Notwithstanding their achievements, a critical assessment of their performance, and that of the RCM as a whole, reveals that more needs to be done to enhance the coherence and coordination of UN system-wide support to the AU and its NEPAD programme. For instance, there is a need to mobilize resources to enable UN agencies and organizations to provide capacity building support to the AU Commission, the NEPAD Planning

and Coordinating Agency and the RECs. Crosscutting issues such as gender and youth have yet to be fully mainstreamed into Cluster activities. The mechanism needs to be strengthened, by clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies operating at the regional and sub-regional levels in Africa to improve coherence and synergy.

13. A number of internal reviews<sup>2</sup> were conducted to address these key issues and concerns and come up with proposals. The findings of the reviews were discussed at the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the RCM, which endorsed the proposed measures to enhance the RCM and its Clusters in support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme. The 10<sup>th</sup> session of the RCM also provided an opportunity to move forward more effectively in enhancing UN-system internal coherence and coordination, on the one hand, and strengthening cooperation between UN and African organizations, on the other.

**A. *Enhancing coherence, coordination and cooperation among UN system organization at the regional and subregional level***

14. The RCM secretariat and the various Clusters of the RCM have undertaken numerous activities to enhance and strengthen coordination and cooperation among UN agencies in support of the AU and its NEPAD programme.

***The RCM Secretariat***

15. The secretariat has improved coordination by providing more strategic support to the structures and process of the RCM. It has been proactive and efforts have been intensified using a variety of innovative approaches in its support to the Clusters, which have contributed to significant improvements and achievements in a variety of areas.

(a) Increased engagement and participation in Cluster meetings and activities by the RCM secretariat staff and ECA substantive focal points who have been making considerable efforts to attend all or most Cluster meetings and make substantive contributions.

(b) Significant achievements in providing substantive support to the organization and implementation of Cluster activities. For example, the RCM secretariat contributed significantly in terms of human and financial resources to the Advocacy and Communication Cluster in support of the convening of the 'Regional Media Dialogue on NEPAD' that took place on 19 and 20 February 2009 in Vaal, Gauteng province, South Africa. Assistance was also provided to the Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development Cluster in organizing its two-day Cluster meeting. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> inter-agency meeting on coordination and harmonization of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria strategies that took place from 28 to 30 October 2009 in Addis Ababa, the RCM

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<sup>2</sup> These reviews include: the Second Report of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (2006); the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) "Further Measures to Strengthen the United Nations System Support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development" (2005); ECA's reports on "Assessment of UN System Support to NEPAD: Rethinking the Collective Approach" (2004), "External Review of the Cluster System (2007) and "Measures to Enhance the Functioning of the Regional Consultation Mechanism of UN Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa in Support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme" (2008).



secretariat assisted in making arrangements for the meeting in terms of conference facilities, including covering the cost of interpretation and hospitality.

(c) The secretariat provided increased technical and operational backstopping for the Clusters. For instance, substantive and logistical assistance was provided to the Governance Cluster in its first meeting. The secretariat also provided resources such as publications on the RCM and the NEPAD programme to Clusters. Furthermore, the secretariat made presentations on the RCM for UNESCO's coordinator of the Science and Technology Cluster, at a high-level management meeting, with a view to assisting them in their reflection on the roles that they could play at the regional level and within the mechanism.

(d) Considerable efforts were made to stimulate action and movement within certain Clusters by the secretariat through proactive intervention including moral suasion and encouragement. This has imparted to Cluster Coordinators the necessary momentum to revitalize their Clusters, increase communication among their members and to actively engage in joint planning and implementation.

16. The 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the RCM recognized that effective communication and advocacy were central to promoting the AU agenda and to furthering the effective implementation of its NEPAD programme. It also assigned the RCM secretariat to play an important role in promoting the achievements of the RCM. In view of this, there has been increased communication and advocacy via electronic and other means of communication in support of the AU and its NEPAD programme.

(a) Following the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RCM that recommended the reconfiguration of certain Clusters, the RCM secretariat prepared and circulated widely among RCM members a table of the list of Clusters with their respective Coordinators and members.

(b) An advocacy and communication strategy for the RCM has been developed by the secretariat and is currently in the first phase of implementation, which is branding the mechanism and producing various promotional materials.

(c) The secretariat prepares a yearly report on UN system-wide support to the AU and its NEPAD programme presented at a number of meetings, including the meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICEs) meetings of ECA's five Subregional Offices. Furthermore, the secretariat contributes to reports submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and reports prepared by other entities such as the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU).

(d) The secretariat also made considerable efforts with regard to the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU, which is up for review as stipulated in the Declaration. The secretariat used every opportunity to share views on the programme and discuss modalities to effectively support the AU in the context of the UN-AU Cooperation Framework. The 10<sup>th</sup>

meeting of the RCM had an in-depth discussion on the review of TYCBP-AU. It considered the review as an important occasion to further popularize the TYCBP at the UN, AU and REC levels. It recommended that the RECs should be fully represented in the review team. ECA, along with the United Nations Liaison Office (UNLO) and the AUC, is requested to undertake the review and mobilize the necessary resources from other UN agencies. The 10<sup>th</sup> RCM underlined that the involvement of all stakeholders and ownership was key to the success of the review. Similarly, it was crucial to ensure AU/REC leadership, partnership and ownership of the process with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and further strengthening the implementation process. AfDB was requested to provide financial support and consultancy for the review process and has taken the necessary steps to positively respond to this request.

(e) Following a needs-assessment mission to the former NEPAD secretariat, ECA invited UN agencies and organizations to a briefing on 23 June 2009 to share findings of this assessment and to determine ways of supporting the former NEPAD secretariat in the context of the Cluster system of the RCM.

### Clusters

17. Clusters have shown significant progress in terms of communicating and interacting amongst themselves. There has been more interaction and frequent meetings amongst Clusters in recent years. There is improved communication among UN agencies within the Cluster and across Clusters. Clusters routinely inform each other of developments in their own respective areas of expertise and solicit inputs from others to enhance their work. The Peace and Security Cluster and the Advocacy and Communication Cluster are good examples of this.

18. Cluster Coordinators are increasingly engaging members in joint programming of activities based on broadly-agreed terms of reference, on areas of priority, and have started developing business plans. For instance, the Social and Human Development Cluster is undertaking activities within the framework of the nine thematic priority areas.

### ***B. Strengthening cooperation between United Nations agencies and African regional and subregional organizations***

19. The RCM secretariat and various Clusters of the RCM have undertaken numerous activities to enhance and strengthen coordination and cooperation between UN agencies and African regional and subregional organizations in support of the AU and its NEPAD programme

### The RCM Secretariat

20. The secretariat has greatly facilitated the continuous sharing of information and communication among the UN family, the AUC, the former NEPAD secretariat and the RECs by:

(a) Compiling and widely circulating a contact list of the RCM members to facilitate intra- and inter-Cluster communication;

(b) Communicating information on the integration process of NEPAD into the AUC processes and structures as well as providing briefings at Cluster meetings.

(c) Organized a consultative meeting on 20 March 2009 with RCM members to assist the consultants working on the study on the integration of NEPAD into the AUC structures and process to solicit the views of UN organizations. Introducing at a meeting with the UN family held on 27 March 2009 Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the former NEPAD secretariat, on his assumption of office.

(d) Introducing during the 9th meeting of the RCM, the concept of pre-RCM meetings which provide an opportunity for Clusters to discuss issues of common interest, including strategizing on participation in the annual session of the RCM. This has now become an in-built feature of the annual RCM sessions.

21. More substantively, the RCM secretariat and ECA have provided the former NEPAD secretariat with significant technical support in preparing policy documents; analysis of NEPAD-related issues and organizing and participating in NEPAD activities and meetings. These include:

(a) African Union Summits, NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) meetings, NEPAD Steering Committee Meetings, as well as the African Partnership Forum (APF), particularly the Special Session of the APF on Climate Change that took place on 2 and 3 September 2009;

(b) The five-month-long consultative process during which significant contribution was made to the development of the AU/ NEPAD African Action Plan;

(c) Capacity support provided in the area of Communication through the secondment of a Communication Officer;

(d) A needs assessment of the former NEPAD secretariat undertaken in three main areas: Communication and Advocacy, Knowledge Management and Policy Research and Analysis;

(e) Contributing to the development of AU/NEPAD Capacity Development Strategic Framework for Africa as well as the African position at the G-20 meetings;

(f) Organizing expert group meetings, workshops, training, as well as involvement in intergovernmental activities and publications in close collaboration with the AUC, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and other UN agencies. Notable examples include an expert group meeting on the Role of Private Sector and Civil Society in the Implementation of NEPAD held on 28 and 29 May 2009 together with the AUC and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the Forum on NEPAD that took place on 7 November 2009 and an upcoming training workshop for officials of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the RECs and other

implementing organs scheduled for March 2010 on “Project planning, monitoring and evaluation on implementation of the AU/NEPAD African Action Plan”.

### Clusters

22. There is improved communication between UN agencies and African regional and subregional organizations and increased participation of these organizations in Cluster meetings and activities. The AUC is increasingly playing a greater role in most of the Clusters. A number of Cluster meetings have been co-chaired by the AUC and have taken place at the premises of the AUC. This has been the case for the Peace and Security, Governance and Social and Human Development Clusters. The Peace and Security Cluster has launched a pre-review process of UN-AU cooperation on peace and security issues in order to better prepare for the review of the Ten-Year Capacity Building for the AU. Members of the Social and Human Development Cluster took part in the launching of the AU’s *Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: 2009-2012 Campaign* on 16 June 2009.

23. Cluster activities are having tangible impacts on the implementation of key regional development agenda and on the institutional landscape in support of the AU and its NEPAD programme:

(a) The *Infrastructure Cluster* - coordinated by ECA - has four subclusters: Transport, Energy, Water and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) subclusters all having a stake in climate change issues. In transport, activities carried out mainly focused on supporting the AU in the context of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the RECs with regard to the transport corridors. In addition ad hoc programmes such as the Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme (SSATP) in collaboration with the World Bank, Road Safety in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and Almaty Programme of Action (APoA) in 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) were undertaken. Activities in energy were in three thematic areas, namely: energy access; energy efficiency; and renewable energy. Examples are the emphasis on the need to achieve universal access to basic services to achieve the MDGs, including household energy, clean drinking water and sanitation. UN-Energy has asked UNDESA to lead the effort to design an Energy Access Development Goal that would address provision of basic services to all by the year 2030, with particular focus on African and other Least Developed Countries (LDCs). UN-Energy supports GA discussions on energy access and renewable energy as well as climate change and sustainable development. Noting that the costs of renewable energy technologies are still high, UN-Energy made significant inputs for strategic interventions in the SG Report on Renewable Energy for the promotion renewable energy. UN-Energy is discussing collaboration with the newly established International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Several participants on the UN SG Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change are UN-Energy members. UNIDO is leading an effort to develop a UN-Energy Partnership with the Private Sector to develop and exploit clean energy applications including energy efficiency and renewable energy. In ICT, the subcluster had close working relations with the relevant AUC Departments, particularly in the implementation of the flagship projects of the African Regional

Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE) and in terms of substantive input to the last AU Summit organized under the theme “ICT in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development”. The Project on Support for Harmonization of ICT Policies in Sub-Sahara Africa (HIPSSA), funded by the European Union (5 million dollars) and implemented by ITU is another area where the subcluster closely worked with the AU.

(b) The *Governance Cluster* – coordinated by UNDP – continued supporting the promotion of good governance in Africa through direct support to the Secretariat of African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and to the APRM process at the regional and country levels. For example, the Cluster assisted in the development of indicators in the context of the APRM.

(c) The *Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development Cluster* – coordinated by FAO- is directly associated supports the AU/NEPAD agenda on agriculture, food and security and the rural development. The key target is to implement the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which is the framework for Africa’s agricultural development.

(d) Support is being provided by the *Environment, Urbanization and Population Cluster* – coordinated by UNEP - to the AU on facilitating the implementation of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) by AU member states and regional bodies. In collaboration with African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the RECs, Cluster members contributed to the development of sub-regional climate projects and plans towards the African Common Position. In addition, capacity building support was also provided to the African negotiating team on climate change at continental and sub-regional levels. Other areas of intervention include meteorological, hydrological, marine and related environmental data products and services; climate change induced migration and the impact of population movement on the environment; work on health and environment/climate change; work on mainstreaming climate change into national development frameworks; and collaboration in the production of the State of African Cities Report.

(e) The *Social and Human Development Cluster* – coordinated by UNFPA - assisted in the development of a Social Policy Framework for the AU which serves to guide its activities. It supported the AU with popularizing and operationalizing its various initiatives, such as the AU Youth Volunteers Programme, the Africa Regional Review on Progress made towards the achievement of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, campaign against human trafficking (AU.COMMIT), Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Morality in Africa (CARMMA), Africa-wide campaign against violence against women and the Universal Access for HIV-AIDS, TB and Malaria. The ILO together with other members of the Employment and Labour sub-Cluster produced the review report on the Ouagadougou + 5 on Employment and Poverty Alleviation (2004-2009).

(f) The *Science and Technology Cluster* – coordinated by UNESCO - has been working in supporting and monitoring the process of the development of the AU “Africa’s S&T Consolidated Plan of Action”; the review, update and restructuring of S&T systems and policies in Africa and in supporting the Inter-agency Network on Biotechnology.

(g) The *Advocacy and Communications* Cluster is coordinated by the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA). Activities of the Cluster were in promoting greater understanding of NEPAD globally, building support for NEPAD among Africans and the international community and fostering the work of the UN in support of NEPAD.

(h) The *Peace and Security Cluster- coordinated by DPA* - held a workshop on “*Lessons Learned from the Kenya and Darfur Mediation Processes: Joint AU-UN Cooperation*” in an effort to make AU-UN mediation partnerships more effective by identifying positive experiences, best practices and challenges. The Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation sub-Cluster programme in 2009 focused on strengthening the capacity of the AU Commission and its human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights. The sub Cluster is in the process of developing a human rights strategy for Africa in line with initiatives of the AU and UN (GA Resolution A/61/296). In this regard, a joint AU-UN expert meeting is being organized early November 2009 on improving interaction between the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the APRM and the Right to Development and to discuss modalities to improve co-operation and coordination of action between the UN and the AU to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa.

(i) The *Industry, Trade and Market Access* Cluster – coordinated by UNIDO – continued supporting African regional and subregional organizations in strengthening their capacity to lead the development, needs assessment, resource mobilization, implementation and monitoring of AU/NEPAD related programmes and projects in the context of trade, industry and market access.

#### **IV. Progress in Implementing the Recommendations of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RCM**

24. The RCM secretariat and the Clusters of the RCM took action and carried out a number of activities in response to key recommendations of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RCM aimed at enhancing support to the AU and its NEPAD programme, as follows:

(a) The term “coordination” was adopted at the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RCM. Accordingly, the RCM became the “Regional Coordination Mechanism” and the word “Consultation” has been replaced by “Coordination” in all documents -print and electronic communications. In the same light, “Conveners” are now referred to as “Coordinators” of their respective Clusters.

(b) The Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development Cluster is charged with increasing UN coordination in addressing the food crisis challenge in Africa. In particular, the Cluster is to develop a joint UN programme of action at the regional and subregional levels using the CAADP processes and to formulate an advocacy/ communication strategy about the food crisis and how to resolve it.

(c) In terms of developing a consolidated business plan for the RCM, this exercise is ongoing as a number of Clusters are yet to submit their business plans.

(d) The situation is similar with regard to developing a monitoring and evaluation framework, considering the limited number of business plans submitted by Clusters. It is understood that a monitoring and evaluation framework is needed to evaluate the substantive aspects of Cluster functioning in addition to examining the coherence results as an impact of coordination..

(e) As for establishing a system of communication between Clusters, the RCM secretariat is exploring the possibility of using an existing knowledge management platform to facilitate and serve as the medium of communication between and among Clusters.

(f) Most Clusters have established governance structures agreeing on lead agencies to serve as coordinators and co-coordinators to improve performance and modalities of reporting, follow-up of decisions and commitments as well as joint assessments of their achievements.

(g) Some Clusters have reviewed their terms of reference in consultation with the AUC (i.e. Peace and Security Cluster, Governance Cluster, Employment and Labour sub-Cluster, Sports and Culture sub-Cluster).

(h) The need to establish a Subregional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) to fill the gap between the RCM and existing country-level mechanisms such as the Regional Directors Teams (RDTs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) was recognized at the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> meetings of the RCM. The ECA Subregional Office (SRO) in Central Africa (Yaoundé) has already established a SRCM with six Clusters. SROs East Africa (Kigali) and Southern Africa (Lusaka) are initiating high-level consultations with stakeholders in their respective subregions for the establishment and operationalization of SRCMs in accordance with the recommendation of the 10<sup>th</sup> RCM, which requested that SRCMs should be established, taking into account the realities, specificities and priorities within each subregion, in particular those of the RECs and the expected roles and responsibilities of the various players to be involved in the subregional framework.

(i) With regard to the mobilization of resources and enhancement of capacity of the RCM secretariat, UNDP and ILO are making greater efforts to support the RCM secretariat. The draft resolution requesting a GA mandate to fund the RCM secretariat and the Clusters to enhance their role in coordinating activities and implementing joint programming has not been prepared. Because of the institutional and transformational changes taking place in the AUC and the NEPAD secretariat, it was considered prudent to wait until the finalization of the integration process of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the AUC and the transition of the NEPAD secretariat into a new entity.

(j) As mandated by the CEB, the RCM secretariat, through ECA, will report annually on the coordinated efforts of the UN to answer the call for coherent and synergistic support to climate-related policies and actions at the regional level. Accordingly, The RCM secretariat held a number of consultations with the Environment, Population and Urbanization Cluster as well as the relevant ECA Division - the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division

(FSSDD) - to initiate discussions on the modalities for addressing the RCM's recommendation on developing a work plan for the RCM. Taking into account the NEPAD Environment Action plan, AU Summit decisions and declarations and AMCEN decisions on Climate Change as the framework providing policy guidance for the engagement of United Nations agencies operating in Africa to tackle climate change, the Cluster made an assessment on how best each Cluster could contribute to climate-related actions and assist in preparing a business plan. Accordingly, the Cluster developed sub-regional climate projects and plans which were brought together for the elaboration of the African Common Position on Climate Change. The joint secretariat of AUC, ECA and AfDB developed a major programme on climate change and development for Africa (ClimDev-Africa) with a Centre - the African Climate Policy Centre - established in ECA. The Cluster assisted other Clusters in mainstreaming climate change in their programme. The Peace and Security Cluster agreed to create a working group, chaired by UNEP, with a view to streamlining climate change in its work. This group includes UNHCR, AUC and UNLO-AU and is expected to come up with concrete proposals on the issue.

## **V. Challenges and Constraints**

25. The key challenges and constraints facing the RCM pertain to engendering more commitment and action on the part of UN agencies and organizations as well as African regional and subregional organizations. Some are summarized below:

(a) There is the need to develop a common work programme, which reconciles the different priorities of Cluster members given their different organizational mandates.

(b) A consolidated business plan for the RCM has not been possible because of the limited number of plans submitted by Clusters. This has impacted the development of an RCM monitoring and evaluation framework and, consequently, the mobilization of resources.

(c) In spite of their importance, crosscutting themes such as gender, culture, capacity building, youth and regional integration have still not been fully mainstreamed in Cluster activities.

(d) The absence of dedicated focal points for AUC in the RCM and various Clusters constrains effectiveness.

(e) It is crucial for the AU Commission to clearly articulate its capacity gaps and drive the process of operationalizing the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme and the modalities for conducting the three-year periodic review of the programme.

(f) The establishment of SRCMs poses significant challenges given the multiplicity of RECs and the fact that most UN agencies in the sub-region work at the country level.

(g) The integration of NEPAD into the AUC structures and processes has posed difficulties for UN agencies as they were still uncertain about how the integration would impact



their support for the AU and its NEPAD Programme, which has been clarified at the last AU Summit.

## **VI. Issues for Consideration and the Way Forward**

26. In terms of issues for consideration and concrete measures on the way forward, the following have been identified:

(a) The RCM should be placed within the UN architecture and linked to High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP). This would facilitate greater institutional commitment, buy-in and leadership at the highest levels of UN agencies; reduce funding constraints and enhance the adoption of accountability mechanisms.

(b) Clusters should submit their respective business plans to the RCM Secretariat for consolidation into one RCM business plan.

(c) Clusters should systematically mainstream agreed-upon crosscutting issues into their activities.

(d) Regular inter and intra-Cluster communication, information sharing, consultation and joint planning should be enhanced.

(e) The RCM secretariat should be adequately resourced to fulfill its strategic coordination function as a full-fledged secretariat.

(f) Formal linkages between RCM-Africa, SRCM and the RDTs, as well as between the different RCMs in other regions, should be established to enrich peer learning.

(g) The AU Commission should consider designating an overall focal point for the RCM and technical focal points to the different Clusters for effective participation.

(h) On the occasion of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme review, the AU Commission should exercise more ownership of the whole process and provide the necessary leadership for the effective implementation of the Programme.

(i) The finalization of the integration of NEPAD into the AUC structures and processes would ensure continuity and better coordination in the implementation of RCM activities.

(j) The RECs are an important stakeholder in the SRCM. Accordingly, their active engagement is necessary to support the mechanism.

(k) The RECs should designate a focal point for the SRCM for their effective participation in the mechanism.

(1) The SROs should intensify their lead role and accelerate the establishment or operationalization of SRCMs in their respective subregions in close collaboration with the RECs and UN organizations.